

WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING AT 7.00PM ON 1ST AUGUST 2022 IN WHITSBURY VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance Register, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllr G Thompson (Chairman), Cllr D Bellini, Cllr H Sutton, Cllr G Dominey

Apologies: Cllr C Harper

In Attendance: Mrs Ambrose, Mrs Drewitt, Mrs Kinsey, Mr Husher,
Cllr E Heron (HCC and NFDC), Mr E Hale (Clerk)

No Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 25th October 2021.

Accepted as a true record. Cllr Thompson thanked the organisers of the Jubilee celebrations. He has written to Mr M Locock to thank him for his work.

3. Items raised by Members of the Public.

Cllr Sutton said she would like to discuss Lower Grove footpath and vehicle charging points later.

4. Report by HCC and NFDC Cllr Heron

Cllr Heron said NFDC have suspended glass and green waste collections due to a shortage of HGV drivers. Only 22 out of 37 drivers are currently working, and priority must be given to waste and recycling collections. NFDC have now voted to introduce wheelie bins which is likely to happen in 2024 and should increase percentages being recycled. The success depends on both Councils as NFDC arrange collections, but HCC provide sorting stations.

Cllr Heron said HCC is not able to maintain roads to previous standards due to reduced funding and are looking at a 'managed decline'. Recent increases in budgets are wiped out by inflation. Adult Care costs are increasing but HCC budgets are decreasing so other services must be reduced.

Cllr Sutton asked about the staggered fence at the end of Lower Grove rear footpath and Mrs Kinsey asked about a handrail on the footpath from the parking area. Cllr Heron said both are booked in.

Cllr Sutton asked if bus passes would continue. Cllr Heron said he expected national schemes to continue but had concerns for bus companies which are struggling with a shortage of suitable drivers and rising fuel costs.

5. Finance

The Clerk said the current balances are £10,331.22 and £2,490.13, making a total of £12,821.35. This includes a grant payment of £138.00 from Cllr Heron. The Clerk asked for approval of a payment to Mr S Colborne of £360 for grass cutting at the open space in May and June.

6. Planning Applications

There are no new applications. The appeal for an extension at Lower Farm has been approved.

7. Whitsbury World

Cllr Thompson reported there had been some issues in setting up the wildflower verge as individuals can only apply if a verge is adjacent to their property. The Parish Council will need to apply for the section of Whitsbury verge to be excluded from the HCC cutting programme. The Parish Council has already approved their taking over the management of the verges and has confirmed that any public liability arising under this will be covered by their insurance policy.

8. Speed Reduction

Cllr Dominey reported HCC monitored traffic in the village during the week from 13th to 20th June. There had been 1216 vehicles travelling south with an average speed of 26.3mph, and 1167 vehicles travelling north with an average speed of 25.3mph. 22% of vehicles were exceeding the 30mph limit. The proposals from Ms Ware had been presented to the previous meeting and some Councillors thought there were too many signs. Cllrs Thompson and Dominey had reviewed the proposals and the revised version will be displayed at the village show.

The Clerk had circulated a consultation about 20mph zones in Hampshire and Cllr Dominey hoped this would include Whitsbury. Cllr Heron expressed concern about this and said the default speed on country roads is 60mph and many drivers object to 30mph limits. Members of the public said Whitsbury needs the reduced speed limit as there are no footpaths and many gates and driveways lead directly onto the road with fast traffic.

9. Broadband

Cllr Dominey said it is currently the pre-procurement market engagement stage. The level of interest has varied around the county which will affect the roll out. It is likely there will be two tender areas which are the New Forest and the remainder of the county. The intention is still to award contracts by April to June 2023, with 5000 properties being upgraded by 2028. Cllr Heron said the roll-out in the New Forest area is more difficult than other parts of Hampshire.

10. Village Plan

Mr Husher had issued a summary of the survey results and he presented this to the Council. There had been a 59% response from households, which had been used to produce an Action Plan. Cllr Heron said all Village Plans must be realistic and deliverable, and a combination of things to do immediately and some for the future. The Plans need to be refreshed at least every three years. The intention is for the completed plan to be available on the website, with a copy in the Village Hall.

11. Correspondence

None

12. Any Other Business

Cllr Sutton asked if there will be electric charging points in the village. Cllr Heron said NFDC is installing these in main car parks but were finding most people prefer to top up at home. The next choice is outside pubs and village halls, where people spend longer times. There are grants available if the village wants to install a charging point, but it is unlikely NFDC or HCC would provide these.

13. Next Meeting

7pm on Monday 31st October 2022. Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Edward Hale 07.08.22

Income and Expenditure since March 2022

Balance at 31st March 2022		10,111.20
Income	50% Precept (1,100.00) + Grant (138.00)	+ 1,238.00
Expenditure	Website	112.21
	Insurance	156.93
	S Colborne (135.00 + 90.00)	225.00
	Notice board	398.84
	External audit	<u>125.00</u>
Balance at 1st August 2022		<u>10,331.22</u>