

WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2025 IN WHITSBURY VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance Register, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllr G Thompson (Chair), Cllr H Sutton, Cllr G Dominey, Cllr S Husher

Apologies: Cllr C Harper

In Attendance: Cllr E Heron (HCC), Mr E and Mrs S Ambrose, Mr C Cobb-Smith, Mr C Daniel,
Mrs R Drewitt, Mr A Foreman, Mrs J Hacker, Mrs E Husher, Mrs J Kinsey, Mr E Hale (Clerk)

No Declarations of Interest.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Minutes of Meetings held on 28th October and 25th November 2024

Accepted as true records. The Chairman signed the previous minutes to confirm this.

3. Items raised by Members of the Public

Mrs Ambrose had heard the TaxiShare scheme will finish in August due to loss of HCC funding. Cllr Heron said HCC is no longer able to support public transport as this is not a legal responsibility.

4. Report by HCC Cllr Heron

Cllr Heron spoke about proposed changes to County and District Councils. Hampshire currently has three tiers, with county, district and parish councils, which the Government wants to reduce. One option may be for Southampton and Portsmouth unitary councils to take over surrounding rural area. These proposals mean HCC elections due this May are likely to be postponed. Cllr Heron does not support these changes. Hampshire is currently balancing its budgets by only carrying out legal responsibilities. Mr Foreman asked what parishes can do to provide services no longer covered by HCC. Cllr Heron said parishes could take on additional services as their precepts are not capped. This may be worth considering in the future.

5. Precept for 2025-26

The Clerk said the Whitsbury precept has been set at £2,200 for many years but the expenditure in the current year will probably only be around £1,700, and the parish has over £14,000 in bank accounts. Councillors thought the reserves should be reduced before the precept is increased. Cllr Thompson proposed keeping the precept at £2,200 and this was agreed by all Councillors.

6. Financial Reports and Payments

The current total of the two bank accounts is £14,810.68. The Clerk has issued a cheque for £325.20 to replace the defibrillator batteries but this has not been paid in yet. He asked for approval for payments of £135 to Mr S Colborne for grounds works in October and November, and £120 to himself for Clerk duties in October and January.

7. Planning Applications

The application for Whitsbury Stables has not been decided yet. No other new applications

8. Jim Dyer Legacy

Cllr Harper has been asked to provide a cost for repairing the path to the Church

9. Village Plan

Cllr Husher reported he will include details of local repair shops.

Village litter picking is currently not taking place as these require Health and Safety Risk Assessment which because of the roads, no pavements and national speed limits would not be possible to credibly generate. Residents are asked to let him know if areas need litter picking. He has investigated mobile reception for the four main companies and has data for Vodafone and O2. He asked residents to help in checking reception for Three and EE.

10. Village Emergency Plan

Mr Cobb-Smith reported he had attended a Local Resilience Forum at Lyndhurst. Parishes are being asked to produce a plan using a template on the website. The Plan covers items such as flooding and plane crashes. The plans should be completed and submitted to HCC.

All households are recommended to have a Go-Bag of emergency items available if they need to leave home quickly. If there is an emergency, the Village Hall will become the central hub where residents can sleep if necessary, and hot food can be prepared. Cllr Sutton asked if the Hall should have a generator, and Mr Cobb-Smith thought this should be investigated.

The village needs a team of residents to coordinate activities. There was discussion about this and it was agreed Mr C Cobb-Smith, Cllr Husher, Mr A Foreman, and Mr C Daniel will meet to discuss this.

11. Speed Reduction

Cllr Dominey reported the application for funding from the Infrastructure Levy had been submitted to NFDC and the results will be known in March. Cllr Thompson asked if there are other sources of funding and Cllr Heron said he has some funds available until the end of February.

12. Correspondence

No items to report.

13. Any Other Business

Cllr Thompson reported the Clerk had submitted his resignation and asked to finish at the April meeting. The Clerk will provide a Job Description for the role which could be advertised on the website and noticeboard. Cllr Thompson may approach neighbouring parishes to see if other Clerks would be interested in the role. Cllr Sutton asked if there was any progress on the handrail on the footpath at the side of Lower Grove. Cllr Thompson had asked a resident for costs to supply and install a suitable handrail. There was discussion about responsibility for handrails on this footpath. Cllr Heron said it was OK for the Parish Council to arrange handrails on Rights of Way. Cllr Thompson will provide costs for Parish Council review at the next meeting. Cllr Husher asked for articles for the next Village Newsletter.

14. Date of Next Meeting

7pm on Monday 14th April. Other meetings arranged for 9th June, 28th July, and 20th October. The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Parish Council Accounts

Balance at 1st April 2024			13,703.13
Income	Precept		+2,200.00
	Interest		+21.78
Expenditure	Training	40.00	
	Insurance	168.62	
	Grass Cutting	460.00	
	Clerk. Jan-July	240.00	
	Auditor	125.00	
	Printing	<u>80.61</u>	<u>-1,114.23</u>
Current balance			<u>14,810.68</u>

Edward Hale. 18.01.2025