

WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING AT 7.20PM ON WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY 2023 IN WHITSBURY VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance Register, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

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

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Cllr E Heron (HCC), Cllr J Richards (NFDC), Mr A Foreman, Mr N & Mrs S Cumming, Mrs S Locock, Mr C Cobb-Smith, Mrs J Inman, Mrs C Thompson, Mrs J Kinsey, Mr E Hale (Clerk)

No Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including new Cllr S Husher. He thanked former Cllr D Bellini who had stood down after being on the Parish Council since 2015

2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Cllr Harper proposed Cllr Thompson as Chairman, which was seconded by Cllr Sutton. All in favour. Cllr Thompson proposed Cllr Dominey as Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Harper. All in favour

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 27th March 2023

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

The Chairman thanked Mrs Locock for organising the Coronation events which were much enjoyed. Mrs Locock said she had been supported by a good team

4. Items raised by Members of the Public.

Mrs Locock asked about the state of roads around the village, particularly the road to Breamore, and the road from Rockbourne to Damerham. Cllr Heron said he is no longer responsible for HCC roads, but the local teams are trying to catch up with winter damage. He said how important it is to log issues on the HCC website. He said HCC is now only able to 'manage a declining network'. Cllr Dominey said the Breamore road is showing as 'action scheduled' on the HCC website

5. Report by HCC Cllr Heron and NFDC Cllr Richards

County Council. Cllr Heron said he was delighted the latest Broadband contract had been awarded to Wessex Internet which was started in Dorset and has great experience in rural areas. The contract will cover 10,400 properties, including Whitsbury in the first round. Cllr Dominey said the Wessex Internet website gives details of what will be covered in their new contract.

Cllr Heron said he will hold surgeries for residents' questions on the last Friday of each month.

District Council. Cllr Thompson welcomed Cllr Richards as the new NFDC Cllr for the Western Downland villages. Cllr Richards said she had lived in Martin for many years and been a Parish Councillor most of that time. She also volunteers with the village shop, bell-ringers, and Martin Club. She is looking forward to working with Whitsbury Councillors in the future.

6. Approval of 2022-3 Accounts and Payments

The balances in the accounts are £10,558.68 and £2,494.78, making a total of £13,053.46.

2022-23 Accounts. The Clerk asked for approval of the 2022-23 accounts which had been presented at the Parish Assembly, and asked for these figures to be used in submissions to the External Auditors. This was approved and the Chairman agreed to sign the Financial Return on that basis.

Payments. The Clerk asked for approval of payments of £165.92 to Zurich for annual insurance, £82.21 to Cllr Husher for newsletter copying, £216.00 to the Clerk for duties since last October, and £135.00 to Mr S Colborne for grass cutting in March and April. These were all approved

7. Planning Applications

23/10371 and 10372. Greengates alterations. Cllrs have already recommended Permission.
23/10451. 4 Well House Close. Balcony alterations. Cllrs agreed to recommend Permission

8. Village Plan

Cllr Husher gave an update on the Action Plan which includes:

Engagement with Police. Cllr Husher will contact the local Community Officer

Emergency Contacts. Four names available but need to agree how these will be published

Waste Services. NFDC is changing collection arrangements in 2024

Road Maintenance. Continue to report all locations needing attention on HCC website

9. Whitsbury World

Cllr Sutton has arranged a meeting to discuss the Jim Dyer bequest at 7pm on Monday 12th June in the Village Hall. She is asking for ideas on projects to benefit the village

10. Speed Reduction

Cllr Dominey suggested a separate meeting to discuss the proposals from HCC. There have been concerns about the amount of signage proposed as this would change the appearance of the village

11. Broadband

See update from Cllr Heron under Item 5

12. Correspondence

None

13. Any Other Business

Motorcycles on Bridleways. Mr Foreman reported on motorcycles using bridleways around the village. He will provide more details so there are options to restrict access to bridleways

Fordingbridge Developments. The Clerk reported on the Fordingbridge Town Assembly where two NFDC Planning Officers had given an update on building works in the town. They said applications were in line with the Local Plan but residents said this could be challenged due to poor road access, reduced numbers of affordable homes, lack of schools and doctors, and non-compliance with latest sustainability legislation. There is an application to build the link road before more housing.

Whitsbury House Fence. Cllr Husher asked if the Parish Council had been consulted on the new fence along the roadside. Mr Foreman queried if this should be so close to the road and have barbed wire at the top. The Chairman will contact the house owner about this

14. Future Meetings

Next meetings will be at 7pm on Mondays 31st July and 30th October 2023.

This meeting closed at 8.10pm

Edward Hale. 26.05.2023