

NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Netley Marsh Community Hall, on 21 May 2025

Present: Cllr Welbourn, (Chairman), Cllr Cook, Cllr Haysom, Cllr Johnstone, Cllr Merrill, Cllr Shaw and Cllr Smith.

In attendance: Cllr Tipp, 5 members of the public, the Parish Clerk and the RFO/Clerks Assistant:

01. Appointment of Chairman for the year 2025/26 Cllr Welbourn, proposed Cllr Cook, seconded Cllr Johnstone and agreed unanimously.
02. The Council witnessed the declaration of acceptance of office by the chairman who welcomed Councillors and Members of the Public to the meeting.
03. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Joe Reilly (NFDC)
04. Declarations of interest – there were none
05. Appointment of Vice Chairman for the year 2025/26 Cllr Cook, proposed Cllr Welbourn, seconded Cllr Johnstone and agreed unanimously.
06. The Council witnessed the declaration of acceptance of office by the vice-chairman.
07. The existing and any new committees and working groups for 2025/26 were considered and confirmed
Conservation Area
Emergency and Resilience
08. The Terms of Reference for Committees – see appendix I – were reviewed and agreed.
09. Appointment committees and representatives of the Council on other bodies

Appointment title	Representative 2024-2025	Representative 2025-2026
Parish Flooding Committee	Now dealt with by the whole Council The terms of reference removed.	Whole Council.
Editor Parish Magazine – Outlook	NMPC Clerk/RFO	NMPC Clerk/RFO
Citizens Advice Bureau	Cllr J Shaw	Cllr J Shaw
New Forest Consultative Committee	1st Cllr T Cook & 2nd Cllr S Merrill	1st Cllr T Cook & 2nd Cllr S Merrill
New Forest District Association of Local Councils	Cllr M Welbourn	Cllr M Welbourn
Hampshire Archives Trust	Cllr M Welbourn	Cllr M Welbourn
New Forest Council of Community Service	TBC	A representative will be appointed if and when the Council is notified of a meeting.
Tree Warden (Parish Warden (Parish Level watching brief)	Cllr M Welbourn	Cllr M Welbourn
Testwood Lakes	Cllr T Haysom	Cllr T Haysom

Footpaths (2 representatives)	Cllr T Cook and Cllr T Haysom	Cllr T Cook and Cllr T Haysom
Woodlands Community Hall Committee	Cllr A Johnstone	Cllr A Johnstone
Planning Committee (4)	Cllr T Cook, Cllr Haysom, Cllr S Merrill, Cllr J Shaw and Cllr M Welbourn	Planning is now dealt with by full Council
Lengthsman scheme monitor	Cllr A Johnstone	Cllr A Johnstone
New Forest Transport Forum	Mrs Shareen Barnett	Mrs Shareen Barnett
Bartley Village Hall Committee	TBC	Cllr Johnstone, Clerk to check date of AGM
Resilience Working Group	Cllr A Johnstone, Cllr Merrill	Cllr A Johnstone, Cllr Merrill
Conservation Area Working Group	Cllr Cook, Cllr Haysome, Cllr Johnstone	Cllr Cook, Cllr Haysome, Cllr Johnstone

Clerk to contact Mrs Barnet

Clerk to contact Bartley Village Hall

11. Standing Orders 2018: as amended in May 2025, were agreed: (available under Policies on the website <http://www.netleymarsh-pc.gov.uk/>)
12. A review of the effectiveness of internal audit was made, it was confirmed the internal audit: is Independent. competent, the auditor is not related to any member or officer of the council. The auditor plans and report to Council in a satisfactory manner. Agreed.
14. Deeds – all held at Hampshire Record Office, noted.
15. Inventory of land and assets – all items are listed on the assets page of the accounts annually, noted.
16. Insurance cover – this was considered adequate, new hall lighting and entrance barrier advised to the insurers who stated they are included as street furniture. The total amount in the insurance covering street furniture is adequate. Noted and agreed.
17. Financial regulations (2024) were noted and agreed.
18. Payment of annual subscriptions to: HALC: GIS: SLCC: NFALC: Hants Archives Trust: Information Commissioner/Data Protection and donation RBL/wreath £50.00 were agreed.
19. Complaints procedure, requests under FOI and Data Protection Acts reviewed and agreed (available under Policies on the website).
20. Financial and other risk assessments had been circulated and were agreed.
21. Staff policies and recruitment and appointment procedures had been reviewed and were agreed
 - a. NALC/JNC contract and terms continue, agreed.
 - b. Clerk JT - LCI-14 on the new scale – RFO/Assistant Clerk - RC LCI-16 agreed
22. To note 1 May – 31 October is period for re-enrollment of pension arrangements, awaiting confirmation of the year. Noted.
23. Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 was nil, noted.
24. Arrangements with a view to the Council becoming eligible to exercise the general power of competence in the future; This will be confirmed once the new Clerk achieves CILCA qualification.

25. Policy on dealing with press/media was reviewed and agreed.
26. Calendar of Meetings 2025-26

2025	2026
18 June	21 January
16 July	18 February
August meeting only if necessary	18 March
17 September	15 April
15 October	APM 24 April 2026
19 November	20 May
10 December NB 2nd Wednesday	17 June
	15 July
	August meeting only if necessary
	16 September
	21 October
	18 November
	9 December NB 2nd Wednesday

Clerk to confirm dates with the hall booking secretary.

27. Time meetings will take place 7pm agreed.
28. Date and time of Annual Parish Assembly 24 April 2026
29. Members were reminded to review and if necessary update their Register of Interests
30. Chairman's allowance for the year £100.00 agreed.
31. Appointment of the independent and competent Internal for the Auditor 2025-2026 accounts
Internal Auditor currently John K. Murray, DMS., FCPFA, Taxation & Accountancy Services
Winchester, SO22 6LJ – agreed.

RFO to confirm with Mr Murray

The regular business of the monthly parish council meeting then took place.

32. **Public Participation** – none
33. **Declaration of Interests** - none
34. **Approval of minutes of 16 April 2025**
The minutes having been circulated were agreed and were signed by the Chairman.
35. **Planning**
Planning and appeal decisions from NFNPA NFDC were noted.
The following decisions were for forwarding by the Clerk to NFNPA/NFDC as necessary.

25/00445	Wagtails, Fletchwood Lane, Totton, Southampton, SO40 7DZ	Single Storey Rear Extension	Withdrawn
25/10370	Brook House, Salisbury Road, Calmore, Netley Marsh SO40 2RQ	x2 no. dwellings with solar panels and associated garage parking	3. Permission the plans are for good quality housing in an unobtrusive position.
25/10422	Land south of Salisbury Road, Calmore, Netley Marsh SO40 2RQ	A phased residential development of up to 93 dwellings	1. Permission but accept officer decision subject to the following: A flood report being received with assurances that adequate and appropriate flood risk, water and sewerage services are provided and will not increase the problems already experienced on these issues in the Parish: Proper provision being made for pedestrians and cyclists along the A36 Salisbury Road from Green Lane to Calmore roundabout in order for residents to safely access education, medical and retail facilities, with a cycle way being extended to Totton town centre and station.
25/10449	Land north of Salisbury Rd, Calmore, Netley Marsh	Approximately 375 residential dwellings	1. Permission but accept officer decision subject to the following: A flood report being received with assurances that adequate and appropriate flood risk, water and sewerage services are provided and will not increase the problems already experienced on these issues in the Parish: Proper provision being made for pedestrians and cyclists along the A36 Salisbury Road from Green Lane to Calmore roundabout in order for residents to safely access education, medical and retail facilities, with a cycle way being extended to Totton town centre and station. Netley Marsh Parish Council also has concerns about the provision of educational, medical and community facilities as these plans are additional to the Local Plan

Clerk to send comments to NFNPA/NFDC

36. Matters Arising

36.i NFNPA, NE Quadrant – Forest Car Parking Charges: Following discussion it was agreed this is a matter of great concern, is likely to lead to more on verge parking and is simply another form of taxation. Netley Marsh Parish Council is against the idea of charging for parking in New Forest car parks.

Clerk to contact Cllr Mrs Davies (NE Quadrant), NFNPA and Forestry England

36.ii Ringwood Road and School Transport – concerns were expressed, particularly in relation to HCC apparently only looking at mitigating problems at the A336-A326 junction. The route has other areas which are unsafe apart from the roundabout. With parents who are willing to pay for a bus pass being refused this opportunity. Responses have not been received with very little contact since the meetings held at the end of last year. NMPC feels that HCC needs to review and amend its school bus policy. Refusal of bus passes when parents are willing to pay appears unreasonable. This route was judged unsafe in the past and the traffic volumes have since increased. The situation is untenable, children's lives are being put at risk.

The Ringwood Road situation is at a stalemate. A speed counter would be welcome, a resident hopes to have a meeting with the MP shortly. Cllr Cook is working on crossing costings. Noted.

Clerk to contact HCC Cllr Bowerman, Cllr Chadd and Cllr Foster at HCC, Hounsdown School, Sir Julian Lewis MP and Cllr Penman. It was also agreed NMPC concern at the lack of any contact with the County Councillor be expressed to Cllr Penman.

37. County, National Park & District Matters

37.i HCC matters no communication received.

37.ii Cllr Tipp advised the meeting that NFDC are looking at the provision of cycling and pedestrian facilities in relation to the new developments in the north of the parish and along the A36. The NFNPA planning committee had received a report that the Spot in the Woods was not viable as an hotel. Various grants are now available, but some have quite tight application windows. District Councillor grants, NFDC, Rural England Prosperity Fund, NFDC Small business fund. There are grants for capital funding (not revenue funding). CIL grants and Strategic CIL grants are available for larger projects.

Local Government re-organisation is a concern in terms of threats of splitting the New Forest area The MP has written to the minister concerning this. Noted.

38. Members Report

38.i **Woodlands Community Hall** Cllr Johnstone reported. An application for a CIL grant is being considered. The Hall committee are concerned at the lack of a no overnight parking sign, this is in hand. Lighting will be looked at during half term. The Neighbourhood Watch party is on 19 July. Noted. One of the gym items – the cross trainer – has one pedal higher than the other. The Clerk will ask the Groundsman to look at this.

Clerk to contact the Groundsman.

38.ii **Outlook magazine** – distribution issues – article is in the summer issue. Copy sent to TLC 19.5.25. The cost of 250 copies would be £135.45 per issue. Enquiries will be made regarding installation of a box for copies in the Hall car park, it is thought this may be permitted development. NHW have given permission for copies to be available in the phone box near Alpine Road. RFO to contact advertisers regarding a mainly digital copies, stressing this would maximise the number of people seeing the magazine.

**Clerk to contact NFNPA regarding permitted development
RFO to contact advertisers**

38.iii **Testwood Lakes** Cllr Haysom reported - student numbers are increasing and events are well supported. It has been a good year for wildlife. Volunteer days are well supported. Permissive access via Hill Street has been withdrawn. Scout numbers are up. However, repair costs are increasing largely as a result of out of hours activities. A Chairman is still required. There are 15 Groups and 30+ volunteers supporting use of the facilities by people with disabilities. Noted.

38.iv **Conservation Area Review** Working Group Cllr Cook is following this up.

39. Footpaths and Bridleways no matters to report

40. Lengthsman. The list of permitted tasks is to be circulated to Councillors. Cleaning and clearing of vegetation on road signs will be requested, particularly in the area of woodlands Road near the Cattle Grid and Ashurst boundary. Cllr Johnstone will arrange to meet the Lengthsman and consider further works in due course.

Clerk to circulate list of permitted activities.

41. Groundsman

41 i New keys/lock on top of car park access, new padlock and keys in place. Noted.

41.ii Wood treatment – Noticeboards, seats, bus shelter in hand, noted.

41.iii Groundsman vacancy arising: Mr Burt leaves at the end of June. Advertisements have been placed, one applicant to date. Interviews will be held following the closing date of 6 June.

Clerk to liaise with Chairman to arrange interviews.

42. **Resilience working group** progress and future plans including review of the current flood plan. This is in hand.
43. Clerks/RFO Report – emails had been noted.
44. **Correspondence** a list of correspondence had been circulated. Matters requiring attention were

Resident	Culvert Priestlands Close off Woodlands Road	Clerk to contact the resident and subsequently the occupier of the other property
Resident	Hall Gates	No further correspondence will be entered into.
Resident	Woodlands Road hedge	HCC are looking into this, it is in hand.

45. **Financial matters**

45.i Expenditure

Detail	Details	Net	VAT	Gross
TLC Inv web maint inv2631 3rd payment £15.00	Online	15.00		15.00
Marcus Burt	Online	641.10		641.10
Marcus Burt	Online cleared	55.83	11.17	67.00
Julie Twining	Online	822.51		822.51
Ros Cooper	Online	553.79	3.82	557.61
Lloyds Bank monthly fee	Auto payment on Lloyds ac	4.25		4.25
HALC incl NALC	Online	695.00		695.00
John Murray (internal auditor)	Online	255.00		255.00
Future Arb	Online	700.00	140.00	840.00
Compuco		35.00		35.00
For May Payments authorised by:				-
	Total uncleared above			3,932.47

The payments above with the addition of Gardeners South invoice for £512.40 to go on June payments list, were agreed. Gardeners South to be advised that invoices must be received by the first Friday of the month for payment in that month. A reduction in the interest rate on the deposit account was noted.

RFO to contact Gardeners South

- 45.ii The order of priority of future projects list was considered. Items 1 and 2, Speedwatch and Dog bins are the first priority in the three year plan; as are a crossing on the A336 and safe pedestrian and cycling facilities on the A36. Other items will follow. See appendix I
- 45.iii Field lease arrangements - a letter from the tenant agreed to amendment to terms of Agricultural Lease to annual renewal received, noted. All other terms remain unchanged for the time being, agreed. A Farm Business Tenancy may be considered for the future.
- 45.iv CIL monies can be spent on Speedwatch equipment confirmed.
- 45.v The internal auditors letter re 2024-25 accounts together with internal audit report had been received and noted. Items listed agreed as below. Accounts are now on the website for previous years.
- 45.vi The annual accounts and pro-forma (AGAR)
Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2024 -25, circulated, agreed and signed.
Section 2 Accounting Statements 2024-25, circulated, agreed and signed.
- 45.vii It was confirmed that there are no conflict of interests between NMPC and BDO (External Auditors) and the relevant form was signed.
- 45.viii email addresses for councilors to .gov.uk, agreed, to be Cllr surname@netleymarsh-pc.gov.uk: It was agreed that the Outlook Magazine address will also be changed to outlookmag@netleymarsh-pc.gov.uk

RFO to send AGAR and other papers to BDO
Clerk/RFO to contact TLC

45. ix IT policy & data protection, circulated, agreed and noted.

46. Parish Matters

- 46.i **Report on APM** Friday April this had been a good meeting and the **£50.00 Guest speaker donation**, will be paid to Woodlands pre-school

RFO to set up payment.

- 46.ii **Councillors' items Cllr Johnstone** Speedwatch and SID: Cllr Johnstone reported that with advice from a contact of Cllr Davies, a Solar powered SID (speed indicator device) would work well with various posts so the SID could be moved occasionally, This would work in conjunction with Speedwatch. Cllr Johnstone will work on a plan for this. It is anticipated costs would be in the region of £2,500.00 for the equipment plus HCC licence charges.

47. Confidential

'That in view of the special/Confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded in accordance with the 'The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960', and they were instructed to withdraw'

- 47.i Employment matters were discussed and agreed.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40vpm.

Clerk to the Council to: All Members of the Council

Next meeting Wednesday 18 June 2025 at 7.00 pm Woodlands Community Hall

Signed:

date: 18 June 2025

Appendix I: Future Plans

3 year Priority:

1. Speedwatch camera and other equipment (Grants ??? Veolia, HCC, Paultons)
2. Dog waste bin

Note both the above will have ongoing maintenance costs

Item re above to be included in Summer Outlook with request to residents to add their items **for consideration.**

3. *** Continue to pursue a crossing on the A336 near the school and church and other traffic calming measures - *** see below

4. Paths – Safe walking/ Pathway Salisbury Road and between Woodlands Road The Gamekeeper to Ashurst Station - so would have to be project with Ashurst & Colbury PC.

*** NB: An informal meeting was held on 7 October 2024 with reps from HCC Jason Tipler, Ben Kennedy re. scheme development for A326/A336, 4 stages were identified

1. Concept – HCC had worked on this
2. Feasibility – costs in the region of £25,000.00 – it is understood S106 monies cannot be used for this.
3. GT Gateway?
4. Detailed design

Should NMPC be looking at funding for the feasibility study

Concept – Heysham ????

Cllr Cook will follow up

5. Plans for the field above the recreation ground

For land adjacent to recreation ground, wildlife and biodiversity etc

Possible grants Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT) grant scheme

further grant if you have it open for school educational trips. Needs research re implications etc

6. Multi-purpose sports facility (type to be determined) with floodlit playing area. This could be for all ages, e.g. including bowls, tennis and team sports. Solar could be easily included on any buildings. Plus make more use of existing field.

Priority to be established for the following items

Community cafe-maybe morning coffee breakfast club a Saturday morning perhaps with a local Business Hub and or drop in sessions with Councillors.

In due course a consultation will be established to find residents views of these ideas.