

NETLEY MARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Netley Marsh Community Hall, on 20 May 2026

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

In attendance: Cllr Penman, Cllr Reilly, 4 members of the public and the Parish Clerk, the current RFO/Clerks Assistant and the newly appointed RFO/Clerks Assistant:

1. Cllr Welbourn was elected Chairman for 2026-27. Nominated by Cllr Cook seconded by Cllr Smith. Cllr Welbourn welcomed members of the public to the meeting.
2. The Chairman signed the declaration of acceptance of office. Noted.
3. Apologies for absence received from Cllr Merrill.
4. Declarations of interest there were none
5. Cllr Cook elected as Vice Chairman for 2026/27, nominated by Cllr Shaw seconded by Cllr Welbourn.
6. The Vice Chairman signed declaration of acceptance of office. Noted
7. Existing and new committees and working groups for 2026/27
Conservation Area the work on this had been completed and the working group disbanded.
Emergency and Resilience see list below
8. The Terms of Reference for Committees – see appendix I - were agreed.
9. The following appointments to committees and representatives of the Council on other bodies were agreed as follows:

Appointment title	Representative 2026-2027
Parish Flooding Committee	Whole Council.
Editor Parish Magazine – Outlook	NMPC Clerk/RFO
Citizens Advice Bureau	Cllr J Shaw
New Forest Consultative Committee	1st Cllr T Cook & 2nd Cllr S Merrill NB: Cllr Shaw will attend on 4 June
New Forest District Association of Local Councils	Cllr M Welbourn
Hampshire Archives Trust	Cllr M Welbourn
New Forest Council of Community Service	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

Testwood Lakes	Cllr T Haysom
Footpaths (2 representatives)	Cllr C Smith
Woodlands Community Hall Committee	Cllr A Johnstone
Planning Committee	Planning is now dealt with by full Council This item will be removed for future meetings.
Lengthsman scheme monitor	Cllr A Johnstone
New Forest Transport Forum	Mrs Shareen Barnett
Bartley Village Hall Committee	Cllr Johnstone,
Resilience Working Group	Cllr A Johnstone, Cllr Merrill
Conservation Working Group	Discontinued

10. Standing Orders 2018: (available under Policies on the website <http://www.netleymarsh-pc.gov.uk/>) were noted and agreed
11. The effectiveness of internal audit was considered – it was agreed that the internal audit: is Independent, competent, the current auditor is not related to any member or officer of the council. He plans and reports to Council in a satisfactory manner? A new auditor will be required for 2026-27 accounts and these factors will be taken into account when considering the appointment.
12. Deeds – all held at Hampshire Record Office noted.
13. The inventory of land and assets as noted on the assets page of the finance spreadsheet were noted and agreed.
14. The insurance cover was noted and agreed
15. The financial regulations (2024) were noted and agreed
16. To consider the payment of annual subscriptions to: HALC: GIS: SLCC: NFALC: Hants Archives Trust: Information Commissioner/Data Protection and donation RBL/wreath £50.00 agreed
17. The Complaints, requests under FOI and Data Protection Acts procedures were noted and agreed (available under Policies on the website)
18. Financial and other risk assessments were noted and agreed
19. To review staff policies and recruitment and appointment procedures – the following were noted and agreed.
 - a. NALC/JNC contract and terms
 - b. Clerk TH - LCI-14 on the new scale – RFO/Assistant Clerk - RC LCI-16
 - c. New RFO LCI-14
20. It was noted that 1 May – 31 October is period for re-enrollment of pension arrangements, noted.
21. The Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 was nil. Noted

22. It was agreed to make 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. Noted.
23. Review policy on dealing with press/media was noted and agreed.
24. Calendar of Meetings 2026 – 27 the following dates were agreed.

2026	2027
17 June	20 January
15 July	17 February
August meeting only if necessary	17 March
16 September	21 April
21 October	APM Friday 16 April
18 November	19 May
9 December NB 2nd Wednesday	16 June
	21 July
	August meeting only if necessary
	15 September
	20 October
	17 November
	8 December NB 2nd Wednesday

Clerk to book the hall.

25. Meetings will start at 7 pm, agreed.
26. Annual Parish Assembly Friday 16 April 2027
27. Members were reminded to review and if necessary update their Register of Interests, noted.
28. The Chairman's allowance for the year was agreed as £100.00
29. Appointment of the independent and competent Internal for the Auditor 2026-2027 accounts. It was agreed to approach Sara Sawyer who had been our locum Clerk and is a qualified auditor.

Clerk to contact Ms Sawyer

30. To consider **comments from the Public** – Cllr Penman reported that the result of the recent election meant that there was no overall control at HCC. It is possible that the results of these elections may need to last for four years rather than two due to the amount of work that is required by Local Government Reform. A full council meeting is set for 21 May.
31. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting as well as the confidential session held Wednesday 15 April 2026 were agreed and signed.

32. **Planning** - the following planning applications were considered.: -

26/00340	160, Woodlands Road, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7AP	Replacement dwelling; detached garage; associated landscaping; demolition of existing dwelling and car port	I. Accept officer decision asking that the following comments be noted. The Council had some concerns that the design is very different to other local properties. However Council were very supportive of the sustainability proposals in the plans.
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Clerk to send comments to NFNPA

32.ii To consider any other planning business – there was none

33. Reports

33.i **County Councillor Cllr Penman, HCC** reported there had been some discussions on school transport, including the possibility of a minibus, however, no decisions have been made as yet.

Cllr Cook made the point that if current LGR proposals take place Hounsdown School will be in a different Council area to Netley Marsh Parish Council which may make negotiations more difficult.

33.iii **District Councillors NFDC** report Cllr Reilly reported the final stage of the new waste collection service is going well. NFDC has also adopted policies to assist private renters and landlords in the area. Noted.

34. Matters arising – To consider/accept

34.i **Local Government Re-organisation** decision – the following was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Haysom. Cllr Cook advised that he is a committee member of New Forest Together.

Netley Marsh Parish Council note that the decision made by The Secretary of State to adopt scheme known as 'option 1a' for the Local Government Reorganisation of Hampshire is not the preferred option of this parish council, nor is it the preferred option of New Forest District Council. This council hereby resolves to generally support measures that will avoid the New Forest District being split into separate unitary councils under the government's Local Government Reforms. Cllr Johnstone asked that his vote against was recorded in the minutes. All other Councillors voted for the motion which was therefore adopted.

Clerk to advise New Forest Together

34.ii **Ringwood Road** and flooding outcome of Cllr Penman's meeting the meeting is scheduled for early June.

34.iii **Speedwatch** update, training is now available online.

34.v **Developments adjacent to the A36** – working group plans, Flooding problems are a concern following water flowing from the development area into the Testwood Lakes area, polluting ponds and damaging habitats Protection will be needed, it is felt that the developers should cover these costs.

35. To receive Member's reports on:

35.i **Community Hall** – presentation from Cllr Johnstone regarding funding for improvements to hall – garages and to build outside toilets. It was noted that the garages

belong to NMPC. The Council were in favour of the plans, a budget of up to £1000.00 for the production of drawings so that costs can be established was proposed by Cllr Johnstone, seconded Cllr Cook. Cllr Johnstone will deal with this. This will be an item on the June agenda.

Cllr Johnstone had also contacted St Matthews Church Hall some projects are being discussed. Also Bartley Village Hall where work is needed to restore the clock. Links and dates for CIL funding applications to NFDC have been forwarded by Cllr Johnstone.

35.ii **Outlook magazine** – Summer issue is with the publisher. The current RFO offered to do the Winter issue with the new RFO, agreed. Therefore the current RFO will not close her employment with NMPC until the Winter magazine is complete. Cllr Merrill would like someone else to assist Cllr Shaw on Outlook issues and to take delivery of future issues.

35.iii **Play area and field** – repairs and replacement seat, the seat is on order. Cllr Johnstone reported there are holes in the field which should be looked at – Gardeners South to be asked for advice on a remedy. Also the fence in the top north west corner of the field is down, where horses came in from the adjacent field. The ditch on the north boundary of the recreation field is not being maintained and this causes flooding problems during periods of heavy rain. The groundsman will be asked to look at clearing the ditch as there is little water at present and work needs to be completed before the winter.

The question of free trees on offer was discussed, a number of categories were agreed on but a land drain may need consideration before planting.

Clerk to contact Gardeners South

Clerk to contact the Groundsman

Clerk to contact NFNPA Tree Officer

The whole question of these issues and the boundary needs consideration over the summer

36. **Footpaths and Bridleways** – nothing to report.

37. **Lengthsman** – To arrange walk of parish and agree work to do and update on work already agreed. Cllr Johnstone will liaise with the Lengthsman. It was noted that it is essential that the car park weeds are treated during the school holidays, Clerk to contact Lengthsman.

Clerk to contact Lengthsman

38. **Groundsman** – Work to do/ Equipment report

Wood treatment over the summer months: fence, notice boards seats etc needs to be done as well as other work already agreed

Clerk to contact Groundsman

39. **Future plans** - Report of **Working group on Play area**, ongoing.

Developments in north of parish, see 34.v above, nothing further to report.

Three year plan and future projects list Cllr Johnstone will forward his list to the Clerk for inclusion in the list.

40 Clerk & RFO report – see confidential minutes.

Lloyds Invoice is 4.67 due to cheque paid in on my mobile! Noted.

The RFO demonstrated the problem with her computer, it was agreed a new computer must be purchased. RFO and Chairman to liaise on this.

41. Correspondence a list had been circulated, noted.

42. Finance

42.i the following May online payments were agreed.

Expenditure

Detail	Details	Net	VAT	Gross
TLC webmaint inv2811 part payment	Online	15.00		15.00
Andy Tyler Groundsman inv 1140	Online	250.00		250.00
Gardeners South Inv 4503 and 4533	Online	776.66	155.34	932.00
HALC Subs HALC and NALC	Online	685.00		685.00
Clerk	Online	946.61	15.28	961.89
RFO/Assistant Clerk	Online	279.40	14.43	293.83
SLCC Training Invs: BK226089-1 90-1 91*1	Online	90.00	18.00	108.00
Creative Play - seat replacement pro forma	Online	129.00	25.80	154.80
Clear Group Insurance		681.47		681.47
J Murray auditor		270.00		270.00
Lloyds Bank monthly fee	Auto payment	4.67		4.67
:	Total uncleared above			4,356.66

42.ii Pension update – it is believed the system is now up and running and pension payments will start from the next pay round in June.

42.iii Transfers – Current Ac to Deposit ac £28,000.00 following receipt of the first tranche of the precept and two grants. Noted. Deposit account to Current ac £2000.00 noted.

42.iv Deposit ac to high interest ac, RFO and the Chairman will sort out a transfer.

42.v Handover arrangements to new RFO/Assistant clerk

New RFO to be authorized to set up payments and make transfers, agreed

Clerk to be given view access to bank account, agreed.

RFO to make the necessary arrangements with the bank

43. Parish Matters –

i. Councillors' items – Cllr Johnstone noted that a new driveway has been installed on a property on the Conservation Area. A resident had reported vans are again being stored in the old Car Boot Sale field. They are mostly not visible from the road. There also appears to be oil pollution from some of these vehicles. These items are a matter of concern and the Clerk will report them to NFNPA.

Clerk to contact NFNPA Planning Department

44. Items for the next agenda

Community Hall – development of garage/stores and outside toilet facilities
Outlook assistance for Cllr Shaw – who to fill this role
Outlook delivery – who will accept delivery in future
Fence, drainage, ditch maintenance on north side of the recreation ground
Final arrangements for the new RFO employment matters.

45. **Confidential business** In view of the 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'

The appointment of new RFO/Assistant Clerk was agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

NEXT MEETING : 17th June 2026 7.00pm at Woodlands Road Community Hall

Signed:

date: 17 June 2026