



Wherwell Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of Wherwell Parish Council took place on Tuesday 13th May 2025, beginning at 6:30pm and followed at 7.30pm by the Parish Assembly at the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall.

Minutes

1. **Present:** Cllrs Sean Hutton (chair), Sue Blazdell (vice Chair), Cheryl Barnes, Peter Bryant, Ali Young and Philip Warner (clerk).
2. **Apologies for Absence:** There were no apologies.
3. **Public Participation:**

Several members of the public attended and one of them asked whether there will be an ecological survey following the restoration of the pub to identify whether there has been any impact on birds or bats. The chair noted that this was not the responsibility of the Parish Council, but that TVBC would be asked.

Action: Clerk to raise the question with TVBC.
4. **Presentation:** by Alison Hellyer - New Community Engagement Ranger for North- West Hampshire Access Team. Alison Hellyer gave a presentation on the work done by the 14 strong team of the NW Hampshire Access Team and the volunteers that support them in maintaining some 3,000 miles of rights of way in the area. The work includes hedge cutting, ditch cleaning, and ditch bridge maintenance, although stiles are the responsibility of landowners. She highlighted the online tool for the public to report footpath problems, and noted that photos, a good description of the issues, and a what3words reference are particularly useful.
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>
Volunteers are always welcome, and enquiries can be made to Alison at alison.hellyer@hants.gov.uk
5. **To receive the annual report of the Parish Council:** Cllr Hutton presented the annual report. This reflected on the work and contributions of Cllrs and Clerk to support Wherwell Parish. Especially remembered were the late Lizzie Broadbent, who passed away early this year after many years service on the PC, and also the contributions of Diane Newell who has recently resigned for personal reasons. The PC has reviewed many local planning applications, supported some, and raised concerns about others, although TVBC have the ultimate authority on these matters. In the year the PC has finally managed to get TVBC to approve plans for the restoration of the Villages War

Memorial. This work should now progress in 26/27. The PC has been working to try and address speeding in the village, and to prevent HGVs using the villages narrow streets and awkward junctions. They have managed to get HCC to install “not suitable for HGV” signs and have purchased 2 Speed Indicator Devices to alert drivers of their speed in the village. These will be installed once HCC have done necessary work to move or place posts around the village to mount them on.

6. **To elect a Chair:** Cllr Hutton noted his willingness for re-election and a vote was duly held.
Proposer Cllr Young, Seconder Cllr Barnes, all agreed.
Cllr. Hutton was duly elected and signed the Chair’s declaration of acceptance of office and written undertaking to observe the code of conduct.
7. **To elect a Vice Chair:** Cllr Blazdell noted her willingness for re-election and a vote was duly held.
Proposer Cllr Hutton, Seconder Cllr Bryant, all agreed.
Cllr. Blazdell was duly elected and signed the Vice Chair’s declaration of acceptance of office and written undertaking to observe the code of conduct.
8. **Registrations of pecuniary interest:** Cllrs confirmed there were no changes and so new R of PI forms were not required.
9. **Declaration of Interests:** there were none reported for this meeting.
10. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 13th May 2025 were signed as a true record.
 - b. There were no matters arising:
11. **Casual Vacancy update:** – Cllr Hutton reported that Jenny Boileau will unfortunately not be progressing with taking a seat on the Parish Council, and so 2 vacancies remain.
Cllr Bryant reported that Victor Fauvelle has since agreed to **be coopted as a Cllr.**
Cllr Hutton proposed he be coopted, Cllr Barnes seconded, and all present agreed.
Paperwork will be completed at the next PC meeting before he takes his place on the PC.
12. **Planning:** Update on planning applications since last meeting.
 - a. **Permissions granted by TVBC**
 - i. Lynchet, Fullerton Road 26/00442/VARN Variation of Condition Approved plans to allow for changes made during design and development
 - ii. Gavel Acre 26/00543/TREEN T1 and T2 Yew Reduce in height by 2m,
T3 - Unknown Species - Fell

b. Applications received since the last PC meeting to discuss

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| i. | Riverside House | 26/00687/FULLN | Construction of access, erection of garage, alterations to north side of elevation, including new windows and roof alterations, erection of fence |
| ii. | Shepherds Cottage | 26/00855/TREEN | T1 Conifer – fell |
| iii. | 2 Lime Tree | 26/00952/TREEN | (T1) Cherry - Removal of Cherry tree in the rear garden |

Cllrs supported these 3 applications, with requests for conditions on Riverside house to maintain the current hedging frontage.

13. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

a. Cllr examined and approved the AGAR forms for 2025/26

- i. **Certificate of Exemption** – AGAR Form 2 which is to certify the authority as exempt from a limited assurance review under S9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 it is the standard exemption for small councils with <£25k income and was duly signed by chair & Clerk
- ii. **Annual Internal Audit Report** – The accounts have been Audited and signed by Michael Payne who is kindly donating his fee to Wherwell Church PCC and has agreed to be appointed as auditor for 2026-27.
- iii. **AGAR Section 1 - To approve the Annual Governance Statement.** The Chair read out the checklist of governance items, which the Cllrs agreed by resolution.
Proposer Cllr Hutton, seconder Cllr Blazdell All agreed.
- iv. **AGAR Section 2 – To Consider & approve Accounting Statements.** The RFO presented the accounting statements as audited by Michael Payne, and Cllrs approved them by resolution.
Proposer Cllr Hutton, seconder Cllr Blazdell All agreed.

Statements will be published on the website & notice board Action – Clerk.

There is a **“period for the Exercise of Public Rights”** required when any interested person can inspect the accounting records. The period must be at least 30 working days, and include the first 10 days of July.

The period agreed by Cllrs this year will be 3rd June – 14th July 2026.

14. Updates on Councilors’ portfolios:

- a. **Playing Fields** – Cllr Hutton reported on negotiations with the manager of Ninny’s Nursery. They propose renting the Pavilion as a new nursery space for the period when they have to vacate current premises from April 2027. To accommodate current users, it proposed to create an art space in the store building for when others have bookings in the Pavilion. This is a significant opportunity for income for the Playing Fields, and benefits for the village, with a nursery provision for parents and a potential feeder for the school.

15. To receive report from County & District Councilor Drew:

Cllr Drew made his report to the Annual Parish Assembly which followed the PC AGM.

16. Parish Administration & Correspondence: There was no correspondence reported.

17. Date of next scheduled Meetings:

- a. Parish Council - Tuesday 14th July 2026.
- b. Next Annual Meeting Tuesday 11th May, 2027.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:28 pm.

These minutes are signed as a true representation of the meeting.

Signed: **Role:** **Date:**