

# Wherwell Parish Council



**A meeting of the Parish Council took place on  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 6:30 pm, at the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall.**

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## Minutes

- 1. Present:** Cllrs Sean Hutton (chair), Sue Blazdell (vice chair), Lizzie Broadbent, Peter Bryant, Diane Newell, Ali Young plus District Cllr David Drew and Philip Warner (clerk).
- 2. Apologies for absence:** none.
- 3. Public Participation:** 3 members of the public attended to raise ongoing concerns about the process of the assessment of the Solar Farm planning application by TVBC planning. One member of the public said they would complain to the Information Commissioner and the PC agreed they would complain to the Ombudsman. Should the solar farm progress they raised safety concerns about potential glare caused to motorists from sunlight reflected from the panels onto the road.
- 4. Declaration of Interests:** There were none.
- 5. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th March 2025 were agreed & signed as true & accurate records by the chair after noting 3 minor corrections.
  1. To note that Sarah Hughes and Tim Goodridge from TVBC are available to attend PC meetings.
  2. To clarify a comment by a member of the public about his perceived wrongdoings in the process of the assessment of the Solar Farm planning application by TVBC.
  3. To note that in relation to the Solar Farm application, a member of the public could complain to the Information Commissioner and the PC would complain to the Ombudsman.
- 6. Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 7. Vacancy:** Following the resignation of Cllr Stewart Oliver, there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. Cllrs noted that if an election is not called for by electors making application to the Returning Officer at TVBC by 17<sup>th</sup> April, then the PC can co-opt a new member. After the notice period to the Returning Officer has expired, Cllrs will need to decide their process for co-opting.
- 8. Report from County & District Councilor Drew:** Cllr Drew presented his briefing.
  - Hampshire County Council
    - Local Government Reorganisation continues towards new Unitary Authority.
    - £12m made available for Household Support Fund
  - TVBC

- The draft designs for Andover's new riverside park at Western Avenue have been published changing the road layout and creating new landscapes and accessible pathways along the river.

## 9. Finance:

- The final year end accounts were presented to the PC prior to the preparation of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and internal audit.
- The accounts showed funds remaining of £18,129. The increase in funds was due mainly to the planned work on the War Memorial restoration being held up by planning issues with TVBC.
- It was agreed that the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) be accepted as a full signatory to the PC bank accounts. This would enable a smoother administration of online bank payments. The RFO will now be authorised to set up payments online, which will then be authorised by second signature authorisation by one of the other bank signatories who is an elected councillor. Cllr were reminded that all bank transactions require 2 signatures.
- Michael Payne has offered his services as Internal Auditor. Cllrs unanimously confirmed his appointment to the role. He has offered to waive his fee in favour of a donation to the PCC.
- Cllrs agreed that the two S137 grants previously approved (to Wherwell School PTA and Wherwell PCC for £750 each) should be paid as soon as practicable now that the first tranche of the Parish Precept for 25/26 has been received.

## 10. Planning Matters: the following planning matters were discussed –

### Permissions granted by TVBC

Freelands	25/00291/TREEN	Carry out tree works as detailed on Application Form
Springfield	25/00397/TREEN	T1 - Macrocarpa - Remove two lowest boughs to raise crown.

### Applications received since the last WPC meeting.

White Lion	25/00551/VARN	Variation of condition 09 of 24/02704/FULLN to add opening hours for Friday and Saturday
Fullerton House	25/00766/FULLN	Extension to form orangery and erection of detached garage

The PC discussed these applications and had no objections.

## 11. Special Projects & Portfolios

1. **Litter Picking** – Cllrs agreed to each do a litter round, and to encourage local residents to join them.
2. **War Memorial** – Cllr Bryant presented a quote from Blackwell & Moody Ltd which is less than the designated restoration budget together a method statement which he will use as the basis of a new planning application to TVBC.
3. **Speed Indicator Devices** – Cllr Blazdell is progressing with the purchase/installation of SID's with Elan City.
4. **Ombudsman** - Cllr Blazdell will start work on a complaint to the Ombudsman in relation to the process of the assessment of the Solar Farm planning application by TVBC.
5. **Wherwell Playing Fields** – Cllrs Newell & Blazdell reported that 240 leaflets had been distributed to local residents asking for support & comments on the upgrade of facilities at

WPF. There had been a disappointing response with only 4 replies. They will follow up and once more responses are received they will be able to draw up a draft strategic plan to support grant applications for e.g. solar panels & battery and a new electric boiler for the pavilion.

6. **Shepherds Cottage** – Cllrs expressed their concerns at the dilapidation of Shepherds Cottage, and the recent break in and theft of copper. They noted that the executors have a duty to take action to maintain the value of the property and dispose of it for the beneficiaries.

12. **Other Matters:** Cllr Hutton reported that the lengthsman's work has been unreliable of late. However additional wires have now been attached on top of the fence along the embankment at Purver's Patch to make the fence safer. The new sign will also now be installed.

13. **Correspondence.** None.

**14. Date of next scheduled Meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th May, 2025 (6:30pm Parish Assembly followed by Parish Council Annual Meeting).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

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**These minutes are a true representation of the meeting.**

Signed: .....

Date: .....