

Wherwell Parish Council



A meeting of the Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 22th July 2025 at 6:30 pm, at the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall.

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:** 2 members of the public attended and raised concerns about the new planning application for a grid connection to the recently approved Solar Farm. The connection site is different to that approved in the main application which was approved. They felt it was a disgrace that statements made about the connection during the main application process were untrue and the PC should raise this as a complaint to the ombudsman. Cllr Hutton responded that the PC are required to discuss their concerns with District Cllr Drew before raising a complaint with the ombudsman.
4. **Declaration of Interests:** There were none.
5. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th April 2025 were agreed & signed as true & accurate records by the chair.
 - The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 13th May were agreed as accurate records. They will be formally agreed and signed at the next Annual Meeting due in May 2026.
6. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
7. **Vacancy:** Cllr Newell proposed that Cheryl Dean (who has recently moved into Greenwich Cottage, has become very involved in village activities, and is keen to join the PC) be co-opted to the vacant Cllr position. Cllr Blazdell seconded the motion which was passed unanimously. Cheryl Dean will sign the relevant declaration of acceptance of office and register of interests before taking up the position at the next meeting.
8. **Finance:**
 - The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) presented the accounts to the end of June. Expenditure to date was as budgeted, and included the £5,000 purchase of 2 Speed Indicator Devices which have been received and are waiting on installation.
 - The S106 grant of £2,672 from TVBC has finally been received after some 18 months delay. This will be spent on refurbishment of play equipment at the Playing Fields.

- Insurance is due on 1st October and the RFO will obtain quotes for discussion at the next PC meeting.

9. Planning Matters: the following planning matters were discussed –

Permissions granted by TVBC

28 Church Street	25/00904/TREEN	T1 - Ash – Fell	No objection
Old Malt House	25/00950/FULLN	Increase height of the ridge stack and install a flue liner	PERMISSION subject to conditions & notes
Old Malt House, modern	25/00899/LBWN	Clean internally exposed timbers to remove their finishes and return to original natural oak finish, and remove the heavy smoke-blackening to 2 fireplaces	Withdrawn
Fullerton House,	25/00766/FULLN	Extension to form orangery & erect detached Garage	PERMISSION subject to conditions & notes
Wherwell Priory	25/00435/FULLN	Demolish single storey extensions, erect single storey link and covered walkway, create terrace and associated landscaping	PERMISSION subject to conditions & notes

Applications received since the last WPC meeting.

Land W Romsey Rd	25/00799/FULLN	Installation of substation comprising of customer and DNO compound and associated infrastructure, POC mast, new access off Romsey Road (A3057), underground cable between the substation and adjacent solar farm, septic tank, and landscaping.	No Objection, but concerns over new access to roadway. Existing access would be safer and should be maintained. Also concern that the new connection is contrary to the previously approved application for Wherwell Solar Farm.
Riverside House,	25/01567/FULLN	Alterations to annexe, including new cladding, altered windows, and extension of roof to form gable	No Objection, but extension should be tiled rather than slates to match existing house & neighbours, and the extension should not be allowed to be a separate dwelling.
The Old Malt House	25/01580/LBWN	Clean internally exposed timbers to remove their Modern finishes and return to original natural oak finish, and remove the heavy smoke-blackening to 2 fireplaces.	Supported
War Memorial	25/01311/LBWN	Clean, re-enamel and re-cut lettering, replace stone, and Repoint	

Cllr Bryant was thanked for his work getting this application submitted, and the application was strongly supported.

Wherwell Church 25/01555/TREEN T1 - Ash – Fell
Supported

10. Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VAS)

Cllrs discussed positioning of the 2 new SIDs/VASs and suggested sites at

- Wherwell Playing Fields
- Land adjacent to Toll Cottage
- Main Street by phone box
- Top of Railway bridge before the hairpin bend
- Fullerton Road by Phone box
- Long Bridge
- Winchester Corner

Consultations will be required with Highways and local landowners before the devices can be sited.

The devices will need to be moved at least every 3 months to keep the attention of motorists.

Cllr Blazdell will discuss this with a contact who may take on the role of fitting and moving the devices regularly for a small fee.

11. Local Government Reorganisation

Cllrs were concerned and confused that there are 2 competing proposals for different Local Government Reorganisation models being consulted on, which seemed disorganised and unnecessary. One survey, promoted by Hampshire County Council, in collaboration with East Hampshire District Council, proposes a single option locating the Test Valley in a West Hampshire unitary authority, together with the New Forest and the urban areas of Southampton and Eastleigh. The second survey, promoted by 12 of the 15 Hampshire councils, proposes 3 options, 2 of which locate the Test Valley in a largely rural-focused unitary authority (with New Forest, Winchester and East Hampshire). These rural options were broadly supported by WPC Cllrs. The Government will decide on which model to take forward in 2026 and it is thought implementation of the change will occur in 2027.

12. Neighbourhood Plan

Grant Funding has been withdrawn by TVBC and so progress on developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Wherwell has had to be halted.

13. Special Projects & Portfolios

- **War Memorial** – Cllr Bryant was thanked for his work in getting a new planning application to TVBC. The PC supports the application and will await TVBC response.
- **School** – Cllr Hutton reported that Wherwell Primary school has such a good reputation that Key Stage 1 (children 5-7) now has a waiting list. The school is a good place full of happy staff & pupils and will be busy over the summer with refurbishments.
- **Wherwell Playing Fields** – The playing fields are in very good condition thanks to the work by volunteers, especially the Thruxton Cricket Club.
- **Important Parish Trees** – Cllr Newell proposed to work with local residents to survey the parish for important trees. Such trees will include ancient, venerable and notable trees in the parish, which might need protection in the future, and could be included in the National Ancient Tree Inventory.

14. Report from County & District Councilor Drew: Cllr Drew presented his briefing.

- Hampshire County Council is promoting holiday activities for families over the summer, and a summer food program. Their food waste recycling program is due to go ahead this autumn.
- TVBC is consulting on proposed housing development sites in the test valley area. National targets for TVBC new housing have been increased from ~500 houses per year to ~900 homes per year. If TVBC does not have an approved plan, then it may be difficult for them to refuse large planning applications from speculative developers. The parish of Wherwell will be required to fine plots for 10 dwellings.

15. Other Matters: the Clerk was tasked with re-registering the WPC website domain.

16. Correspondence. None.

17. Date of next scheduled Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th September, 2025

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

These minutes are a true representation of the meeting.

Signed:

Date: