

Wherwell Parish Council



**A meeting of the Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 6:30 pm, at the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall.**

Minutes

- 1. Present:** Cllrs Sean Hutton (chair), Sue Blazdell (vice chair), Peter Bryant, Diane Newell, Ali Young plus Philip Warner (clerk).
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Lizzie Broadbent, Cheryl Barnes and District Cllr David Drew.
- 3. Public Participation:** 2 members of the public attended.
- 4. Declaration of Interests:** There were none.
- 5. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 22th July 2025 were agreed & signed as true & accurate records by the chair.
- 6. Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 7. Finance:**
 - The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) presented the accounts to the end of August. There were no significant items of variance to budget to report.
 - Insurance is due on 1st October and after a brief discussion Cllrs agreed to accept the quote from Gallaghers which is within budget and has only a small inflationary increase from last year. They also agreed to accept a 3 year agreement with Gallaghers. It was noted that the War Memorial remains uninsured, and Cllr Bryant would obtain an estimate for rebuild cost which the RFO will then use to get a quote from the insurers to extend cover.
 - The RFO reported that the new HMRC payroll system “PAYE Tools” is now up and running to fully comply with all legislation around PAYE.
- 8. Planning Matters:** the following planning matters were discussed –

Permissions granted by TVBC The following permissions granted by TVBC were reported

28 Church Street	25/00904/TREEN	T1 - Ash – Fell
New Barn	24/01688/FULLN & 24/01689/LBWN	Change of use of barn from storage to wedding venue, creation of parking area, insertion of doors and glazed screens, application of render to existing concrete blocks and replacement cladding and windows, removal of overhead powerlines and replacement with underground cabling and associated landscaping works
Riverside House	25/01567/FULLN	Alterations to annexe, including new cladding, altered windows, and extension of roof to form gable

Applications received since the last WPC meeting. The following applications were discussed, and no objections were raised by Cllrs.

Freelands	25/01728/FULLN	Alterations and refurbishment to the existing 3 terraced Brick cottages which includes the conversion of the 3 cottages into 2 with a rear extension to both cottages
Fallen Willow Sauna	25/01759/FULLN	Retention of Sauna related uses and activities, Associated structures, access routes, parking and existing access
The Woodland Sauna	25/01907/FULLN	Retention of Sauna related uses and activities, associated structures, access routes, parking and existing access

Cllrs noted that they the Sauna plans as it is important to support local farms to be able to diversify to make a living.

9. Response to complaint to TVBC Planning Department

A complaint was submitted to TVBC about the process undertaken by the planning department in reviewing and approving the recent Solar Farm application. In particular the planning officer's communications with the applicant and help in securing a favorable outcome. In response, although TVBC admitted that some actions had not been appropriate, they contended that their pausing the application and resetting with a new case officer led to a sound decision. WPC Cllrs are of the view that the second officer was still tainted and not independent and that the process overall was seriously flawed. However, it was acknowledged that proceeding with escalating the complaint all the way to the ombudsman would be on onerous exercise that would not achieve any further practical results. In particular it would not get the planning approval decision changed. It was therefore decided that no further action would be taken.

10. Local Government Reorganisation

It was noted that Hampshire County Council, and 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. 12 of the 15 Hampshire councils, are proposing an option which locates the Test Valley in a largely rural-focused unitary authority which is the option 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.

11. Neighbourhood Plan

Grant Funding of only £500 has been now offered by TVBC, which is insufficient to start work on developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Wherwell and so the project will not progress at this stage.

12. Bus Shelter

As there are no longer any bus services through Wherwell, the shelter is no longer required as a bus shelter and Cllrs discussed other options for its use. It was decided that it could be used for display boards on the history of Wherwell. The Wherwell History Group would be approached to help provide information and input into the design of the displays.

13. Potential sites for developments

Cllr Hutton noted that one of the challenges WPC faces is finding new development sites within the parish to accommodate the requirements for 10 new homes. The easiest option is for WPC to list potential sites and then allow TVBC/ developers to contact the land owners directly.

WPC should make plain the need within the parish is for downsizing properties on the private market and family homes with gardens in the affordable housing sector. There is no requirement for additional 4-5 bedroom properties within the community.

Potential sites on Beech Grove, redevelopment on Chant Close, Dublin Farm farmyard, Cottonworth farmyard and Fullerton farmyard were raised.

14. CCTV

A property in the Village was recently broken into and has raised the question of whether CCTV cameras should be installed around the village. These require a power supply and connection to a broadband service to work and suitable cameras would cost in the order of £1,000 each. Wherwell would need up to 7 cameras to monitor roads in and out of the village and without additional funding this is not possible. Local residents might consider individual surveillance systems at their own properties.

15. Special Projects & Portfolios

- **War Memorial** – Following TVBC Conservation Officer's objection to the application, the stonemason has provided further details on process in support of the application .
- **Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VAS)** – Cllr Blazdell reported that someone has been found who will undertake to move the cameras every 3 months between sites (to be agreed) for a charge of £250 (£1,000 per year) which was approved by Cllrs.

16. Report from County & District Councilor Drew: Cllr Drew was unable to attend during the meeting due to another PC meeting and sent his briefing by email. The key points were:-

- Hampshire County Council is providing support for helping children start the new school year with confidence.
- Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), has begun the rollout of food waste caddies to homes throughout the area, which is expected to take up to seven weeks to complete. Households will receive a five-litre kitchen caddy, a 23-litre kerbside caddy, one roll of caddy liners, and an information leaflet explaining how collection service works. The new service will officially begin on Monday 13 October 2025.

17. Correspondence. None.

18. Date of next scheduled Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th November, 2025

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:31 pm.

These minutes are a true representation of the meeting.

Signed:

Date: