

Wherwell Parish Council



A meeting of the Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 6.30pm, at the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall

Minutes

1. **Present:** Cllrs Sean Hutton (chair), Cheryl Barnes, Peter Bryant, and plus Philip Warner (clerk).

2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Blazdell and Young sent their apologies.

3. **Public Participation:**

Several members of the public attended including the owner of the White Lion, who came to present his thinking to the community on his application to rename the pub as the Daft Dog when it reopens after his major refurbishment of the buildings.

He noted that the commercial advice received was that modernisation of a business is often associated with a new image including new signage and his advisors recommend a new modern name to create a branded entity for the whole business that is more than just the pub, and includes a café, pub, restaurant and inn with 8 rooms. He believes the considerable investment in the pub requires a new start with a new name. He also noted that he is aware of the history of the pub and intends to incorporate a display on the premises including returning the “cannon ball” to the pub.

7 members of the public spoke in response. They all noted their appreciation for the investment that made in the village and recognised that without this the White Lion would probably have been closed permanently. Some were supportive and some raised various levels of objections to renaming the pub. It was generally felt that the name of the White Lion had such a long association with the village that it would be sad to lose that attachment.

It was suggested by Cllr Hutton that perhaps the name of the White Lion could be retained within the overall business, perhaps linked to the new café rather than the pub. This suggestion was supported by several members of the public.

Cllrs then discussed and noted that other local pubs had also changed names (e.g. the Seven Stars is now the Mayfly). They thanked the owner of the pub for his investment, without which there would be no more pub, and agreed they had no objection to changing the name.

4. **Declaration of Interests:** there were none reported for this meeting.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2026 were signed as a true record.
- b. matters arising:
 - i. Cllr Hutton reported that Cllr Young has been reviewing options for website hosting and will report back at the next meeting.
 - ii. Cllr Hutton proposed that he arrange to clad the bus shelter in side in marine ply and replace damaged external cladding at a cost of ~£200 and that Wherwell History Group have items to then display inside.

6. Casual Vacancy update – Cllr Hutton reported that Jenny Boileau has agreed to be coopted as a Cllr to fill the vacancy arising on the passing of Cllr Broadbent. Cllr Hutton proposed she be coopted, Cllr Barnes seconded, and all present agreed.

Action – Clerk to Inform Jenny Boileau of the decision and to arrange administration for her joining the PC.

The Chair also reported that a further casual vacancy has arisen due to the resignation of Cllr Newell by letter dated 23rd March. He thanked her for her considerable contribution to the PC over the years. The Clerk reported that the casual vacancy notice had been duly posted and will expire on 24th April after which the Returning Officer will notify if there is to be an election or if the PC can co-opt another new Cllr.

7. Finance:

- a. The RFO presented the year end finance report to March 2026 and noted:
 - i. The budget for the year 25/26 was for a deficit of £10,445 driven by a plan to spend the £7,700 held in reserves for restoring the war memorial plus an additional £2,500 to buy 2 Speed indicator devices rather than one.
 - ii. The outturn for the year was a deficit of “only” £3,738 due largely to the war memorial restoration having to be delayed again to next year.
- b. The accounts will now be put into statutory format for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and passed to the Independent Examiner (Michael Payne) before presentation at the Annual Meeting in May.
- c. Processes are in train for Cllr Young to be set up as an additional signatory for the Lloyds bank account.
- d. The RFO has reviewed the long term costs of purchasing Defibrillators (including replacement pads and batteries) vs Leasing. Before presenting options to the PC he will also investigate potential grants.

8. Planning Matters: Update on planning applications since last meeting including -

a. Permissions granted by TVBC

- i. Riverside House 26/00293/TREEN

T1 - Yew - reduce crown by 4m, T2 - Yew - Reduce overhang from property by 2m, T3 - Horse Chestnut - Dismantled by section to ground level

Cllrs noted that they had objected to the work on the Yew.

b. Applications received since the last WPC meeting.

- i. Lynchet, Fullerton Road 26/00442/VARN
Variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans) of 22/03353/FULLN (Erect two-storey side and rear extension, single storey garage and studio/office, convert garage to living space, replace windows and doors including addition of dormer, roof lights and over clad finishes - To allow for changes made during the course of the design and development process.

Cllrs noted that work done so far at this property will create a fine new modern house.

- ii. Gavel Acre, 26/00543/TREEN
T1 and T2 - Yew - Reduce in height by 2m, T3 - Unknown Species - Fell
- iii. The White Lion 26/00621/LBWN
Refurbishment and extensions to Public House and barn buildings including signage and replacement windows
- iv. The White Lion 26/00625/ADVN
Display of two externally illuminated hanging signs
And change of name to "The Daft Dog"

Cllrs raised no objections to any of these applications.

9. Special Projects: To receive updates on progress with special projects including

- a. Speed Indicator Devices - work needs to be done by HCC Highways at some 4 of the proposed locations to move or provide new posts to site the SIDs. This will cost £1,892. Cllrs have agreed to pay for this work and the Clerk will request an invoice for the work to be raised by HCC, although the works cannot progress until traffic lights at the White Lion are removed as they impede one of the proposed SID locations. Cllr Blazbell has secured a grant from TVBC for £275 towards this cost.

Action – Clerk to request HCC to raise invoice

- b. Cllr Bryant reported that work on the War Memorial Restoration will finally proceed as soon as all risk of frost has passed.

10. Updates on Councilors' portfolios: updates not already covered by agenda items including

- a. Review of Councilors' portfolios was deferred to a following meeting due to Cllr absences.
- b. Update on website was deferred due to Cllr Young not being able to attend.
- c. Update on Bus Shelter reuse was reported under matters arising (5b.ii above)

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

Cllr Drew was unable to attend.

12. Parish Administration & Correspondence:

- a. Cllr Hutton reported that he has received a request from the owner of a local nursery about the possibility of renting space at WPF pavilion. They need to vacate their current premises by April 2027 as they are being refurbished. They need space for the whole working day Monday to Friday and would therefore have to pay considerable rent. However, accommodating this request would be difficult as there are already some current users of the Pavilion. Although current users do not generate as much rent, they are both from the local community which we need to support.

Action – Cllr Hutton proposed that he investigate options to accommodate this nursery as well as existing users.

- b. The Clerk reported that Alison Helyer (Community Engagement Ranger HCC) will now attend the WPC meeting on 12th May.

13. Date of next scheduled Meeting: Tuesday 12th May, 2025 (Annual Meeting at 6:30 followed by the Parish Assembly at 7:30)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:55 pm.

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

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