

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 7th JANUARY 2025 AT BROCKENHURST VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr R Horne	Chairman	
Cllr A Bartlett	Cllr R Bowles	Cllr M Harris
Cllr P Hollins	Cllr J Korbey	
Cllr P Pearse	Cllr K Whittle (from 7.17pm)	
Cllr J Wingham	Cllr R Wolstenholme	

Mrs H Lawrence Parish Clerk
One member of the public

Public Presentments

A presentment was given regarding flooding on the railway and the job work that has been carried out Network Rail to address the issues without the need to disrupt the rail network with any closures. It was felt that perhaps the Parish Council should send a letter to Network Rail by the Parish Council to acknowledge this fact.

A presentment was given regarding the recent government white paper on devolution. It was noted that there appears to be no mention of the impact on National Parks. There will need to involvement by the Parish Councils in the New Forest National Park and to consider any impact in the New Forest.

25/01 Apologies for absence: None

25/02 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Bartlett & Horne declared an interest in accounts for payment 25/06.

Cllr Wingham declared an interest in the Friends of Brockenhurst Station grant – 25/04.

25/03 Minutes of the Meeting held 19th November 2024

Proposed, seconded and signed as a correct record

25/04 Reports and response to Consultations:

- i) P&R Committee meeting held 17th December 2024

A report of the meeting was given by Cllr Wolstenholme and the following items were recommended for approval: -

a) Budget requirements for 2025/26

The budget was agreed with the recommendation for a partial delivery of the Gateway Signage Project 2025/26 to be able to utilise £15,000 of this budget, if required.

b) Precept 2025/26

The recommendation for a precept requirement of £151,992, which is £77.16 based on a band D property.

The above items were proposed by Cllr Bowles, seconded by Cllr Wingham and approved by a majority vote, with two councillors abstaining.

- c) The recommendation to award a grant of £600 to Friends of Brockenhurst Station.

The above item was proposed by Cllr Bowles, seconded by Cllr Pearse and unanimously approved, except for Cllr Wingham who abstained as he had declared an interest.

- d) Unity Bank - The recommendation to remove Pete Wales as a signatory. To remove Tiffany Pritchard as admin and signatory and replace with Heather Lawrence, Parish Clerk.
- e) CCLA - The recommendation to remove Pete Wales and replace with Cllr Richard Wolstenholme. To remove Tiffany Pritchard as correspondent and signatory and replace with Heather Lawrence, Parish Clerk.
- f) Nationwide Building Society - The recommendation to remove Pete Wales as business official and signatory. To remove Tiffany Pritchard as main contact and replace with Heather Lawrence, Parish Clerk.
- g) Cambridge Building Society - The recommendation to remove Pete Wales as signatory and replace with Cllr Richard Wolstenholme. To remove Tiffany Pritchard as signatory and replace with Heather Lawrence, Parish Clerk.
- h) Hampshire Pensions - The recommendation to remove Pete Wales as employer/councillor and replace with Cllr Russell Horne. To remove Tiffany Pritchard as employer/RFO and replace with the new RFO, when appointed.
- i) Barclaycard - The recommendation to remove Pete Wales as authorised official and replace with Cllr Russell Horne. To cancel Tiffany Pritchard's card and remove as company representative and replace with Heather Lawrence, Parish Clerk.
- j) The recommendation that bank reconciliation checks are carried out by Cllr Peter Hollins.
- k) The recommendation to appoint Mina Beckett as a temporary RFO and clerk to the planning committee while a permanent replacement is recruited.

All the above items were proposed by Cllr Bowles, seconded by Cllr Pearse and unanimously approved.

25/05 Correspondence

HCC Active travel Scheme – Confirmation letter of the scheme's approval

It was noted that the letter has been added to the website, Brookley Road noticeboard and office window. Further publicity of the approval of this Hampshire County Council scheme and the Parish Council's financial input is to be arranged, in addition to the information being available in the coming precept report for 2025/26.

25/06 Accounts for payment: Proposed, seconded and agreed.

Corbins	Harding Fund	£4.75
Gates	Fuel	£13.63
J Humphrey	Payroll November	£39.60
J Humphrey	Payroll December	£39.60
Lyndhurst Landscapes	WM Maintenance Nov & Dec	£358.02
Shimie Shine Cleaning	Office cleaning December	£45.00
Streets	Supplies	£62.39
Streets	Supplies	£33.53
TLC	News sheet	£100.00
Viking	Stationary	£74.11
Wessex Windows	Office windows	£12.00
Bronze Design	Fun Evening advert & printing	£112.20
Allotment Assoc	Fees	£10.00
Village Hall	Hall hire	£322.85
Festival Lights	brackets	£52.00
Russell Horne	reimbursement Christmas lights	£47.98
Edge IT	Additional user	£160.20

25/07 Items to note - to include items raised by members of the public

Acknowledgement of both presentments were given and it was discussed whether letters should be sent to our MP.

Cllr Harris advised that from the Patient Participation Group there is a request for the Village Directory to be reintroduced as it would be a useful for distribution of information, especially for those that do not use a computer. Cllr Horne acknowledged the request and this is for future discussion.

Cllr Bartlett raised a point regarding councillors attending committee meeting that they are not a member of and whether they should be allowed to remain in the meeting during the confidential section.

This was discussed and the clerk and chairman tried to clarify the situation. Subject to any legal implications this may be considered the next time the Standing Orders are reviewed.

Cllr Bowles asked whether we are allowed to have any control over when the flooding signage is put in place and removed when there is flooding at the Watersplash.

It was noted that members of the public end up moving the signs out of the way.

It was acknowledged that we have previously made a request to HCC Highways and it was declined and that HCC control the signage. Further enquires can be made with HCC.

25/08 Date of Next Meeting: 21st January 2025

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

25/09 Staffing and RFO recruitment

Staffing requirements were discussed regarding the temporary recruitment of Mina Becket as finance officer & clerk to the planning committee. It was agreed that Mina will only have access to Unity Bank and would require the VS option to allow her to view accounts and set up payments only.

The arrangements for the advertisement of a permanent replacement finance officer & clerk to the planning committee were also discussed.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm