

BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15th JULY 2025, 19.00 AT BROCKENHURST VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr R Horne (Chairman), Cllr M Croker, Cllr M Harris, Cllr J Korbey, Cllr R Wolstenholme, Cllr J Wingham

In attendance: Mr T Brindley Locum clerk, Mrs M Marler-Roe, RFO, Dr G Pettifer, Clerk designate.

County Councillor Keith Mans, District Councillor Adam Parker.

14 members of the public.

25/153 Public questions

Ahead of the meeting, five members of the public addressed the council.

1. A member of the public addressed the council regarding flooding on the A35 at Blackwater Bridge. Presentation annexed.
2. A member of the public addressed the council regarding Cross Country Trains. Presentation annexed.
3. A member of the public addressed the council regarding Brockenhurst Brush-Up. Presentation annexed.
4. A member of the public addressed the council regarding the costs of the Village Sign
5. A member of the public addressed the council regarding parking in Sway Road. Presentation annexed.

25/154 (Agenda item 1) Apologies for absence were accepted from: Cllrs P Pearse, P Hollins, K Whittle, and R Bowles

25/155 (Agenda item 2) Chair's Remarks

1. The chair introduced Dr Gale Pettifer as the new clerk who starts on 23rd July.
2. The chair advised that there would be a government test of the emergency signalling system on 7th September 2025 when a message would be sent to all compatible mobile phones.

25/156 (Agenda item 3) Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation: Members were reminded to make any declaration ahead of the item to be discussed.

25/157 (Agenda item 4) Minutes of council meeting 17th June 2025

1. The minutes were adopted and the chair authorised to sign.

25/158 (Agenda item 5) Minutes of council meeting 24th June 2025

1. The minutes were adopted and the chair authorised to sign.

25/159 (Agenda item 6) Minutes of council meeting 8th July 2025

1. The minutes were adopted and the chair authorised to sign.

25/160 (Agenda item 7) County Councillor Keith Mans addressed the council.

1. Cllr Mans spoke about the Local Government Reorganisation and explained the rationale behind the County Council's recommended option of combining the New Forest, Test Valley Eastleigh, Winchester and Southampton Councils to form one of three new Unitary Authorities. A public consultation would commence shortly.
2. Cllr Mans spoke about flooding and the difficulties because several public authorities were involved and responsibility and accountability were not clear.
3. The chair advised members that there is a new Environment Agency (EA) officer responsible for Brockenhurst, and he has requested to meet the chair.

25/161 (Agenda item 8) New Forest District Councillor (NFDC) Adam Parker addressed the council.

1. Cllr Parker spoke about the issues with the new bin collection service.

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2. Cllr Parker advised that NFDC had a different preferred option for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) which would combine NFDC with Winchester, Test Valley and East Hampshire to create a rural Unitary authority. Cllr Parker answered questions on LGR
3. Cllr Parker spoke about the incident in Lyndhurst Road that caused a road closure while a lorry was recovered from a resident's garden.

25/162 (Agenda item 9) Clerk's report: The Locum Clerk presented his report (annexed).

1. **Recommendation:** That a data sharing agreement be entered into with a named member of the public who would assist with allotment matters. Members **RESOLVED** to set up such an agreement.
2. The report was noted.

25/163 (Agenda item 10) Aircraft Noise

1. The chair presented a report (annexed) regarding aircraft noise.
2. The chair requested members of the public make complaints of aircraft noise directly to the Airport Operator.

25/164 (Agenda item 11) Planning Report

1. Cllr Korbey, chair of the Planning Committee, presented a report of the meeting on 24th June.

25/165 (Agenda item 12) Personnel and Resources Committee

1. Cllr Wolstenholme, chair of the Personnel and Resources Committee presented a report of the meeting on 1st July
 - a. Members noted the P&R had delegated authority to the RFO to make transfers between the Unity current and deposit accounts.
 - b. Members noted that a sub-committee had been created to review policies.
 - c. Members noted that applications would be made for CIL funding for Playground equipment, Village entry signs and Bike racks.
 - d. Members noted that the meeting had been held too soon after the month end to receive financial reports.
2. Members considered three recommendation regarding grants and noted the annual grants budget was £6,000.
 - a. Grant of £428 to Friends of Brockenhurst Station.
 - i. Cllr Wingham declared an interest and did not take part in the debate or decision.
 - ii. Members **RESOLVED** to grant £428 to the Friends of Brockenhurst Station.
 - b. Grant to Brockenhurst Primary School towards a crossing patrol.
 - i. Members noted the application had been for £6500 but the P&R committee was recommending £4,000 with an informative that this amount would likely reduce in future years.
 - ii. Members **RESOLVED** to grant £4000 to Brockenhurst Primary School with an informative that this amount would likely reduce in future years.
 - c. Grant to Brockenhurst Parent Teacher Association towards library books.
 - i. Members noted the application had been for £2,500 but the P&R committee was recommending £500 with a covenant that the grant should only be used for secular books.
 - ii. Members **RESOLVED** to grant £500 with a covenant that the grant should only be used for secular books.
 - d. Members noted the remaining grant budget was £1,072.

25/166 (Agenda item 13) Local Government Reorganisation: Response to consultations.

1. Members considered the options put forward by NFDC and HCC (Report Annexed).

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2. After debate, members **RESOLVED**:
 - a. to support NFDC Option 1, a Unitary authority comprised of the existing NFDC, Winchester, Test Valley and East Hampshire district councils, with four other Unitary Authorities: Basingstoke and Deane, Rushmore, Hart; Southampton, Eastleigh; Portsmouth, Gosport, Fareham, Havant; and the Isle of Wight.
 - b. To add that under no circumstances should the New Forest be split over more than one Unitary Authority.
 - c. To add concern that Town and Parish Councils were not being considered within the reorganisation.
3. Members considered the options put forward by Hampshire County Council and **RESOLVED** to make the same response as to the NFDC consultation.

25/167 (Agenda item 14) Finance and Payments

1. Members noted the July payment list. The RFO advised that the June Barclaycard statement had not been received and some of the Barclaycard spend was not yet accounted for.
2. Members **RESOLVED** to instruct Smart Marketing Ltd to bring the electronic visual display screen, located in the office window, back into operation and assigned £350 to the project.
3. The Locum Clerk explained that the Q1 monitoring report was delayed as the mandate changes had not completed and some Q1 closing bank statements were not available.
4. The draft figures indicated that income to 30th June (25% of the year) was 60.7% of budget (as the precept and allotment fees were front end loaded) and expenditure to 30th June (25% of the year) was 25.1% of budget.
5. The draft Budget report is annexed to these minutes.

25/168 (Agenda item 15) Items to note including public questions.

The chair advised that written responses would be given to each of the public questions received.

25/169 (Agenda item 16) Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th September 7pm at Brockenhurst Village Hall

The meeting closed at 20:26

Signed:

Date:

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Annexed Reports

- 1 Public presentations
 - a) Flooding on A35
 - b) Cross country trains
 - c) Brockenhurst Brush Up
 - d) Parking in Sway Road
- 2 Clerk's report July 2025
- 3 Personnel and Resources meeting 1st July, draft minutes
- 4 Officer report: Local Government Reorganisation
- 5 Chair's Report: Aircraft Noise
- 6 Q1 Draft Budget Report

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