



Brockenhurst Parish Council

70B Brookley Road, Brockenhurst, SO42 7RA

Minutes of a meeting of Brockenhurst Parish Council

held on Tuesday 16 December 2025, at 7.00pm, in Brockenhurst Village Hall.

Members Present: Cllr R Horne (Chair), Cllr R Bowles, Cllr M Croker, Cllr J Doughty, Cllr M Harris OBE, Cllr P Hollins, Cllr J Korbey, Cllr P Pearse, Cllr J Wingham, and Cllr R Wolstenholme.

Officers Present: Dr G Pettifer (Clerk & Proper Officer)
Mrs M Marler-Roe (Responsible Financial Officer)

The Chair opened the meeting and explained that due to the large amount of interest regarding the presentment by Southern Gas Network (SGN) that Standing Orders would be suspended to enable a longer session for public participation and allow a public debate. The Chair also informed those attending in person that the meeting was being livestreamed over the internet.

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders 3f and 3g for 45 minutes.

The Chair brought Item 16. Southern Gas Network forward on the agenda for discussion and invited members of Southern Gas Network and AJM Utilities Ltd to make their presentment.

Two members of the AJM Utilities Ltd team gave an explanation of the intended works, the restrictions due to working in a SSSI, the subsequent methodology for replacing the gas main, and the proposals for traffic management, road closures, and diversions.

Residents and Councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions, make observations and recommendations, and to voice their concerns. Residents raised many points, including:

- Concerns regarding access to properties.
- Concerns regarding access for emergency services, delivery vehicles, buses, service providers etc. to residencies.
- The apparent lack of consultation and engagement with organisations, such as Natural England, Hampshire County Council, and Forestry England.
- Concerns regarding a viable traffic management plan and the potential for North Weirs to become a rat run.
- The difficulties with the proposed diversion, of 11-miles, which was via a route that is subject to a conditional (access only) width limit of 6' 6" and a mandatory prohibition of 7.5 tonnes over the weak bridge just north of Rhinefield House.
- Concerns regarding the damage to SSSI verges along the Ornamental Drive diversion route.
- Flooding of the diversion route.
- Deer crossing the diversion route.

AJM Utilities Ltd agreed to re-engage with Natural England, and other interested organisations, to discuss the points raised by residents.

The representative from SGN stated that while the project had been months in the planning, only when the traffic management proposals were announced did SGN receive push-back from the community. Hampshire County Council had provided the license for the road closure, and SGN admitted that the Parish Council should have been notified of the works as part of the permit system.

Councillors and residents requested that the works be delayed while proper investigations were carried out, or that the Parish Council be given the name of someone with the authority who could make that decision.

The representatives from SGN and AJM Utilities Ltd agreed to ask their senior leadership and Network Analysis Team if it was possible to delay the project until a proper consultation process was undertaken. The SGN representative said that she would have an answer by the following day.

There were 55 members of the public present and 52 attending online.

PC.25/223 Public Participation

One member of the public spoke on the issue of Brockenhurst Parish Council engaging with Hampshire County Council to improve the speed limit signage and road markings throughout the village.

One member of the public spoke on the issue of Martins Road bridge.

PC.25/224 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Harris OBE and Cllr Whittle.

PC.25/225 Declarations of interest/Requests for dispensation

There were no declarations of interest.

PC.25/226 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting ([Report12/04](#))

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 November 2025, be **APPROVED**, and were signed by the Chair.

PC.25/227 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

PC.25/228 Reports by the Hampshire Council Councillor; New Forest District Councillor; and representatives on outside bodies

To receive the report of the Hampshire Council Councillor; New Forest District Councillor; and any further reports from Parish Council representatives on outside bodies.

- a) Hampshire County Councillor's Report – CCllr Keith Mans was not present.
- b) New Forest District Council's Report – DCllr Adam Parker was present online.
- c) Community Rail Partnership – Cllr Wingham's update was NOTED.
- d) Speed Watch Report – Cllr Doughty gave a report. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Doughty and Cllr Bowles work together, with two members of Speedwatch, to engage with Hampshire County Council on the renewing of road safety signage and worn-out road markings.
- e) Aircraft Noise – Cllr Horne's update was NOTED.

PC.25/229 Reports of Committees and Sub-Groups ([Report12/07](#))

The approved/signed minutes of the following committees were **NOTED**:

- a) Planning Committee – 25 November 2025 - Cllr Korbey, Chair of the Planning Committee presented a summary of recent meetings. Members had no specific comments or questions.

- b) Amenities & Infrastructure – 2 December 2025 - Cllr Croker, Chair of the Amenities & Infrastructure Committee presented the minutes of the last meeting. He also announced that, in future, Cllr Pearse would be taking forward the Parish Council's interest in the National Cycleway 2 Realignment Proposals. Members had no specific comments or questions.
- c) Policy, Resources & Finance – 9 December – Cllr Wolstenholme, Chair of the Personnel & Resources Committee, presented the minutes of the last meeting. Members had no specific comments or questions.
- d) Village Centre Strategy Working Group – Cllr Bowles said that a report from the VCSWG would be available at the next meeting.

PC.25/230 Finance and Payments ([Report 12/08](#))

Councillors considered the December payment list.

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the payments to creditors in the sum of £5,278.74 be APPROVED.
- b) The bank reconciliation report, in the sum of £169,515.52, was presented to the Chair for signing.
- c) The RFO gave a Bank Summary Report of current bank balances, as at 30 November 2025, as follows:

Unity Current	£5,108.31
Unity Deposit	£68,093.99
95 Day Business Nationwide	£33,327.39
Instant Access Cambridge BS	£32,728.99
CCLA	£30,256.84
Total in Banks	£169,515.52

PC.25/231 Interim Internal Auditor's Report

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item until the next Parish Council meeting.

PC.25/232 Policies for review ([Report 12/09](#))

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Terms of Reference for Policy, Resources, & Finance Committee.

PC.25/233 Community Grant Applications

It was **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of Community Grant applications from Brockenhurst Speedwatch and St Barbes Museum until the next Parish Council meeting.

PC.25/234 Brookley Road Bridge (Water Splash) ([Report 12/12](#))

It was **RESOLVED** to forward to the Clerk responses regarding the design of the replacement bridge in Brookley Road by 20 January 2026.

PC.25/235 NFDC Consultation Extension To Public Spaces Protection Orders ([Report 12/13](#))

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Clerk the task of responding to the NFDC consultation on the New Forest Public Spaces Protection Order 2023 (No.1) Relating To BBQs And Wildfires and the New Forest Public Spaces Protection Order 2023 (No.2) Relating To The Feeding And Petting Of New Forest Ponies, Horses, Mules And Donkeys.

PC.25/236 Local Government Reorganisation Consultation ([Report 12/14](#))

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Clerk the task of replying to the government regarding the Local Government Reorganisation Consultation, and to reiterate the previous response of the Parish Council.

PC.25/237 Noticeboard Permission L2335 at Wootton, Holmsley ([Report 12/15](#))

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate to Cllr Croker (Chair of Amenities & Infrastructure Committee) the authority to sign the Permission agreement with Forestry England, for a noticeboard at Wootton, Holmsley, as recommended by Amenities & Infrastructure Committee (Min no. A&I.25/61).

It was **RESOLVED** to pay £25.00 for consideration of the right on the signing the Permission.

PC.25/238 Southern Gas Network ([Report 12/16](#))

This item was considered at the beginning of the meeting.

PC.25/239 Village Gateway Signs

It was **RESOLVED** to postpone this item until the next Parish Council meeting.

PC.25/240 Budget and Precept for 2026/27 ([Report 12/18](#))

Councillors discussed the projects planned for 2026/27 including upgrading of Parish Council governance systems; new village gateway signs; CCTV; and improvements to the village centre.

It was **RESOLVED** to increase the precept on a Band D property by 59p per week (an increase of 39.7%), which equates to £107.82. This would generate a precept to the Parish Council of £218,049.

It was acknowledged that Brockenhurst Parish Council's previous reluctance to raise the precept could result in a perceived 'hike' by members of the community. Councillors were keen, however, to point out that Brockenhurst's precept charge is now comparable to the national average and would enable the Council to be more realistic with its projects.

PC.25/241 Parish Clerk's Report

There was no report from the Parish Clerk.

PC.25/242 Any other items the Chair or members deem urgent

The Chair thanked the volunteers who helped install the Christmas lights and Christmas trees, and to Grovely Pet Shop for the generous use of their 'spare' room, which was used as a base of operation.

The additional plaque for the War Memorial had been received and was due to be put in place.

PC.25/243 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 7.00 pm**, in the village hall.

Meeting closed at 8.44pm.

Date: _____ Signed: _____