



Brockenhurst Parish Council

70B Brookley Road, Brockenhurst, SO42 7RA

Minutes of a meeting of Brockenhurst Parish Council

held on Tuesday 20 January 2025, at 7.00pm, in Brockenhurst Village Hall.

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

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

There were five members of the public in attendance at the meeting and five online.

PC.26/244 Public Participation

A representative of the Brockenhurst Football Club informed the Council about the replacement floodlights scheduled for spring/summer 2026 – see Appendix 1.

One member of the public spoke about the issue of community response to emergency flooding and the deployment warning road signage – see Appendix 2.

The Chair of the Friends of Brockenhurst Station spoke about their grant to approve the wayfinding signs and mapping inside Brockenhurst Station and requested coordination with the Parish Council to review the signs.

PC.26/245 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Doughty, Cllr Pearse, Cllr Wolstenholme.

PC.26/246 Declarations of interest/Requests for dispensation

There were no declarations of interest.

PC.26/247 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 16 December 2025, be **APPROVED**, and were signed by the Chair.

PC.26/248 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

PC.26/249 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 asked the member of the public who gave the presentment on the flooding issue to email him and offered to investigate his proposal.
CCllr Mans spoke about the delay in the election of a mayor until 2028 and gave an update on the proposals to reorganise local government in Hampshire. He said that long-term planning in the county was being affected by the anticipated changes to local government.

Cllr Mans spoke about his concerns regarding the projected car parking charges being introduced by Forestry England and the impact this might have on verges due to displacement parking.

Cllr Mans announced that he had a small amount of money available to give in the form of a grant and requested local organisations to contact him as soon as possible.

Cllr Hollins asked Cllr Mans about the bridge at the watersplash in Brookley Road, which had been earmarked for replacement, and questioned the amount of money being used to replace this bridge. He also asked if it were true, as reported in the national press, that money for road repairs was being redirected to other budgets. Cllr Mans offered to speak to Hampshire Highways about the replacement bridge at the Water Splash in Brookley Road and confirmed that funds had been increasingly diverted away from road repairs. He explained the difficulties of managing road projects, which are discretionary, against Social Service provision, which is mandatory.

Cllr Russell asked about the lack of notification from Hampshire Highways regarding major road works, using the SGN gas main repairs as an example. Cllr Mans offered to investigate this matter.

Cllr Wingham congratulated Cllr Mans on his appointment as Deputy Chair of the National Park. Cllr Wingham asked about the efficacy of contracts for dealing with potholes, which often involved multiple visits to the same area. Cllr Mans agreed that the issue of potholes was a difficult one for the county and that ideally the roads need to be repaired rather than patched.

b) New Forest District Council's Report – DCllr Adam Parker reported that the new bin roll outs had generated 17,500 customer service waste queries 80 tons of food waste was being processed weekly; and one supervisor had 62 direct reports. Views have been listened to and positive changes made as a result. NFDC was experiencing staffing issues, as senior staff are moving on ahead of the Local Government Reorganisation. Two additional bus shelters had been requested for Sway Road. There was a short discussion about previous attempts to establish shelters in the village.

c) Aircraft Noise – Cllr Horne's update was NOTED.

PC.26/250 Reports of Committees and Sub-Groups

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. Members had no specific comments or questions.

PC.26/251 Finance and Payments

Councillors considered the December payment list.

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the payments to creditors in the sum of £3,854.94 be APPROVED.
- b) The bank reconciliation report, 31 December 2025, in the sum of £154,574.69 was presented to the Chair for signing.
- c) The RFO gave a Bank Summary Report of current bank balances, as at 31 December 2025, as follows:

Unity Current	£4,986.54
Unity Deposit	£52,537.67
95 Day Business Nationwide	£33,327.39
Instant Access Cambridge BS	£33,367.29
CCLA	£30,355.80

Total in Banks

£154,574.69

PC.26/252 Interim Internal Auditor's Report

A review of matters arising from the interim Internal Auditor's Report was conducted and Councillors discussed the auditor's comments and recommendations.

It was **RESOLVED** to reform the Events Committee to a Working Group and for the Clerk to devise the Terms of Reference.

PC.26/253 Community Resilience Plan

Cllr Horne informed Councillors that a meeting with the Brockenhurst Village Trust to discuss risk assessments and liabilities had been cancelled and a new date was anticipated. The discussion of the Community Resilience Plan would take place at a future Parish Council meeting.

PC.26/254 Community Grant Applications

Councillors discussed the Community Grant applications.

25/234.1 It was **RESOLVED** to grant Brockenhurst Speedwatch the sum of £500. (The request for an annual grant was not carried.)

25/234.2 It was **RESOLVED** to grant St Barbes Museum the sum of £500.

PC.26/255 Southern Gas Network

Cllr Horne's update regarding the gas mains repairs being undertaken by Southern Gas Network was NOTED – see Appendix 3.

PC.26/256 Village Gateway Signs

Councillors discussed the proposed new village gateway signs. The funding for this project had been agreed at a previous meeting (PC.25/219, Budget and Precept for 2026/27, 18/11/25) and the proposed designs had been presented to the Village Centre Strategy Working Group for their feedback (PRF.25/49, Brockenhurst Gateway Signs, 04/11/25). **ACTION:** Cllr Harris and the Clerk to contact Principal Engineer, Hampshire County Council to progress to the next stage and finalise designs.

PC.26/257 IT Services Support

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Prodigy IT Solutions and select their Gold Support Package at a cost of £180.00 per month, for a period of 12 months.

PC.26/258 Anzac Day and Remembrance Sunday 2026

Cllr Horne reported that the Royal British Legion (RBL) and the National Association of Local Councils had formally agreed that local authorities should lead on Anzac Day and Remembrance Sunday commemorations with local RBL branches in support, where appropriate.

It was **RESOLVED** that Brockenhurst Parish Council be responsible for the organisation and delivery of the Anzac Day and Remembrance Sunday commemorations in Brockenhurst.

PC.26/259 Summer Carnival Event (August Bank Holiday)

Subject to Minute No. PC25/252 (above) it was agreed for the Events Working Group to appoint a working party for the organisation of a summer carnival event on the August Bank Holiday.

PC.26/260 Parish Clerk's Report

25/260.1 The Clerk reported that the Council's response to the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Consultation had been submitted. The open Letter to Sir Julian Lewis in reference to the LRG, signed by 14 New Forest Parish/Town Councils, was also NOTED.

25/260.2 The Clerk reported that the tourism noticeboard in Brookley Road Car Park was scheduled for refurbishment in 2026. Responsibility for the noticeboard would be passed to Go New Forest and this offered an opportunity for collaboration particularly regarding events. Cllr Wingham asked if it would be possible for any maps contained in the information to reflect the work being done by the Friends of Brockenhurst Railway Station.

25/260.3 The Clerk reported that Forestry England were beginning rhododendron removal at Black Knowl Allotments. The Chair of the Allotment Association had emailed allotment holders to inform them of the planned works, which was scheduled to take place in January/February depending on weather conditions.

PC.26/261 Any other items the Chair or members deem urgent

For the Chair or members to report, provide information, or to add items for the agenda at the next meeting.

Cllr Horne asked the representative from the Friends of Brockenhurst Station, who was still present, how the Parish Council could support his project. It was agreed that Cllr Bowles would coordinate with the FOBS regarding signage at the station. **ACTION:** Cllr Bowles.

Cllr Harris requested that it be made clear that the Parish Council supported this initiative and would give every assistance to assure its success.

Cllr Horne reported that South Central Ambulance Service is withdrawing welfare facilities from Brockenhurst fire station at the end of the year. He asked that while no formal information was currently available for Councillors to be aware of this development.

Cllr Harris thanked Mark Bockle for his presentment.

Cllr Harris asked if the Parish Council could be more involved in asking people to clear the ditches outside their properties to alleviate flooding. Cllr Horne informed Councillors that this strategy was covered in the Resilience Plan for the village.

Cllr Wingham asked for the parking issues of Mill Lane to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

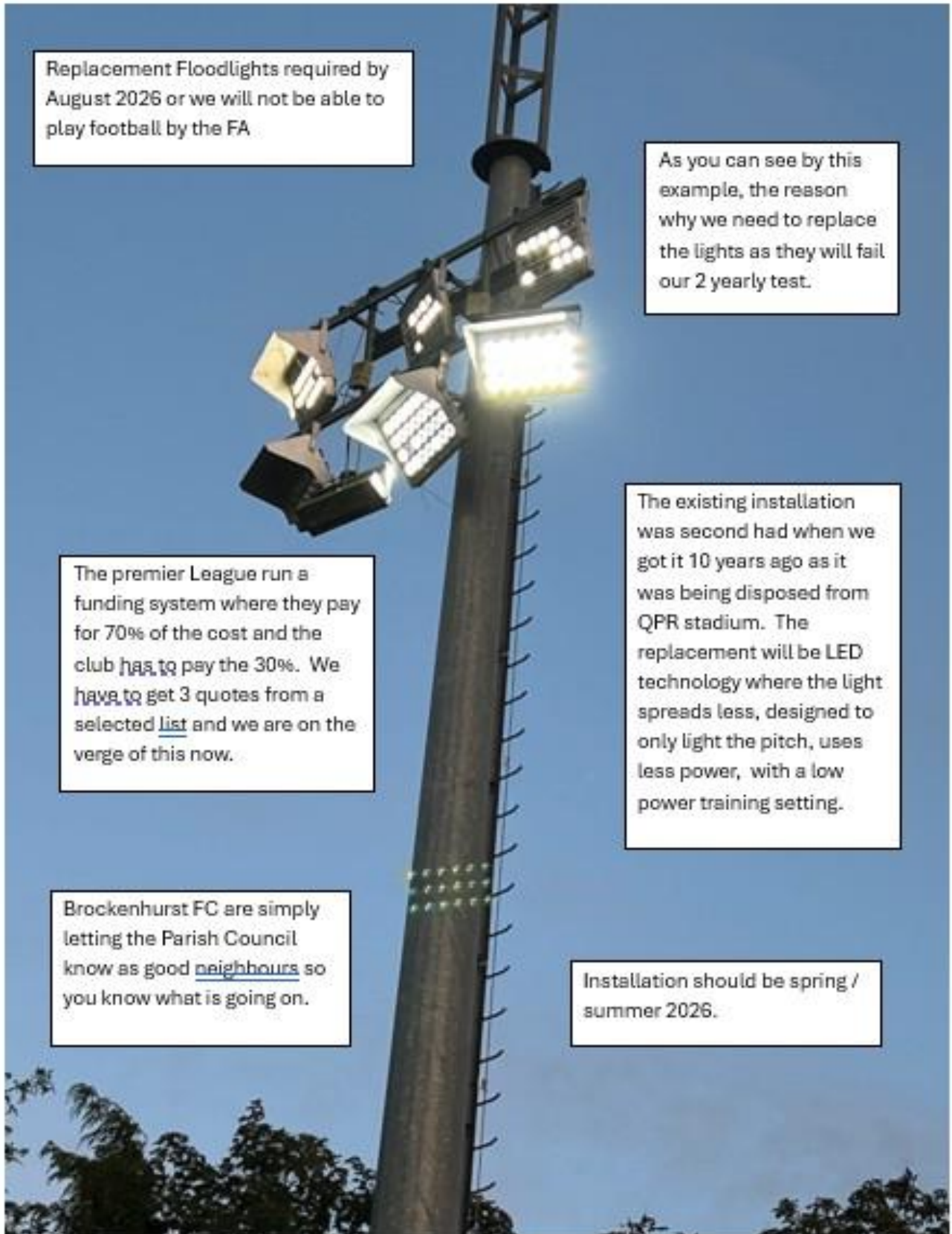
PC.26/262 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting, which is scheduled for **Tuesday 17 February 2026 at 7.00 pm**, in the Village Hall, Brockenhurst.

Meeting closed at 8.44pm.

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Appendix 1:



Replacement Floodlights required by August 2026 or we will not be able to play football by the FA

As you can see by this example, the reason why we need to replace the lights as they will fail our 2 yearly test.

The premier League run a funding system where they pay for 70% of the cost and the club has to pay the 30%. We have to get 3 quotes from a selected list and we are on the verge of this now.

The existing installation was second hand when we got it 10 years ago as it was being disposed from QPR stadium. The replacement will be LED technology where the light spreads less, designed to only light the pitch, uses less power, with a low power training setting.

Brockenhurst FC are simply letting the Parish Council know as good neighbours so you know what is going on.

Installation should be spring / summer 2026.

Many thanks,

Mark Böckle - Brockenhurst FC Chairman

Appendix 2:

Presentment to Parish Council Tuesday 20 January 2026

Issue: Flooding Signage and Temporary Road Closures

This presentment responds to increasing community concern about the growing frequency and impact of flooding incidents in Brockenhurst, particularly during winter months.

Proposal

That the Parish Council seek delegated authority from **Hampshire County Council (HCC)**, as the **Highway Authority**, to enable suitably trained members of the community—ideally **Community Wardens**—to deploy approved flood warning signage and, where necessary, implement **temporary road closures during flooding incidents**, in order to protect life and improve road safety.

In support of this, the replacement of missing roadside posts (notably on **Burley Road**) and a review of existing depth markers would also be prudent.

Background and Need

Brockenhurst is experiencing increasingly frequent surface water and fluvial flooding, affecting road safety, property, and vulnerable residents. Climate projections indicate that both the **frequency and severity** of such events will continue to rise.

Currently, only Hampshire County Council has authority to close roads. In practice, this requires waiting for an HCC operative—often attending by van—to assess conditions and deploy signage. Given competing county-wide demands and the rapidly evolving nature of flooding, this response is **frequently delayed**, increasing the risk of vehicles entering floodwater, becoming stranded, or leaving the carriageway.

The wider context is clear. The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service notes that:

- The UK is now around **10% wetter than 30 years ago**, with major flooding occurring almost every year since 2007.
- **6.3 million properties** in England are at risk of flooding from one or more sources.

Comparative Example: Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire County Council operates a **Community Flood Signage Warden scheme** as part of its Flood Risk Management programme. Over 60 trained

volunteers are authorised—within clear protocols and with Highway Authority oversight—to deploy signage and temporarily close roads during flooding events.

Sixteen such schemes are now operational or in development across the county, including Wareham in Dorset demonstrating that this is a **proven, safe, and scalable approach**.

Benefits to Brockenhurst

A local Flood Signage Warden scheme would:

- **Improve road safety** by preventing vehicle drivers from entering dangerous floodwater
- Enable **faster, preventative intervention**, avoiding delays inherent in county-only responses
- Provide **clear, visible, authorised action**, rather than reliance on informal social media warnings
- Help **protect property and vulnerable residents** through early action

All activity would operate strictly within parameters agreed with Hampshire County Council, with signage pre-approved, actions logged, and closures removed as conditions permit.

Conclusion

This proposal fully recognises Hampshire County Council’s statutory role as Highway Authority while addressing a clear and recurring **operational gap during fast-developing flooding events**. It offers a practical, proportionate, and preventative solution based on established good practice elsewhere.

I therefore commend this proposal to the Parish Council for consideration and, subject to agreement, for formal engagement with Hampshire County Council.

In doing so, the proposal directly supports the Parish’s wider Community Resilience Framework by enhancing prevention, local capability, and effective coordination with statutory partners.

Submitted for consideration

Roger Gomm

Appendix 3



Update – SGN Gas Main Replacement, Rhinefield Road, Brockenhurst

Following a meeting with your local Parish Councillors, we'd like to reassure residents of Brockenhurst that Rhinefield Road will remain open until further notice.

We have further meetings with the Verderers of the New Forest and representatives from the SSSI bodies, and as soon as engineering plans are confirmed by all parties we will communicate with residents.

Please can we assure you; we will be doing everything we can to plan these challenging works with the minimum amount of disruption for the community.

Work will continue on side roads where there is no traffic management in place.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

SGN Southern Construction

19 January 2026

