

Minstead Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Minstead Parish Council held in the Danby Room at Minstead Hall on **Monday 3rd August 2026 at 19:30.**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Andrews, Chair
Cllr Bennett, Vice Chair
Cllr McGhee
Cllr Standeven
Cllr Smith
In Attendance: Diana O'Grady, Clerk

78/26 Apologies for absence

- Cllr Pascoe, reason given and apology accepted
- District Cllr Brand, apology accepted
- County Cllr Millar, apology accepted

79/26 Public Participation period

- None present.

80/26 Declaration of Interests and dispensation requests

- Cllr Andrews has declared an interest in item 86/26 and will abstain from the decision-making.

81/26 To confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 6th July 2026

- Agreed by all who were present, signed and dated by Chair.

Items ongoing

82/26 Update on cricket ground foul drain failure and agree next actions

- Having received quotes from two potential suppliers, the Council resolved to accept two quotes from Pure Drainage:
 - £3500.00 + VAT to install approximately 10-12m of new drain pipe from manhole to manhole and remove the old drain line.
 - £750.00 + VAT to replace the manhole at the cricket ground.
 - It is hoped they will proceed on this as soon as possible.

83/26 Update on replacing the litter bin at the village hall.

- Resolved. It has been moved and appears to be safe. Chair will check it again and contact NFDC if necessary.

New Items

84/26 Review and agree to adopt the Data Protection policy.

- Council reviewed the policy and agreed to adopt as the policy as is written.

85/26 Review and agree to adopt the Equality and Diversity policy.

- Council reviewed the policy and agreed to adopt as the policy as is written.

86/26 Discuss and decide on grant application from Minstead Village Hall for new gates to the rubbish store area.

- The Council feels the bin area benefits the whole village and therefore agreed to pay for new gates. A grant of £1100.00 will be given to Minstead Parish Hall. Proposed Cllr Standeven, seconded Cllr Smith.

Signed Chairman

Date 7th September 2026

Minstead Parish Council

Reports

87/26 Reports from County / District Councillors

○ Report from County Councillor

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE - Reporting Period: 1 July – 31 July 2026

For Parish and Town Councils in the Lyndhurst and Fordingbridge Division

- Recent Hampshire County Council Business

16 July County Council Meeting

Various items were covered in the meeting, the first since the AGM:

1. Strategic Infrastructure and Local Planning

Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Adoption

The Council engaged in a robust debate regarding the updated Minerals and Waste Plan. The plan provides a strategic framework for managing minerals and waste, essential for preventing "speculative applications" from developers that the Council might otherwise be unable to defend against.

I raised concerns about site allocations which had gone ahead despite clear and considerable complaint from residents, specifically relating to the proposed quarry at Midgham Farm (in Fordingbridge). Other councillors raised similar concerns about Ashley Manor Farm (New Milton), and Hamble Airfield.

Despite several votes against, the plan was formally adopted via a recorded vote to ensure Hampshire maintains planning control and certainty for the coming years.

2. Highways, Traffic, and Safety

Highways Maintenance and Potholes

The Council acknowledged a £600 million backlog in highway repairs.

The LibDem group brought forward a motion was carried requesting a major step change in how highway maintenance is delivered. The motion calls for a shift toward proactive maintenance and better tracking of "return repair rates" to eliminate repeat visits for the same potholes. It required that a report be brought to the next council meeting outlining what a new approach might look like. The motion passed despite opposition from the leading party – the first time anyone can recall this happening.

Traffic Safety and 20mph Limits

The Council received significant deputations regarding traffic safety in Winchester and the Itchen Valley, but the issue seems relevant for all parishes.

20mph Policy: A call to facilitate easier implementation of 20mph zones was referred to the Universal Services Select Committee for review. Current policy was criticised as being too complex and expensive for local communities to navigate.

Satnav and Rat-running: Residents in Itchen Valley highlighted the dangers of narrow lanes being used as rat-runs by HGVs following satnavs. The Council is exploring the use of Digital Traffic Regulation Orders (DTROs) to better inform satnav providers of road restrictions.

Lane Rental Scheme: The Council expects to implement a disruption charging scheme for utility companies by early 2027, pending government approval.

3. Finance and Public Services

2025/26 Financial Outturn

Signed Chairman

Date 7th September 2026

Minstead Parish Council

The Council reviewed its end-of-year financial position. The actual requirement from reserves was £20.7 million, £44.2 million better than the budgeted £64.9 million. While this achievement was lauded, the leader warned that the forecast budget gap for 2027/28 remains approximately £179.7 million, necessitating continued fiscal discipline.

Children's Services and SEND

The Council is investing £90 million over three years to create additional specialist school places for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). New "Best Start" Family Hubs are set to open in Gosport, Andover, and Alton to support early years and school readiness.

4. Local Governance and Community Matters

Lymington High Street Parking: A motion to reinstate one hour of free parking on Lymington High Street was debated. Business owners believe current 20-minute limits have reduced footfall. The Council resolved to have the Universal Services Select Committee review the impact of these parking restrictions on local businesses.

Water Safety: Ahead of the school summer holidays, the leader urged members to promote water safety messaging following several tragic incidents in open water.

➤ Action Points for Parish Councils

Parish councillors are encouraged to use the "OurHants" app for specific pothole or pavement defects to ensure they are logged for inspection.

The Executive Member for Highways encouraged parish council engagement with County Councillors so HCC priorities reflect local need.

Other items of news

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority met and elected Cllr Prad Bains as Chair. Cllrs David Harrison and Fran Carpenter are the New Forest members.

The Councillor Grant scheme came into effect. I have £5000 in grant funding for the current year. Bids from suitable organisations can be made for a minimum of £100 and maximum of £1000. Full details online.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>

Local Government Reorganisation

Four Joint Committees have been established to begin the process of establishing the new unitary authorities. For our area the members are:

These are just the Hampshire County Council members - the full committee is made up of councillors from all District and Borough councils in the area.

At the same time, the council is pursuing a judicial review against the government's reorganization plans. The legal challenge is estimated to cost under £500,000, funded from budget contingencies.

The council argues there is a £95.2 million "delta" between its assessment of costs and the government's chosen reorganization option. The council contends that the government's plan could be "incredibly costly" to residents if the projected £63.9 million in annual savings is not realized.

Hampshire and Solent Devolution

The leader reported that the Hampshire and Solent Combined Authority Board met for the first time on July 3. The deal is set to bring £1.4 billion in investment over the next two decades. The Board agreed to petition the government to bring forward the mayoral election to next year to fully unlock the powers and funding promised.

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Upcoming Hampshire County Council Meetings

Very few meetings in August given the holiday period. The next County Council meeting is not until 1 October 2026.

Cllr David Millar, 2 August 2026

○ Report from District Cllr. Brand

Meeting updates

- Attended Full Council meeting – Two Cabinet reports were reviewed. A number of questions were asked and answered re Parking, Waste, Costs of LGR, Local Plan Review, Assets, Town & Parish Councils in the new set up.
- You can find the whole meeting here Council - 13 July 2026 - YouTube

Issues Raised to Councillor

- Issue raised regarding how NFDC manage the social housing list. This was raised and resolved.
- Visited a resident in Minstead re their waste collection. Difficult for the bin lorry to get up their road. Took pictures and raised with the Waste Management team. Awaiting a response.
- Raised issues with parking in Lyndhurst to Hampshire Highways. They stated an enforcement would need to be raised which takes time and money. I will see if this can be added in to the wider Lyndhurst Road changes plan.
- Further issues re waste collection for flats in Lyndhurst escalated.
- Grant to be made to Minstead Flower show £150.00.
- Issues raised re Water works on Lyndhurst High Street causing major delays. Escalated to Highways and requested info to stop this happening in the future. Await response.

88/26 Reports from Parish representatives

- **Cllr Standeven** – Will be meeting with a member of the public from Bramshaw and with County Cllr Millar on the subject of traffic in the New Forest.
- **Cllr Smith** - Continues to help members of the community attempting to use their own areas of the website.
- **Cllr McGhee** – The churches are still looking for a new Vicar. The parish churches are very busy at the moment. The Lych gate - now have a structural engineer's report on how the work should be approached.
- **Cllr McGhee** acknowledged that the fencing around the war memorial is really good. The whole Council agreed.
- Village fete will be on 15th August, midday to 16:00. Preparations are coming along well.
- **Cllr Bennett** – NFALC meeting notes
NFDC have grants for infrastructure up to 100K
Pony and trap ride out this year will be on 8/9 August, but only one team.
New Forest flag was being launched at the NF show
Brice Stratford is now the chair of New Forest Marque – looking at setting up a New Forest heritage centre
LGR – I will send round the campaign update but the judicial review is going ahead.
NFDC – the new planning rules outside the NPA will do away with committees, the case officer will be the sole decision maker up to 10 dwellings! Comes in to force Oct 26
District associations will not exist. NFALC will continue as it is an assembly.

Signed Chairman

Date 7th September 2026

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- **Cllr Andrews** – village hall has had electrical work done and is declared safe. A risk assessment has been carried out and new signage has been installed. It has been suggested that the Hall should have a defibrillator.
 - Village hall continues to be well used but there was a suggestion it could be used more if local hiring costs were reduced.
 - The stage floor will be replaced when funding can be sourced.
- 89/26 Report from Lengthsman
- I managed three hours of walking paths and cutting overhanging bramble whips, tidying up. Other than that the grass has gone yellow and needs a lot of rain.

Correspondence and documents circulated 16/07/2026

Data Protection policy 2025

Equality and Diversity policy 2023

90/26 Planning

New Applications

None

Trees

26/00751CONS Fox Hill House, THE GROVE, STONEY CROSS, LYNDHURST, SO43 7GP

Fell 1 x Scots Pine tree (T6 on the plan)

Prune 3 x Scots Pine trees (T8, T10 & T11 on the plan)

No Comments

Decisions Awaited

18/00954 Petrol Station, Ringwood Road

Single storey rear extension to the sale building to provide sandwich bar.

Awaiting the result of negotiation.

91/26 Finance

- Payments for approval
 - Clerk mileage July £2.43
 - Flower show grant application, amount £650.00
 - Minstead Hall grant application, amount £1100.00
- Invoices / Grant applications /Quotes circulated 16/07/2026
 - Grant application from Minstead Village Hall
 - Flower show grant application pages 1,2 and 3
- RTS fencing invoice dated 31/07/2026 circulated as a hard copy during the meeting.

Signed Chairman

Date 7th September 2026

Minstead Parish Council

Minstead Parish Council PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LIST

17 July 2026 (2026-2027)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
40	Audit & Professional Fees	01/07/2026		Current		Payment - Scribe monthly	Starboard Systems Ltd	S	-12.00	-2.40	-14.40
41	Staff Expenses & Training	06/07/2026	76/26	Current	June mileage	Payment - Clerk mileage	Clerk and Lengthsman	X	-0.18		-0.18
8	Other Income	08/07/2026	76/26	Current		Receipt - Clerk salary	Clerk and Lengthsman	X	19.60		19.60
42	Staff Expenses & Training	16/07/2026	91/26	Current	July Mileage	Payment - Clerk mileage	Clerk and Lengthsman	X	-2.43		-2.43
43	S.137	16/07/2026	91/26	Current		Payment - Minstead Flower	Minstead Fruit, Flower	X			
44	S.137	16/07/2026	91/26	Current		Payment - Grant to Village	Minstead Village Hall	X			
Total									4.99	-2.40	2.59

Signed Chairman

Date 7th September 2026

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Minstead Parish Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

17 July 2026 (2026-2027)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
42	Staff Expenses & Training	16/07/2026	91/26	Current	July Mileage	Clerk mileage	Clerk and Lengthsman	X	2.43		2.43
43	S.137	16/07/2026	91/26	Current		Minstead Flower show	Minstead Fruit, Flower	X			
44	S.137	16/07/2026	91/26	Current		Grant to Village Hall	Minstead Village Hall	X			
Total									2.43		2.43

Prepared by: Diana O'Grady, Clerk and RFO
Name and Role

Date: 17/07/2026

Approved by: _____
Name and Role

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Name and Role

Date: _____

Signed Chairman

Date 7th September 2026

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16 July 2026 (2026-2027)

Minstead Parish Council RECONCILIATION - Current 16-07-2026

From Accounts	£29,966.09
Payments not cashed Add	£1,472.43
Receipts not entered Subtract	
Statement should be	£31,438.52

I confirm the figures shown on this report agree with the Lloyds bank statement of 16th July 2026.

Signed Date

Signed Date

Signed Chairman

Date 7th September 2026

Minstead Parish Council

92/26 Future Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Minstead Parish Council will be held on Monday 7th September 2026.

Meeting finished 20:48

Signed Chairman

Date 7th September 2026