



Whiteparish Parish Council

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of Whiteparish Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Centre, Whiteparish.

Present: Councillors King (Chairman), Agate, Aldhouse, Camley, Elder, Foote, Harris, Hayday, Pavey and Snowdon.

In attendance: Maria Pennington (Parish Clerk & RFO), Wiltshire Councillor Gregory Cooper and 14 members of the public.

To elect the Chairman of the Council and to receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

38/26 Cllr King was proposed by Cllr Hayday and seconded by Cllr Snowdon. Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED, with an abstention from Cllr King, that Cllr King be elected Chairman of the Council for 2026/27. The Chairman signed the Acceptance of Office and the Clerk witnessed.

To elect the Vice Chairman and to receive the Vice Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

39/26 Cllr Hayday was proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Snowdon. Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED that Cllr Hayday, with an abstention from Cllr Hayday, be elected Vice Chairman of the Council for 2026/27. The Vice Chairman signed the Acceptance of Office and the Clerk witnessed.

Public question time. A short opportunity for public questions or comments in respect of the business on the agenda.

Three representatives of the applicant spoke in support of planning application PL/2026/02795 Ebble Cottage, Romsey Road, Whiteparish SP5 2SD.

Three members of the public raised concerns with planning application PL/2026/02795 Ebble Cottage, Romsey Road, Whiteparish SP5 2SD.

To receive and accept apologies for absence

40/26 Apologies were received from Councillor Palmer due to a prior commitment. Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to accept the apologies.

No apologies or update received from the local Police.

To receive any Declarations of Interest, and to decide upon any requests for Dispensations relating to matters on this agenda.

41/26 No declarations were received.

Exclusion of the press and public. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

42/26 This item was not required.

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2026.

43/26 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2026, noting 2 abstentions from Councillors not present at that meeting. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman brought Agenda item 12a Ebble Cottage planning application forward to accommodate waiting members of the public.

To consider and agree a response to the planning applications received:

44/26 PL/2026/02795 Ebble Cottage, Romsey Road, Whiteparish SP5 2SD. Change of use from a C3 dwelling house to a C2 residential care home for up to 2 no children. Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to object to this application on the grounds of the correct process not being followed and a lack of information. The Parish Council is concerned that approving this application in a residential area would set a precedent that could prove detrimental to future village life.

Wiltshire Councillor Cooper was asked to “call-in” the application if the planning officer is minded to approve the application.

8.09pm 12 members of the public and Wiltshire Councillor Cooper left the meeting. Councillor Cooper returned at 8.30pm.

To nominate Parish Council representatives:

45/26 Representatives were appointed as follows:

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|---|--|
| - Educational Foundation Trust | Cllr Agate and Cllr King |
| - New Forest National Park | Cllr Palmer |
| - Wiltshire Council Southern Area Board | Cllr Agate, Cllr Camley and Cllr Snowdon |
| - Highways | Cllr Elder and Cllr Harris |
| - Highways – preparation for Parish Steward | Cllr Agate and Cllr Aldhouse |
| - Wiltshire Council Local Highways & Footways Improvement Group (LHFIG) | Cllr Camley, Cllr Foote and Cllr Snowdon |
| - Police & Neighbourhood Tasking Group | Cllr Harris |
| - Community Speed Watch | Cllr Hayday |
| - Community Emergency Information | Cllr Agate |
| - Environment & Conservation | Cllr Pavey |
| - Rights of Way & Commons | Cllr Camley, Cllr Pavey and Cllr Snowdon |
| - Skatepark Inspection | Cllr Agate and Cllr Aldhouse |
| - Noticeboard | Cllr King |

To appoint Committee members

46/26 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to elect members as follows:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| • Finance | Cllr Hayday, Cllr King and Cllr Palmer |
| • Staffing | Cllr Camley, Cllr Elder and Cllr Pavey |
| • Planning | All Councillors |

Planning and enforcement update

47/26 The Clerk had circulated the update prior to the meeting. The Parish Council noted Wiltshire Council's delayed decision-making process for some applications.

To review and approve the Clerk responding to Wiltshire Councils six-week decision deadline regarding Section 211 notices – works to trees in a conservation area.

48/26, 6/24 The Chairman reported that there is still a strict six-week decision deadline for Section 211 notices, works to trees in a conservation area, where it can be very hard for Wiltshire Council to give a time extension to our comments. Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED that Councillors comment on these applications via email to the Clerk and for the Clerk to then submit the overall response to Wiltshire Council.

Finance update.

To approve the accounts for payment and to record the bank balances.

49/26 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to authorise payments totalling £1,635.72 and approved the account balances.

Payee	Amount £	Detail
Hamblin Groundcare	273.00	Recreation ground maintenance
Whiteparish Memorial Trust	828.76	Emergency lights and hand drier installations using CIL monies
Mr J V White	504.00	Boundary maintenance
EE	22.96	Mobile phone contract
Unity Trust Bank	7.00	Service charge
Total	£1,635.72	

Unity Trust Bank Current Account 15.05.26 £15,980.90

Unity Trust Bank Savings Account 15.05.26 £80,957.20

Cambridge & Counties 2 Year Bond £21,020.00 maturity date 04.06.27

Cambridge & Counties 2 Year Bond £32,741.27 maturity date 19.06.26

To review and approve the Unity Trust Bank Mandate.

50/26 Whiteparish Parish Council reviewed the UTB mandate and RESOLVED to continue with Cllrs Agate, Camley, Hayday, King and Palmer as signatories.

To review and approve the signatories for Cambridge & Counties Building Society.

51/26 Whiteparish Parish Council reviewed the signatories for Cambridge and Counties Building Society and RESOLVED to continue with Cllrs Hayday, King and Palmer as signatories.

To approve the purchase of annual online security for the Council's computer.

52/26 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the purchase of annual online security for the Council's computer at £17.99 including VAT.

To consider re-investing the fixed bond currently with Cambridge & Counties including amount, interest and signatories, maturing on 19th June 2026 and to consider the action required should the interest rate become below market average.

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk/RFO had circulated a report which advised that the Cambridge & Counties 2-year bond Issue 41 matures on 19th June 2026. Cambridge & Counties will notify the RFO 14 days prior to maturity of the options available, however that date does not fit in the remit of a Parish Council meeting. It was noted that they currently offer a 2-year fixed rate bond to existing account holding local government authorities at 4.3%.

53/26 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to re-invest the maturing amount plus £20,000 transferred from the Unity Trust Bank account to a Cambridge and Counties 2-year fixed rate bond on maturity. In the event that the interest rate for a 2-year fixed product falls below 4% the RFO was authorised to bring the matter back to the Parish Council.

To review and record the effectiveness of the Internal Audit.

54/26 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to record the effectiveness of the Internal Audit.

To approve a new independent Internal Auditor for 2026/2027.

55/26 This item was deferred.

To review and approve the Asset Register in line with corrective action for compliance with Assertion 2 on the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026.

56/26 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Asset Register in line with corrective action for compliance with Assertion 2 on the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026.

Update on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies.

57/26 The Chairman reported that the Memorial Trust have used CIL funds on repairs at the play area, emergency lighting and hand drier installation with the remaining funds earmarked for Wi-Fi improvements at the Whiteparish Memorial Centre.

To agree the skatepark professional inspection in conjunction with the Memorial Trust play area inspection.

58/26 The Clerk reported that the quotation is £68.95 excl. VAT when booked in conjunction with the Memorial Trust. Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to have a professional inspection on the skatepark in conjunction with the Memorial Trust and the play area, recognising that it is a more cost-effective route; along with a budget of up to £68.00 should there be a fee for an accompanied site visit enabling Cllr Aldhouse to attend the inspection.

To record any Councillors previously using the Datacenta webmail who have not yet successfully migrated to the X-net email server and identify any required technical support for affected Councillors.

59/26, 20/26 Cllr Foote reported that his account migration is ongoing and he confirmed he will contact X-net in the near future for support.

To record the total number of Councillors declining the use of a “.gov.uk” email address, noting the resulting non-compliance with Assertion 10 on the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026.

60/26, 21/26 Cllr Hayday requested the provision of a “.gov.uk” email address. It was noted that two Councillors currently decline the use of “.gov.uk” accounts."

To approve the Councillors who wish to attend Wiltshire Association of Local Councils on line training – Councillor Fundamentals.

61/26 The Clerk had circulated the details of the training prior to the meeting. Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED for Cllrs Aldhouse, Elder, Foote, Harris and Snowdon to attend the on-line training on 7th July 2026 at a cost of £40 excl. VAT per councillor.

To update on the flower planters situated on the village triangle.

62/26 The Chairman advised that the new planters and compost are in situ, awaiting planting by the Garden Club, and arrangements made with the shop for the watering. He thanked Cllr Snowdon and her husband for their support removing the old planters and with the installation of the new ones.

To approve use of the Parish Council land for the 2026 Whiteparish Fete.

63/26 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the use of the Parish Council land for the 2026 Whiteparish Fete.

To approve the details of the event organiser's Public Liability Insurance and Risk Assessment for the 2026 Whiteparish Fete.

64/26 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the details of the event organiser's Public Liability Insurance and Risk Assessment for the 2026 Whiteparish Fete.

To approve meeting dates for 2027.

65/26 Whiteparish Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the meeting dates for 2027.

Rights of Way and Common Land update.

Cllr Snowdon believed there to be a high influx of dog poo in the village since the Forestry Commission have put parking charges in the New Forest.

66/26 Cllr Camley reported over growth on ROW 1 and will forward the Clerk photos. He also advised that there is an electric fence near Whelpley Farm that has no signage on it, however it is to the side of the ROW. The Clerk was asked to contact the land owner requesting possible signage indicating it is electrified.

Highways update.

67/26 The Clerk reported that the Parish Steward scheme will resume in June and to inform the Clerk of any issues for attention.

68/26, 32/26 The large pothole on the A27 near Courtens Garden Centre has now been filled.

69/26, 33/26 The pothole near the manhole on Brickworth Road has now been filled.

70/26 Reports from representatives for information purposes only:

- **Whiteparish Memorial Trust** – Councillor Foote reported that a response is still outstanding from Wessex Internet concerning the legal agreement. WMT are applying to the SW Area Board for a grant towards wall protection barriers in the car park.
- **New Forest National Park** - Councillor Palmer had circulated her report prior to the meeting.
- **Neighbourhood Tasking Group/Police** - Councillor Harris reported on the meeting he attended in Downton on 15th May including more outbuilding break-ins. PC Ramsey advised he will be attending the Parish Council meeting on 23rd June 2026.
- **LHFIG** – Cllr Snowdon reported on the meeting she attended on 5th May 2026.
- **Southern Wiltshire Area Board** – The next meeting is in Winterslow on 4th June 2026.

- **Whiteparish Education Foundation** – Cllr King reported that Mike Thorne will be the new Chair of the WEF Trust.

Correspondence/communications update

71/26 The Clerk had circulated the update prior to the meeting and there were no comments.

The next scheduled Parish Council meeting is to be held on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Centre, Whiteparish.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

Wiltshire Councillor Gregory Cooper gave a brief report advising:

- The local plan has formerly been withdrawn and a new one may take another 3 years.
- LHFIG – the halved budgets are now to return to last year's figures however there are concerns there will only be 3 meetings a year.
- Parish Stewards are to return to parishes in June 2026.
- Bleed kits are to be put into Wiltshire Council sites.
- Restructuring of Wiltshire Council senior team has taken place.
- Concerns over poor communications from Wiltshire Council have been raised
- Planning application decisions taking a very long time, due mainly to lack of resources.