

**GODSHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY  
7TH APRIL 2025 AT 6.00PM**

**MINUTES**

**1.MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING.**

On the proposition of Mrs Button, seconded by Mr Crane it was –

**RESOLVED:** To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 13th May 2024.

**2.MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**3.PRESENTATION OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31.3.2025.**

The Parish Clerk had circulated the Parish Council accounts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. There were no questions on the content of the accounts.

**4.REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL.**

The Chairman, Alison Child, reported as follows –

This is my eleventh Annual Parish Meeting as the Chairman of Godshill Parish Council and I again welcome all those present.

The Parish Council continues to consider and make comment on all planning applications in the parish, and this is done by the Parish Clerk through the Isle of Wight Council website. Comments on all planning applications are detailed within the minutes of Parish Council meetings which are contained on the Parish Council website.

The biggest issue facing the village in the year has been the inclusion of Godshill Primary School on the IW Councils original list of proposed school closures. The Parish Council called an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council in order to give all residents a say in its submission to the IW Council regarding the proposed closure, Executive Headteacher Mark Snow and Deputy Headteacher Lisa Morgan – Huws were in attendance and we thank them for assisting with the formation of the Parish Council submission. I would also like to thank all parents, residents and local organisations who took part in the successful campaign to keep the school open, the village can be proud of the way everyone came together to preserve our school and its place in our local community.

We hosted a “getting to net zero “ initiative at the Tavernors. This was led by Leigh Jackman our green warrior. This was well attended by residents and as a result of follow up Godshill Matters was formed as a residents group.

We have started a junior council for 13/18 year olds called The Hive. This is to give a voice to the young in our community about future projects. This is being led by Nikki Collinson Phoenix, Juliet Johnson, Abi Breach and myself.

Road Safety in the village has always been and will continue to be of concern to the Parish Council and I am still disappointed that the introduction of the 20mph speed limit has been unable to have the desired effect on the driving speed of a number of motorists who pass through the village and I feel that greater enforcement of the limit needs to take place if the speed limit is to be truly effective. The Speedwatch Group is supported by the Parish Council who give their thanks to Councillor Andrew Snart and his team of volunteers for all the work they have put into this project.

The Parish Council set its budget and precept for the 2025 -26 financial year at its meeting on the 3rd February 2025, the precept for the year being agreed at £47,640 which would result in a Band D Council Tx of £78.30, that is no increase in Council Tax for the 2025-26 financial year, The budget also continues to include provision of £7,000 for supporting the Post Office., this followed the findings of the previous public consultation which gave strong support to a continued financial contribution.

Planning permission had been previously granted for a new playground and community centre at Central Mead. Due to the withdrawal of previous lottery funding the project had been put on hold while other sources of funding were explored. The playground project was resurrected through a substantial donation from donors who wished to remain anonymous. A total donation of £280,000 was received and this was used as leverage in claiming £70,000 in Gift Aid from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and a further VAT refund of £67,000 on project expenditure was also recovered from HMRC. The project commenced in August 2024 and a successful and well attended opening ceremony was held on 3rd November 2024 .The Parish is so lucky to have had such generous benefactors in order to have achieved this fantastic facility for which the parish and island community are so grateful and thankful. I would also like to give my deepest thanks to Nikki Collinson – Phenix who started this initiative a decade ago and without whom it would never have come to fruition.. I would also like to thank Sovereign Playgrounds Limited, the owners of the Old Smithy, Kevin Rann for all his work and assistance, our architect Martin Hayles and Clerk Gareth Hughes for their services in ensuring the project was successfully delivered and financially secured and finally thanks to those residents who gave their support and perseverance during the necessary temporary period of the closure of Central Mead.

Following a meeting with representatives of the new Godshill Matters residents group measures were agreed to improve communication between the Parish Council and Godshill Matters. This has included the timely sharing of parish council minutes (draft minutes being supplied within seven days of each parish council meeting) and Godshill Matters sharing their meeting notes on the same basis. A number of parish councillors attend meetings of Godshill Matters and joint working is further illustrated by the holding of the proposed annual fund raising event and the event being organised by Godshill Matters at Central Mead to take place on 12th August 2025.

The Captiva housing development has been substantially completed and Section 106 monies of £21,000 will be received by the Parish Council once a certain percentage of property sales has been achieved, this sum is to be earmarked for community improvements and could be used towards the new proposed community hall.

The Parish Council has continued to maintain Central Mead, May Close, the Remembrance Garden and Bridgecourt Cemetery. The year saw continued operation of the modular Public Conveniences that had been installed by Danfo, the feedback on the project has been very favourable and a much improved facility has been provided for the use of local people and visitors to the village. Work is due to commence on a replacement roof for the public conveniences and the possibility of using the former disabled space as a food store is also being investigated.

A Remembrance Day service was held at All Saints and I on behalf of the Parish Council laid a wreath at the Memorial Garden. During the year I made regular attendance at the former local Health Forum and at the Isle of Wight Association of Local Councils (IWALC) who provide vital information to local councils and represent them on regional and national local government Issues.

I would like to express the Parish Council's thanks to former Isle of Wight Councillor Suzie Ellis, for her work on behalf of the Godshill community. We all wish Suzie a full recovery from her recent ill health and thank her for all the work she has undertaken during her time as our IW Councillor.

The year also saw the co-option of two new Parish Councillors in Andrew Snart and Abi Breach who have engaged with a positive impact for the community. In addition to their basic Councillor duties, Andrew has led the Speedwatch team activity and Abi is now taking a leading role in the development of 'The Hive'. Youth project.

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Alison Child  
Chairman of Godshill Parish Council

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#### **5.REPORT OF IW COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

At the date of the meeting the Parish did not have a representative member of the IW Council.

#### **6. REPORTS OF ANY OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

Verbal reports on their activity were received from the following –

Womens Institute  
All Saints Church  
Godshill Matters  
Petanque Group  
Speedwatch  
Knit & Crochet Group

The meeting closed at 6.57pm.