

Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in the New Forest Post Production Studio on 17th November 2025

Present

K Curtis (Chairman)

N Curtis

Councillor G Bailey (TVBC)

S Bowles

AW Porter

PJ Cross

CS Stacey

49/25 Apologies

No apologies were received.

50/25 *The minutes of the 15th September 2025 meeting were agreed and signed.*

51/25 Interests

No interests were declared.

52/25 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

53/25 Members' Reports

- a) Cllr Porter drew attention to the state of the sandbags supporting the verge by the ford in Giles Lane and also to the very bad pothole opposite Cedar House in Sherfield English Road.
- b) Cllr Bailey informed the meeting that the Govt. intends to consider the proposed options for the Local Government Reorganisation in this area in December.

54/25 Scarecrow Competition

The Parish Council are happy for the Wellow Scarecrow Competition to include Plaitford next year.

55/25 Staffing

Cllr K Curtis proposed and Cllr Stacey seconded that the Clerk should be paid Rollup Holiday Pay in accordance with employment advice from HALC and LCPD: this was unanimously resolved.

56/25 Highways

- a) Cllr Cross reported that the footpath across the verge in the vicinity of the gate into the churchyard was falling into the stream. This was corroborated by Cllr Porter who said it was seriously in need of attention. Cllr Porter proposed and Cllr Bowles seconded that this was suitable for the CIL funding as it was not part of church property, and that quotes should be obtained: this was agreed.
- b) Cllr Cross suggested that the carparking/passing place on Church Lane near the main entrance to the churchyard should have the gravel topped up. It was agreed that this was suitable for the CIL funding as it was not part of church property and quotes should be obtained. It was also suggested that if any CIL funding was left a seat should be provided on the grass by the tree at this same location.

57/25 Consultations - NFNP Local Plan Review

No response was deemed necessary.

58/25 Finance

- a) The Budget Control Report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) No income had been received – none was expected.
- c) D/Ds already paid: £2.99 to HugoFox (mailbox paid, 18 Sept); £2.99 to HugoFox (mailbox, paid 20 Oct); Lloyds Bank (standing charge, paid 20 Oct); £181.41 to HMRC (PAYE, paid 23 Oct for periods 6 July - 5 Aug and 6 Sept-5 – 5 Oct) were noted.
- d) BACS for authorisation: £377.80 to J Wright (Clerk's salary, includes 4 months' back pay) was approved.
- e) It was agreed that the Council should move to paying the Clerk monthly.
- f) The Financial Risk Assessment had been circulated ahead of the meeting.
- g) Cllr N Curtis proposed and Cllr Stacey seconded that the proposed budget for 2026-27 should be accepted: this was resolved.
- h) The requested precept for 2026-27 should therefore be £4200.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Date of Next Meeting

19th January 2026 at 7.30 pm in the New Forest Post Production Studio