



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EAST WOODHAY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**10 November 2025**  
**19:15 East Woodhay Village Hall**

**Chairman:** Cllr Hurst (Chair)

**Present:** Cllrs K Titcomb, G Dick, S Cooper, R Donoghue, M Rand

**Clerk:** Amy White

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**Item 1: 81/25 Apologies**

Received from Cllrs Roots, Blakeway.  
Cllr Carr was unable to attend.

**Item 2: 82/25 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**Item 3: 83/25 To approve Meeting Minutes of 20 October 2025**

The Meeting Minutes of 20 October 2025 were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Hurst.

**Item 4: 84/25 Actions from Meeting of 20 October 2025**

Item	Action	Owner
65/24	All councillors owning statements or SOPs to work with the Clerk to confirm they are held centrally, and for the Clerk to structure this documentation for ease of future access. A spreadsheet listing the documents will be generated. Statement documentation may be more complex as it will need to link with appropriate legal documents. The owners of the statement documents need to highlight these legal links. <b>In action-</b> to keep on Action list.	All Cllrs, Clerk
45/25	Cllr Blakeway to make contact with tractor run team to determine whether EWPC could engage with them (improvement focus)- <b>Actioned-</b> the organiser has asked whether EWPC would like to sponsor the Tractor Run and have the name/logo on the tractors. It was agreed not to sponsor the Tractor Run.	Cllr Blakeway
61/25	<b>Action:</b> Cllrs Titcomb and Roots will put together a planting costing proposal for EWWH (for CIL funding use). <b>Carry forward to December meeting.</b>	Cllr Titcomb, Cllr Roots

<b>70/25</b>	Clerk to send Oakley Farm flyer to Cllr Carr to share on his social media. <b>Actioned.</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>73/25</b>	Cllr Donoghue will contact Knights solicitors to get an estimate of costs of the legal matters to deal with, and work with the Clerk to draft emails to solicitors and BDBC- <b>In action.</b>	<b>Cllr Donoghue</b>
<b>74/25</b>	Clerk to create a page on the parish council website on the NWDNL and add recent presentation notes from Henry Oliver- <b>Actioned.</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>76/25</b>	Clerk to add the Emergency Plan to the website- <b>Actioned.</b>	<b>Clerk</b>

#### **Item 5: 85/25 Public Participation**

None.

#### **Item 6: 86/25 Borough and County Councillor Reports**

Cllr Carr was absent.

#### **Item 7: 87/25 Finance Update**

Bank reconciliation 31 October 2025:

**Natwest: £35647.25**

**Redwood: £24439.09**

**TOTAL: £60086.34**

##### **a. Accounts for payment:**

The Clerk presented the accounts for payment.

##### **b. Budget first draft:**

The Finance Committee met on 10 November for the first draft of the budget.

At the December meeting, committees/Cllr leads will be asked to provide budget proposals, keeping in mind the General Power of Competence (see the minutes of 20 October 2025) and the council strategy discussion from the 29 July 2025 meeting. Consideration should be given to future CIL spend, other projects, and upgrades to recreational equipment, as examples. Cllr Titcomb will lead the agenda item.

#### **Item 8: 88/25 Planning Update**

Please see the most recent Planning Minutes on the EWPC website.

#### **Item 9: 89/25 Legal Matter**

Woolton Hill and Heath End Recreation Grounds: Cllr Donoghue is working on the voluntary first registration. Heads of Terms have been received from Knights. Copies of the Terms of Agreement were circulated to all members at the meeting. It was agreed that consideration of, and a vote on, the Terms would be deferred to the next full Parish Council meeting to allow members adequate time to review the document in detail.

Meadowbrook: Cllr Donoghue shared the Heads of Terms received from BDBC with the council during the meeting, and recommended that the council agree and sign. As this was not a specific agenda item, this will now be brought to full council in December for council agreement.

#### **Item 10: 90/25 Amenities Update**

Please refer to the latest Amenities Minutes on the EWPC website. The next meeting is scheduled for 11 November. Cllr Rand has been approached with an offer of disease-resistant elm trees from the Hampshire Forest Partnership, with the idea of planting an ‘avenue’ or cluster along the parish field path. Cllr Rand asked for the council's opinion: the council responded positively, and this will be further discussed at the Amenities meeting on 11 November.

There is also the possibility of receiving some ‘free’ native hedging. Cllr Titcomb suggested hedging could be used to screen the BT building on Woolton Hill Road/Mount Road.

**Action:** Clerk and Cllr Titcomb to find a contact/facilities manager for the BT building to discuss hedge screening opportunities.

#### **Item 11: 91/25 Highways**

Cllr Dick's report and current issues log are on the Highways section of the website.

#### **Item 12: 92/25 7/7A Bus update**

Cllr Hurst has written a report, which is an appendix to the Minutes, below.

**Action:** Cllr Hurst will create a shorter update on buses to be posted to the community.

#### **Item 13: 93/25 Items to carry forward to subsequent meeting**

Usual items, budget second draft, council strategy (Cllr Titcomb), Legal Update.

### **Actions from Meeting of 10 November 2025**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>
<b>61/25</b>	Cllrs Titcomb and Roots will put together a planting costing proposal for EWVH (for CIL funding use). <b>Carry forward to December meeting.</b>	<b>Cllr Titcomb, Cllr Roots</b>
<b>90/25</b>	Clerk and Cllr Titcomb to find a contact/facilities manager for the BT building to discuss hedge screening opportunities.	<b>Clerk &amp; Cllr Titcomb</b>
<b>92/25</b>	Cllr Hurst will create a shorter update on buses to be posted to the community.	<b>Cllr Hurst</b>

#### **Report update on bus service EWPC Meeting November 2025- Cllrs Hurst and Dick**

##### **HCC Community Transport Engagement Meeting**

Following the cessation of the 7/7a bus service, Cllrs Dick and Hurst attended the HCC Community Transport Engagement Meeting (23rd October 2025) led by the HCC Community Transport Team. This was also attended by a Neighbourcare leader from our area, other parish councils across Hampshire that had lost bus services and a variety of community bus operators.

During the meeting we pressed the HCC team to release the usage data provided by Stagecoach for the 7/7a service, as we would need this data for any subsequent discussion with potential bus operators.

After much discussion, HCC agreed to the request.

In the meeting HCC highlighted that there was a fund (from government funding) of £300K for the whole of Hampshire for operators and councils to apply for a one off grant to support the set up of a community bus service. For example Newbury Handybus, who are interested in operating in our area, have indicated they would apply for this grant if they wish to progress. The application period for the grant has a very short lead time and many PCs challenged the feasibility of the timing.

Of the operators available only Basingstoke Connect were interested in servicing our area. Newbury Handybus were not present.

On understanding the funding categories presented, Neighbourcare and ourselves agreed the grants were not applicable to support their operation.

The HCC Transport Portfolio owner, Lulu Bowerman was present and we held a meeting with her and other members of her team to discuss the cessation of the bus service and options moving forward. She made clear the service will not be reinstated and they would not be investigating further mitigations - that would be down to ourselves.

However, we presented a proposal of a local service to her. She said this was one of the mitigations they had reviewed and had decided not to move forward with it due to cost. This had not been highlighted in previous communications from HCC.

On further discussion she agreed this could be a solution to be considered in the future, potentially funded from transport funds provided from the Watermill Bridge development. As part of the development there is a proposal for a scheduled round trip service from Newbury to Watermill Bridge only. We proposed an extension of this service to our area (Woolton Hill, Highclere, Penwood and Burghclere).

As part of the development the developer is required to generate a Transport Plan, that will include the proposed bus service. HCC (in fact Lulu) are primary signatories to this Transport Plan. However, there is a "cross border" complexity that at present the funding for this service is allocated to West Berks.

Agreement was gained with Lulu that she will assist with the Transport Plan and the route discussions. This will clearly need consultation between HCC and West Berks. Lulu highlighted that the funds may not become available for a number of years ahead and therefore a further complexity will impact, this being the creation of the new Unitary Authorities.

Discussions with Basingstoke Connect were also held. They stated an interest in providing a registered service for our area. However, they are based in Basingstoke and would carry an overhead of providing the service from there.

### **Activity After the Meeting**

HCC provided the usage data from Stagecoach and this has been reviewed by Cllrs Hurst and Dick.

HCC also provided information concerning negotiations with other operators held before stopping the service - information we had not seen before. Stagecoach were not interested in retendering for the service. Newbury and District tendered to HCC. They provided costs for a replacement of the Andover service and a local service. Both tenders were too high and not followed up. In addition Basingstoke Connect tendered but on cost grounds HCC did not follow this up.

### **Actions Moving Forward**

Examining potential solutions to provide a local service in the short / medium term.

There are 3 potential operators for our area:

**Newbury Handybus**

A charity run operation, based in Newbury. This would be a request service and not a regular service, so very limited. They have performed an audit of interest from the community via Facebook. They have received over 80 responses that in their experience is good. They are in the process of reviewing the audit data. If they are interested in moving forward they will request funding from the HCC grant scheme.

We will follow up with them to see if they wish to progress.

**Newbury and District**

A provider of regular services, based out of Greenham Park, Newbury. They showed an interest to HCC in a local route service, but the costs were high.

We have contacted the operator and they have confirmed they wish to meet with ourselves. We will follow up on this and explore local route alternatives and costings with them and if they wish to take advantage of the HCC grant.

We will also explore if they have an interest in supporting a route in the future as part of the Watermill Bridge development.

Highclere PC and our Ward Councillors will be involved as we progress these discussions.

**Basingstoke Connect**

They are a charity but have stated they can provide a regular service but based out of Basingstoke. Therefore, they have the overhead of running costs of Basingstoke to our area. At present they are establishing a similar service in Overton.

We have contacted them and they have responded and provided the quotations they produced for HCC. We will follow up this operator.

# East Woodhay Parish Council

7 November 2025 (2025-2026)

## PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
107	Admin- Misc	05/11/2025		Natwest		Hugo Fox Email	Hugo Fox	S	100.00	20.00	120.00
108	Hall Hire	05/11/2025		Natwest		Hall Hire	East Woodhay Village Hall	Z	170.00		170.00
111	Website Admin	05/11/2025		Natwest		Hugo Fox Email	Hugo Fox	S	9.99	2.00	11.99
112	Admin- Misc	05/11/2025		Natwest		Hugo Fox Email	Hugo Fox	S	1.25	0.25	1.50
109	Admin- Misc	05/11/2025		Natwest		Hugo Fox Email	Hugo Fox	S	17.49	3.50	20.99
110	Admin- Misc	05/11/2025		Natwest		Hugo Fox Email	Hugo Fox	S	1.25	0.25	1.50
114	Staff Costs	06/11/2025		Natwest		Clerk Salary	Amy White	E	792.14		792.14
115	Staff Costs	06/11/2025		Natwest		Litter Warden	Patricia Barnes	E	529.10		529.10
117	Playground Maintenance	06/11/2025		Natwest		Playground repairs	Town and Country Fencing	Z	340.72		340.72
115	Litter Warden Expenses	06/11/2025		Natwest		Litter Warden	Patricia Barnes	E	35.00		35.00
116	Misc. Maintenance	06/11/2025		Natwest		Clerk expenses	Amy White	Z	29.85		29.85
116	Misc. Maintenance	06/11/2025		Natwest		Clerk expenses	Amy White	Z	23.99		23.99
113	Admin- Misc	06/11/2025		Natwest		Hugo Fox Email	Hugo Fox	S	1.25	0.25	1.50
114	WFH Expenses	06/11/2025		Natwest		Clerk Salary	Amy White	E	26.00		26.00
118	Hall Hire	06/11/2025		Natwest		Hall Hire	Woolton Hill Church Hall	Z	2.00		2.00
119	Staff Costs	07/11/2025		Natwest		PAYE	HMRC	E	300.78		300.78
120	Staff Costs	07/11/2025		Natwest		Pension- nest	Nest Pensions	E	83.38		83.38
Total									2,464.19	26.25	2,490.44