

## MINUTES OF THE FISHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 in the Victoria Room at the Wightlink Terminal, Fishbourne Lane, Fishbourne.

**Present** – Cllr Hopper (Chair), Cllr Fontana and Cllr Talbot

Mrs Katie Riley (Clerk)

2 members of the public were in attendance.

The Chair welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and invited them to raise any issues prior to the meeting starting. Concern was raised about Firestone Copse Road which while not the official diversion route for the Elenors Grove closure, will no doubt be used more than it is at present, and it is not suitable for larger vehicles. The hedges are already starting to become very thin due to the current volume of traffic, the banks now eroded past the road metalled surface, and with an increase in traffic, there is concern it will only damage the hedges further and potentially a stink pipe that is contained within it. The Chairman explained that a one-way system for Firestone Copse Road had been requested at the latest stakeholder meeting with Southern Water but had been refused by Island Roads on safety grounds. Signage to stop vehicles, particularly large vans and trucks using the road has been requested though, and Island Roads have advised that if the signs are ignored and things get as bad as feared then there is always the option to close the road past the campsite, but this would only be considered if the problem becomes significant. The members of the public reported they had had a visit from Forestry England about plans to carry out thinning work in Firestone Copse which would be taken out by articulated lorries and would have major implications. The Parish Council had not been contacted about these works and the member of the public said they would forward contact details for Forestry England in order that the Parish Council can make contact and communicate concerns, particularly while the works at Elenors Grove are taking place.

Ref	Minute
141/25-26	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Cllrs Dugdale and Woollin.
142/25-26	<u>Members' Interests</u> There were no declarations of interests raised or written requests for dispensation received.
143/25-26	<u>Minutes of the Meeting</u> The minutes of the meeting of Fishbourne Parish Council held on 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2025. <b>RESOLVED: THAT the minutes of the meeting of Fishbourne Parish Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</b>
144/25-26	<u>Reports</u>
a.	<b>Chair's Report</b> – The Chairman reported that the abandoned car on Kite Hill had been removed, and that he had replaced the solar powered Christmas tree lights and stake, but that the new ones hadn't been very successful either as they don't get enough sunlight. The question was asked as to whether a power source on the network could be tapped into which the Clerk would ask Islands Roads about as an alternative for next year.
b.	<b>Clerk</b> – the Clerk had circulated a written report which included that the Kite Hill noticeboard had been removed and was currently being refurbished, and that Cllrs Talbot and Dugdale had met Ryde Town Council to review options for restoring the Fishbourne Lane noticeboard too and would quote for repairing it with an added cork layer, and for a new board like the one at Kite Hill. She had confirmed with Dave Trickey that he was happy to continue maintaining the planters again this year and asked if he could have a go at reshaping the Christmas tree as requested at the last meeting. Members reported that the Kite Hill planter was falling apart and asked if this could be repaired too. The Clerk had forwarded reports received from residents of further damage to the sea wall to Coastal Protection and was waiting for further advice. She reported that all Town and Parish Councils had been contacted by the IWC's Community Coordinator for Landslides and Coastal Change asking for times when she can come and meet Councils to discuss local issues. Members suggested inviting her to a surgery would be the best time during the day so that problems could be assessed on site.
c.	<b>Island Roads</b> – no significant issues raised other than those relating to the forthcoming Southern Water works at Elenors Grove.
d.	<b>Other Cllrs reports including IWALC</b> – Cllr Talbot had circulated a written report including that the WCFA meeting was being held at the same time as the PC's meeting this month and so wouldn't be able to attend, and there had been a major burst in the

water pipes the previous week along the footpath between Fishbourne Lane and Ashlake Copse Lane, adjacent to the Little Library. She had called Southern Water and provided a video recording of the leak flowing into a garden and property, as well as along the footpath, and it was deemed urgent. Engineers arrived very quickly and spent all day repairing the damage. This is a recurring problem (there have been issues three times in the last month) and each time they have to access the site via a resident's property. The engineer advised he would like to put a whole new pipe through so that it doesn't keep happening but has been told that it is not a priority. Members asked if the Clerk could contact Southern Water to see if this could be reviewed. Cllr Talbot reported that December's coffee morning held at the pub had been well attended and a very happy gathering, and that Cllr Dugdale and a friend were starting a Wednesday walking group on the 11<sup>th</sup> February which there would be details about in the newsletter.

- e. **IW Cllr Dore** – Cllr Dore was not in attendance and had not provided a report  
145/25-26 Wightlink

The next partnership meeting with Martin Gulliver was scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 which Cllrs Talbot and Fontana would attend. No specific issues were raised other than to enquire how Wightlink would be making customers aware of the forthcoming road closure and diversion. The Clerk had included in her report correspondence from Simon Howes who had emailed to advise that the Wightlink protocol regarding health and safety announcements in Wootton Creek had finally been amended meaning announcements would only now be made once the ferries either arrive at (on departure) or reach Wootton Beacon (on arrival), well out into The Solent which was greatly appreciated. An invitation had also been received to attend Wightlink's next meet the team event on 21st January at Ryde Castle.

- 146/25-26 Elenors Grove Closure

Issues were discussed with members of the public at the start of the meeting. Cllrs Hopper and Dugdale had attended an online stakeholder meeting with Southern Water in December when signage had been requested and timescales queried. The hope is that the work would be finished earlier than planned (27<sup>th</sup> March) which members confirmed fits with what Quarr Abbey had also been told who have been very concerned about the impact on their business.

- 147/25-26 Spring Spruce Up

To agree date and arrangements for Spring's Spruce Up Day

**RESOLVED: That Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 10 am be agreed for Spring's Spruce Up Day ahead of May's Best Kept Village judging.**

- 148/25-26 The Shelter on Lower Green

To consider options following further vandalism to the shelter on the Lower Green.

**RESOLVED: To request that the PCSO patrols this area of the Lower Green which is regularly frequented by a group of youths and contact the owners and offer to assist with repairs in order for it to be restored for public use.**

- 149/25-26 Enhanced Public Realm Officer Service 2026/27

To confirm what, if any, enhanced Public Realm Officer Service Fishbourne Parish Council would like to purchase for 2026/27

**RESOLVED: To continue with the current level of enhanced Public Realm Officer Service at £591 per year.**

- 150/25-26 Budget and Precept

To review and approve the budget and precept request for 2026/27

**RESOLVED: That a budget of £27,185 be approved for 2026/27 to be funded by a precept request of £17,000 and £10,185 from reserves.**

- 151/25-26 Newsletter

Cllr Talbot reported on the submissions she had received so far from Cllr Fontana, Cllr Hopper, Vince Carter, RVYC, Rodney Fox, dates for your diary, and the new walking group. Still waiting for Quarr Abbey and the Clerks Corner. It was suggested it might be an idea to include a puzzle in future editions, which would be investigated. Depending on space, articles on scam awareness and the Green Impact Programme could be included.

- 152/25-26 Correspondence

The Clerk had circulated correspondence received including an urgent request from Ryde and Ventnor Town Councils to complete a poll as to whether IWALC should support their bid, along with Aspire Ryde (the lead organisation), West Wight Sports and Community Centre (which works closely with Freshwater Parish Council), Pan Together and Frontline Advice Centre in Cowes, for the Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) contract

previously awarded to Citizens Advice, which some members had already responded to. Also, notification of the next Police surgery being held on Friday 23rd January at the Co-op in Ryde at 3pm.

153/25-26 Finance:

- a. To approve the Bank Reconciliation for December 2025

**RESOLVED: That the Bank Reconciliation for December 2025 be approved**

- b. To approve the Payment Schedule for January 2026

**RESOLVED That the following payments for January 2026 totalling £965.85 be approved:**

**K. Riley (January expenses)**

**£79.64**

**Community Action IW (February payroll)**

**£886.21**

154/25-26 Next Agenda Items

- Parish Award
- Report from the PCSO re. the Lower Green

155/25-26 Next Meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting is Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Fishbourne Lane, at 6.30pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.58 pm.

Signed as a True Record

Chair..... 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026