

## MINUTES OF THE FISHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Fishbourne Lane, Fishbourne.

**Present** – Cllr Talbot (Chair), Cllr Dugdale, Cllr Fontana and Cllr Woollin

Mrs Katie Riley (Clerk)

One member of the public

The Chair welcomed the member of the public to the meeting and invited him to speak. He had brought with him a file of the makings of the seat at Oak Tree Green for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and asked if the council could keep it on behalf of the parish. He enquired if there were any plans to commemorate 15 years since the end of the Iraq War as there were veterans living in the parish and the Royal British Legion were calling on service personnel and veterans of the Iraq War to register for an event at the National Memorial Arboretum on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Members were not aware of anything, but the clerk would enquire with IW Cllr Ian Dore. He also asked about the planning application due to be considered and the Chair invited him to contribute to discussions during the agenda item itself.

Ref	Minute
171/25-26	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Cllr Hopper who was away.
172/25-26	<u>Members' Interests</u> There were no declarations of interests raised or written requests for dispensation received.
173/25-26	<u>Minutes of the Meeting</u> The minutes of the meeting of Fishbourne Parish Council held on 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026. <b>RESOLVED: THAT the minutes of the meeting of Fishbourne Parish Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</b>
174/25-26	<u>Co-option</u> The Clerk reported that no expressions of interest had been received for the vacancy on Fishbourne Parish Council <b>RESOLVED: To continue to advertise and review on a monthly basis.</b>
175/25-26	<u>Planning</u> To consider the following application: Application No: 26/00160/FUL Location: Fishbourne Car Ferry Terminal Fishbourne Lane PO33 4EU Proposal: Installation of sheet pile wall on eastern side of berth; installation of new Cavotec Moormaster on the existing berth structure. There was some discussion as to whether it would be replacing or adding to what was already there and it was confirmed to be replacing the existing anti-scour piling with a new section of piling a few meters from the base of the existing concrete structure and a new docking system added to replace the existing one. The question was asked when dredging was next carried out, whether any shingle collected could be pumped ashore rather than out at sea to support Fishbourne's sea defence which is fast eroding. Cllr Talbot advised that they were due to meet the Community Coordinator for Landslides and Coastal Change, which needed rescheduling, but would raise this suggestion then. <b>RESOLVED: Fishbourne Parish Council would like to highlight the potential noise impact that local residents may experience during the period of time when piling is due to take place. We would therefore request a condition be applied to the application (if planning officers are minded to approve it) that limits piling activities to a certain period of time during the hours of daylight, perhaps 10-12 and 2-4pm, in order to give residents respite from intrusive noise nuisance. Please could the Parish Council be notified as early as possible once a date for works is known in order that residents can be informed.</b>
176/25-26	<u>Reports</u>
a.	<b>Chair's Report</b> – Cllr Hopper was not in attendance but had reported his invitation to attend an event to mark 100 years of Wightlink on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March, which Cllr Dugdale would also be attending.
b.	<b>Clerk</b> – the Clerk had circulated a written report which included confirmation that Vince Carter had agreed to provide this year's talk at the Annual Parish Meeting to start at 7.00pm with refreshments from 6.30pm, and that the AGM and ordinary meeting would start at 5.30pm. Following the grant awarded to St John Ambulance, the Clerk enquired whether members would like to take up the opportunity of an education session being

offered for free which she thought would cover resuscitation and use of a defibrillator – the monthly coffee morning was suggested as an option. She would find out more about what it would cover and how long it would be in order for a decision to be made. She asked members whether the footpath by the library had been reinstated satisfactorily by Clancy, and members advised although it dropped off steeply at the end, it was better than the state it had been left in. The Clerk reported that she had passed on reports about prolonged tree felling in the ancient woodland next to the bridleway in Ashlake Copse and that Vince Carter was now due to take up this matter with the IWC's Tree Officer, Jerry Willis. Members raised the significance of ancient woodland in the parish and the need to protect and enhance it and suggested it would be helpful if Vince Carter in his role as Tree Warden could carry out an assessment of all the special trees and protected woodland. The Clerk would add this to next month's agenda and invite Vince to discuss the potential of such a project.

- c. **Island Roads** – no significant issues raised other than those relating to the Southern Water works at Elenors Grove. Correspondence had been received from a resident about the sudden closure of Firestone Copse Road which IW Cllr Dore was following up.
- d. **Other Cllrs reports** – Cllr Talbot reported that she had attended the WCFA last week where it was agreed to carry out a 3<sup>rd</sup> water quality test midway up the creek after a period of heavy rain. Cllr Dugdale reported on a successful first parish walk and was looking forward to another good walk with possibly more attendees this month.

- e. **IW Cllr Dore** – Cllr Dore was not in attendance and had not provided a written report.  
177/25-26 Wightlink

Cllr Fontana had circulated a written report following the partnership meeting she and Cllr Talbot had attended with Martin Gulliver that day (attached to the minutes). It had been a good meeting. The correspondence received and discussed at the last parish council meeting was reviewed with Martin and he had not been aware of any traffic build up at the time reported and emphasised that unless he is informed as soon as there is a problem he can't do anything about it. His contact details (07971396182 and martingulliver@wightlink.co.uk) are public and he asked that he is contacted immediately there is any problem. The company has been trialling LED signs in the Gunwharf terminal and are now trying to acquire signs to use in Fishbourne at the top of the booths saying "Lane Open". He confirmed the ANPR system was working well and the average time spent by vehicles on check-in was only a few seconds. After the heavy berthing incident at Gunwharf, the St Clare sustained a crumpled prow and a hole which had to be temporarily welded to make watertight and has since been limited to a reduced capacity of 90 vehicles, a considerable reduction from the 160 vehicles that can normally be accommodated. It will be removed from operation between 16th March and 26th March so that the prow can be properly removed and rewelded and is hoped to be back in full service on 27th March.

**RESOLVED: FOR the Clerk to send a copy of the meeting notes to the correspondent and pass on Martin Gulliver's offer to meet directly with him should he feel there are remaining issues outstanding.**

- 178/25-26 Elenors Grove Closure

The Clerk had circulated Southern Water's weekly update advising that the road was due to re-open on 13th March 2026 with a night-time closure in April to complete a section of reinstatement that had to be machine-laid.

- 179/25-26 Parish Surgery

Members discussed the value in continuing with the parish surgery given that there had been no members of public attending in a very long time. Cllrs Fontana and Talbot who mostly attended on behalf of the PC confirmed they were happy to continue, but suggested asking residents for their views about it in the next newsletter and reviewing again in the autumn.

**RESOLVED: For the Clerk to seek views in the next newsletter about whether the parish surgery is something people wanted to continue with and to review again in the Autumn.**

- 180/25-26 Coffee Mornings

The provision of refreshments at the parish coffee morning had been raised because attendees were being asked to contribute each time which was felt unnecessary, and since the PC was paying for the hire of the club, could the teas and coffees be included within this fee? Members would still provide biscuits.

**RESOLVED: FOR Cllr Dugdale to ask whether teas and coffees could be provided**

**by the club as part of the overall cost of the session.**

There had also been a suggestion to support the Wessex Cancer Support Cakes for Cancer 2026. Members would discuss with attendees in April if this is something they wanted to do and should they wish to proceed, include within the next newsletter.

181/25-26

Biosphere Festival

To consider ways in which Fishbourne Parish Council can be involved in this year's Biosphere Festival. The Historic "Old Quarr" Walk had been very well received last year and Cllr Fontana advised that the Chairman of the Friends of Quarr would be happy to do the same again if Quarr Abbey permitted it. The Clerk confirmed the deadline for event submissions was the end of April for a nine-day celebration running from 27th June to 5th July.

**RESOLVED: FOR Cllr Fontana to liaise with Quarr Abbey to establish if this was something they wanted to pursue again.**

182/25-26

Isle of Wight National Landscape Climate Change Action Plan

To agree on any comments on the Isle of Wight National Landscape Climate Change Action Plan. With virtually no mention of Parish Councils as partners, members agreed it was very difficult to see how Parish Council's, specifically Fishbourne, could engage with the aims of the plan.

**RESOLVED: Cllr Dugdale to draft a comment to this effect to feedback to the Isle of Wight National Landscape Partnership**

183/25-26

GDPR

To receive a report following IWALC's GDPR training session provided for members by GDPR-info.com attended by Cllr Dugdale. The Clerk had reviewed the presentation circulated following the training and concluded that the practices FPC had in place were sufficient to confirm in this year's Annual Governance Accountability Return that it handles digital information and personal data properly and legally: the council has ICO Registration, a Privacy Notice, a secure email and IT system, a Data Retention Policy, and a process for handling requests for personal data. It was however useful to be reminded of these requirements and to regularly review current practice.

**RESOLVED: THAT the GDPR requirements for Fishbourne Parish Council be noted.**

184/25-26

Fishbourne Lane Noticeboard

To receive costs for the repair and replacement of the noticeboard at the top of Fishbourne Lane. The Clerk advised that costs from Ryde Town Council had not yet been received.

**RESOLVED: TO defer to a future meeting when costs have been received.**

185/25-26

Planters

To confirm arrangements and any special requests for this year's watering and maintenance of the parish planters. It was suggested planting 3 perennials in each planter this year, rather than just the little plug plants, with some colourful plants in the gaps, and to plant some spring flowering bulbs at the end of the season ready for next year. Given the very dry summer last year, it was agreed to ask DT Groundcare to water as much as was necessary.

**RESOLVED: FOR the Clerk to communicate these suggestions to DT Groundcare and ask that they maintain and water as much as necessary.**

186/25-26

Newsletter

To review submissions for May's edition of the newsletter (deadline 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026). A poster had been received from Wootton Bridge Townswomen's Guild which the Clerk would arrange to be in an appropriate format. Cllr Woollin offered to put together a 'what's-on' at The Old School Centre in Wootton, Cllr Fontana would investigate how to access crossword and suduko puzzles, and an editorial had been received from Home Start Isle of Wight. The Clerk would see if another scam awareness article could be provided and would include an advert for the Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Councillor Vacancy.

187/25-26

Correspondence

The Clerk had circulated correspondence received including: Southern Water - Elenors Grove Water main replacement - Weekly updates, Launch of an Isle of Poop Website, Free 'Do not Knock' door stickers for older people and an invitation to participate in Wessex Cancer Support 'Cakes for Cancer' 2026

188/25-26

Finance:

a. To note the internal transfer of £21,231.93 from the Business Reserve Account to the

Community Reserve Account to cover future payments made from the Community Current Account

**RESOLVED: THAT the internal transfer of £21,231.93 from the Business Reserve Account to the Community Reserve Account to cover future payments made from the Community Current Account be noted.**

b. To approve the Bank Reconciliation for February 2026

**RESOLVED: That the Bank Reconciliation for February 2026 be approved**

c. To approve the Payment Schedule for March 2026

**RESOLVED That the following payments for March 2026 totalling £1660.29 be approved:**

<b>K. Riley (March expenses)</b>	<b>£68.27</b>
<b>Community Action IW (March payroll)</b>	<b>£886.21</b>
<b>Ryde Town Council (noticeboard)</b>	<b>£694.31</b>

189/25-26 Next Agenda Items

The Clerk requested any agenda items be sent to her by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

190/25-26 Next Meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Fishbourne Lane, at 6.30pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.37 pm.

Signed as a True Record

Chair..... 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026