

MINUTES OF THE FISHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Fishbourne Lane, Fishbourne.

Present – Cllr Hopper (Chair), Cllr Dugdale, Cllr Fontana, Cllr Talbot and Cllr Woollin
Mrs Katie Riley (Clerk)

Three members of the public including Mr. Vince Carter, Volunteer Tree Warden

The Chair welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and as they wished to speak about agenda item 196/25-26 (Mid-Summer Party) the Chair invited them to speak during the item itself and it was agreed to move the item further up the agenda to accommodate this.

Ref	Minute
191/25-26	<u>Apologies</u> None received.
192/25-26	<u>Members' Interests</u> Cllr Hopper declared an interest in minute no. 203/25-26 as one of the bus stops referred to was immediately outside his house. There were no written requests for dispensation received.
193/25-26	<u>Minutes of the Meeting</u> The minutes of the meeting of Fishbourne Parish Council held on 10 th March 2026. RESOLVED: THAT the minutes of the meeting of Fishbourne Parish Council held on 10th March 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
194/25-26	<u>Co-option</u> The Clerk reported that no expressions of interest had been received for the vacancy on Fishbourne Parish Council RESOLVED: To continue to advertise and review on a monthly basis.
195/25-26	<u>Mid-Summer Party</u> Members of the public in attendance were invited to talk about their proposal for a village party in the summer to be held at Oak Tree Green from 2pm on Saturday 1 st August. There being no specific theme this year the intention was simply for the community to get together and have some fun and to welcome new families who had recently moved into the area. They would provide live music which they had already booked but bins and toilets would be needed and asked if the Parish Council would fund these two elements as done in previous year (approximate cost £200). RESOLVED: FOR the toilets and bins to be funded by Fishbourne Parish Council and for invoices to be sent to the Clerk for reimbursement and approval at a future meeting.
196/25-26	<u>Tree Survey</u> The Chair welcomed Mr. Vince Carter, Tree Warden for Fishbourne, to discuss the possibility of a project to review and assess special trees and protected woodland in the parish. Various trees were highlighted and Vince proposed that members of the public could be invited to nominate specific trees for him to look at and for this to be advertised in the newsletter. RESOLVED: THAT an invitation for members of the public to nominate special trees for consideration to be advertised in the next edition of the newsletter.
197/25-26	<u>Planning</u> Various enforcement concerns had been received in the ancient woodland area of Ashlake Copse Lane regarding what appeared to be foundations for an increasing amount of building work and tree felling at the Plantation, and tree work along the length of Ashlake Copse Lane/Ashlake Copse Road. In his role as Tree Warden, Vince Carter had sought advice from IWC's Tree Officer, Jerry Willis, and was able to confirm that a planning application had been approved in 2024 to fell various trees on the recommendation of Wayne Isaacson, an Island based arboricultural consultant. Although it was a few months beyond the one-year planning permission granted there appeared to be no other breach of the conditions and limitations set. With regard to the foundations being built and wider concerns about possible planning creep the IWC's Planning Enforcement Team had advised that in order for a thorough investigation to be conducted they would need further information on the scale/ dimensions of the development and if possible photos depicting the works. Though noted, Councillors didn't feel this was appropriate or fair to ask members of the public to do. Vince advised that he had spoken to the contractor regarding the tree work along the length of Ashlake Copse Lane/Ashlake Copse Road and

they had advised that the work had been ordered by the IWC and was to address tree safety issues threatening the public highway.

RESOLVED: TO enquire with the IWC as to who had instructed the tree work on Ashlake Copse Lane/Ashlake Copse Road and on whose behalf.

198/25-26

Reports

- a. **Chair's Report** – Cllr Hopper reported on the 100-year celebration of Wightlink that he had attended with Cllr Dugdale. It had been a really good event and they had met the new Operations Director Gavin Marshall who would be a useful contact in the future.
- b. **Clerk** – the Clerk had circulated a written report and asked members if they'd like to take up the offer of training from St John Ambulance at a future coffee morning and it was felt it wouldn't be suitable for the current attendees. Cllr Dugdale had confirmed with the club that they would provide teas and coffees for future coffee mornings as part of the overall hire cost of the session, and that the next coffee morning (7th May) would be held at the pub as the club was the polling station for the Isle of Wight Local Elections on this date. For this reason it would not be possible to support the Wessex Cancer Support Cakes for Cancer on this day. The Clerk had followed up an offer received from a resident allowing the police to install a camera at their property overlooking the Lower Green but needed to clarify if this was something the police would provide and install themselves, and if not, if they could attend a future meeting to discuss alternative solutions.
- c. **Island Roads** – it was reported that the surface of the road at Elenors Grove had not been properly resurfaced following the Southern Water works and that the posts (currently in the ditch) had not been reinstated, which the Clerk would follow up. Advance notice had been received about the closure of Firestone Copse Road between the 7th and 9th April, and the reconstruction works that had just begun in Binstead for approximately 10 working days.
- d. **Other Cllrs reports** –Councillor Dugdale reported that concerns had been expressed regarding the untidy appearance of the woodland on the south side of Elenors Grove. The Tree Warden advised the meeting that some dead trees had been removed from the area in question which may have contributed to its appearance. Cllr Talbot reported concerns received, which IW Cllr Redrup was following up, about the intention to temporarily close the GP surgery in Wootton while building works take place and redirect patients to Newport and fears that this might become a permanent move. Cllr Fontana reported on the IWALC Executive meeting she had attended on 26th March 2026 at The Riverside Centre where a new stewardship approach (between the IWC and Town and Parish Councils) for the Isle of Wight Council was discussed to address significant financial challenges, including a projected £11 million deficit over the next three years. For smaller parishes like Fishbourne it would mean the clustering of resources and although the approach had been generally welcomed, there were also concerns expressed about local councils taking on assets without the support of the IWC; Puckpool was cited as an example which was an Island wide asset, managed by the Isle of Wight Council, but had been allowed to deteriorate and would now be beyond the resources of its local council, Nettlestone & Seaview Parish Council, to take on.
- e. **IW Cllr Dore** – Cllr Dore was not in attendance and had not provided a written report.

199/25-26

Wightlink

Further correspondence had been received from a local resident asking for the Parish Council to include various questions at the next Partnership meeting regarding delays with the check-in process and why customers arriving early were being turned away when there was plenty of space in the terminal car park to accommodate them. Martin advised that Wightlink CEO Katy Taylor would be attending the next partnership meeting scheduled on 5th May to give some reassurance regarding the new vessel.

RESOLVED: TO continue to raise issues received at each partnership meeting.

Cllr Hopper left the meeting at 7.45pm as he was travelling to the mainland that evening. Cllr Talbot took over the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

200/25-26

Biosphere Festival

To receive an update on this year's Historic "Old Quarr" Walk at Quarr Abbey and agree on any further actions required. Cllr Fontana reported that everything was in hand and all that was now required was to submit a risk assessment to Quarr Abbey which she would do in conjunction with Cllr Talbot.

RESOLVED: TO submit a risk assessment for the "Old Quarr" Walk to Quarr Abbey ahead of the Festival.

201/25-26

RVYC Open Day for people with Disabilities

To agree attendance and support for the RVYC Open Day for people with Disabilities to be held on Saturday 18 July 2026.

RESOLVED THAT £1000 be granted to the RVYC in support of the Open Day for people with Disabilities and that Cllr Fontana attend the event on behalf of Fishbourne Parish Council.

202/25-26 Fishbourne Lane Noticeboard

Costs to either repair the existing noticeboard or build a new noticeboard on Fishbourne Lane had been received from Ryde Town Council. On reflection it was felt that if significant funds were going to be spent on a new noticeboard, further thought was needed about what was required from a new noticeboard in this location. The size and open access of the current board was thought to be a good thing if a weatherproof cover could be sourced to avoid the environmental impact of laminating each notice.

RESOLVED: TO defer to a future meeting to allow further consideration about requirements.

203/25-26 Kite Hill Bus Stop

To consider the correspondence received and suggestion made regarding the positioning of the Kite Hill Bus Stop towards Newport and moving it closer to the opposite bus stop towards Ryde. The Clerk would enquire about what the process would be to move a bus stop, if it was possible, before a decision about supporting the suggestion or not is made. It was commented that whilst the idea might suit residents of Kite Hill and Ashlake Lanes it would not necessarily benefit residents of Firestone Copse Road and Firestone Glade.

RESOLVED: TO establish the process for relocating a bus stop.

204/25-26 Homeshare scheme for Island residents

To consider how Fishbourne Parish Council can support the delivery of the Homeshare scheme on the Isle of Wight.

RESOLVED: THAT Cllr Dugdale attend the Two Generations Homeshare webinar scheduled for 22nd April to find out more about the scheme.

205/25-26 Red Squirrel Roadkill

Following the 3 road kills sadly witnessed on Fishbourne Lane recently, Wight Squirrel Project Manager, Helen Butler, has recommended that a 20mph speed limit be considered.

RESOLVED: TO establish the process for implementing a 20mph speed limit.

206/25-26 District 3 Traffic Regulation Order Review

The Clerk reported that having been copied into an email from a resident sent to IW Cllr Ian Dore asking about the progress of double lines on the Poplars she had taken the opportunity to ask the IWC's Network Improvement Officer for an update on restrictions requested for both the Poplars and Firestone Copse Road and she had confirmed they were aiming to start the District 3 TRO review by the end of this year.

RESOLVED: THAT the update regarding review of the District 3 Traffic Regulation Order be noted.

207/25-26 Newsletter

Cllr Talbot reported that she had received a lot of submissions already. Still required was a note about the change in venue for the next coffee morning and an advert for the mid-summer party.

208/25-26 Correspondence

The Clerk had circulated correspondence received including notification of Police Beat Surgeries, an update on the Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority (devolution), and LGR Decision & National Assembly Report.

209/25-26 Finance:

a. To note receipt of the precept of £17,000 and £493.87 in refund for VAT from HMRC
RESOLVED: THAT receipt of the precept of £17,000 and £493.87 in refund for VAT from HMRC be noted.

b. To approve the Bank Reconciliation for March 2026

RESOLVED: That the Bank Reconciliation for March 2026 be approved

c. To approve the Payment Schedule for April 2026

RESOLVED That the following payments for April 2026 totalling £1999.80 be approved:

K. Riley (April expenses)	£113.29
Community Action IW (May payroll)	£886.51
Royal Victoria Yacht Club	£1000.00

210/25-26 Next Agenda Items

211/25-26 The Clerk requested any agenda items be sent to her by Monday 3rd May.
Next Meeting
The date of the next scheduled meeting is Tuesday 12th May at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Fishbourne Lane, at 5.30pm.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.20 pm.

Signed as a True Record

Chair..... 12th May 2026