

MINUTES OF THE NORTHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 7th October 2025 at Northwood Primary School, Wyatts Lane, Northwood.

Present: Councillors: Steph Flux (Chair), Peter Baker, Paul Fuller, Monique Gallop, Tom Harding, Richard Martin and John Nicholson.

Also in attendance:

Mrs Katie Riley (Clerk)
4 members of the public

The Chair welcomed the members of the public to the meeting who wished to discuss two issues - flooding on Wyatt's Lane (agenda item 101/25-26) which would be brought forward to the start of the meeting (minute no. 93/25-26), and speeding on Oxford Street where concern was raised about the 20 MPH restriction being ignored especially dangerous when cars are parked on both sides of the road in the vicinity of the school at drop off and pick up times. The Clerk would ask the police to monitor speeding on Oxford Street and Wyatts Lane. She would also request an update from Northwood Primary School on the progress with the Junior Travel Ambassador (JTA) scheme agreed on in June and add to the agenda for November's Full Council meeting for further review.

Ref	Minute
91/25-26	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Coventry who was unwell.
92/25-26	<u>Members' interests</u> No declarations of interest or written requests for dispensation were received.
93/25-26	<u>Flooding on Wyatts Lane</u> Cllr Nicholson provided an update on progress made to resolve issues for residents in Wyatts Lane whose properties are regularly flooded out in heavy rain. Since the last meeting Southern Water have carried out a thorough investigation in locations that utilise a combined foul and surface water drainage system, and Island Roads have checked and cleared a number of their drains in Uplands Road near the junction with Wyatts Lane, and on Wyatts Lane, but with such significant rainfall over recent years, the gullies have been overwhelmed and unable to drain the amount of water quickly enough. Residents explained how resurfacing works have added to the problem by raising the surface of the road resulting in less clearance from the kerb, and that additional debris collects and transports into the drainage system adding to the problem. Cllr Nicholson reported that Island Roads are looking into a long-term drainage scheme which householders might be willing to contribute to, and the question was asked as to whether there were grants available to help with this, such as the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) grant scheme Cllr Gallop identified which can provide up to £5000 for eligible households to install PFR measures. RESOLVED: THAT Cllr Nicholson continue to press the authorities for a long-term solution, to keep on the agenda, and for the Clerk to enquire with the IWC about the availability of grants.
93/25-26	<u>Safety neighbourhood issues</u> The Clerk reported that both PCSOs Lisa Paul and Poppy Yeo had left Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary and that the main contact is Brad Manning. Crimes or incidents should be reported in the usual way.
94/25-26	<u>Environment Officer</u> Environment Officer Jayne Lever had circulated a written report. RESOLVED: THAT the report from the Environment Officer be noted
95/25-26	<u>Minutes of the meeting</u> RESOLVED: THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Northwood Parish Council held on 2nd September 2025 and the Minutes of the Northwood Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting held on 16th September 2025, be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chair.
96/25-26	<u>Planning</u>
a.	The following decisions were noted:



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- i. Application No: 22/01720/OUT
Location: Land South of Somerton Industrial Park Newport Road
Proposal: Outline for a mix of residential and employment related development including two access points onto Newport Road
Decision: Granted
Cllr Nicholson was asked why he had not 'called in' the application for consideration by the planning committee and he explained that it had been approved under negotiated agreement with a good S106 contribution in a new access path to the cycleway which he believed had been a constructive way of dealing with the application. It was questioned how access path could have been part of a S106 contribution if it was already in the original plans and that it left no further opportunity to negotiate the Parish Council's S106 priorities? Cllrs Flux and Martin requested it be placed on record their disagreement and disappointment with the whole process.
 - ii. Application No: 25/01005/RVC
Location: 424 Newport Road PO31 8PP
Proposal: Variation of condition 2 on 20/01100/FUL to allow alterations to elevations, floor layout and site plan (revised description)(readadvertised application)
Decision: Granted
 - iii. Application No: 25/01128/HOU
Location: 36 Pallance Road PO31 8LW
Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension; formation of two dormers at first floor level; alterations; proposed porch
Decision: Granted
 - iv. Application No: 25/01052/RVC
Location: Land Adjacent Somerton Farm Cottage Newport Road PO31 8PE
Proposal: Variation of conditions 4 and 5 on 24/01632/FUL to allow use of different package treatment plant
Decision: Granted
 - b. To review the current press list and decide whether a special meeting of the planning committee will be required on 21st October 2025.
The Clerk advised that notification had been received about the following application:
Application No: 25/01420/HOU
Location: 40 Pallance Road PO31 8LW
Proposal: Proposed extension on rear elevation and raised terrace area
RESOLVED: THAT this application be considered at the full Council meeting scheduled for 4th November 2025.
- 97/25-26 Grant Applications
To consider the following grant applications:
- a. Cowes Men's Shed
RESOLVED: THAT £200 be granted to Cowes Men's Shed to purchase a pressure washer.
 - b. Northwood Cemetery
RESOLVED: THAT £1000 be granted to the Friends of Northwood Cemetery.
 - c. UKSA
Cllr Gallop declared an interest in this item as she was a Governor at Northwood Primary school.
RESOLVED: THAT £420 be granted to UKSA to enable 10 Northwood Primary School students to participate in their Test the Water programme.
- 98/25-26 Remembrance Sunday
To confirm attendance at St John the Baptist, Northwood Parish Church, on Sunday 9th November 2025, and agree donation to the Royal British Legion
RESOLVED: THAT Cllr Flux attend the service at St John the Baptist, Northwood Parish Church, on Sunday 9th November 2025 on behalf of Northwood Parish Council, and £50 be donated to the Royal British Legion for the wreath.
- 99/25-26 Finance:
- a. To note the conclusion of audit and certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return

(AGAR) for the year ended 31 March 2025

RESOLVED: THAT the conclusion of audit and certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31 March 2025 be noted without issue

- b. To note receipt of £225 from the IWC for the Household Support Fund 7 Grant Application
RESOLVED: THAT receipt of £225 from the IWC for the Household Support Fund 7 Grant Application be noted

- c. To approve the Bank Reconciliation for September 2025
RESOLVED: THAT the Bank Reconciliation for September 2025 be noted

- d. To note the Half Year Financial Review
RESOLVED: THAT the Half Year Financial Review be noted

- e. To approve implementation of the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26 to be retrospectively applied from 1 April 2025

RESOLVED: THAT implementation of the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26 to be retrospectively applied from 1 April 2025 be approved

- f. To approve the Payment Schedule for October 2025
RESOLVED: THAT the following payments totalling £7043.55 be approved:

Island Roads (bin service)	£ 92.40
K Riley (October expenses)	£ 53.59
Community Action IW (October salary)	£1222.93
Northwood Village Hall (Warm Space September)	£138.00
IWC (election charge)	£ 36.00
Cloud Next Ltd (email hosting fee)	£ 59.98
BDO LLP (annual review)	£ 252.00
Mr Green Fingers (annual planting)	£ 2,299.40
Royal British Legion (wreath)	£50.00
Cowes Men's Shed (pressure washer grant)	£200.00
Northwood Cemetery (ongoing support grant)	£1000.00
UKSA (test the water grant)	£420.00

- 100/25-26 Review of the Parish Council's Assets

Cllr Nicholson had circulated his review of assets highlighting some of the planters that needed repair (which Tony Hewitt had also raised with the Clerk and would price up in the Spring), and that the swings at Venner Avenue needed painting. The Clerk had asked the IWC about the swings and they advised that they were looking at purchasing a compressor air gun to do this and would be in contact in due course. Cllr Nicholson queried whether Councillors would want to move the Gateway Sign on Place Road nearer to the corner of Three Gates Road to better reflect the parish boundary, and, if members would like to see seating on the grass corner at Three Gates Road. It was suggested that BAE Systems might want to sponsor seating in this location.

RESOLVED: THAT the Clerk ask the IWC if they had any objection to seating on this corner before progressing with BAE Systems. To be reviewed at the next meeting.

- 102/25-26 Horsebridge Hill Development

To consider issues ahead of works by Southern Water at Horsebridge Hill in the new year. It had been stated originally that Newport Road would need to be closed in both directions, but it was reported by Richard Quigley MP in May 2025 that due to the progress already made, the planned works for 2026 would be carried out quicker and with two-way traffic lights in place, which would be welcomed. There continued to be issues with the lights going red and staying red, and if it is a software issue as experienced elsewhere on the Island, Cllr Fuller warned it would need mainland services to fix.

RESOLVED: THAT the Clerk write to Michelle Love, IWC Service Director for Highways and Community Protection, to ask about the status of road closures ahead of the planned works and request an assessment of the wider impact for pedestrians on Pallance Road and Oxford Street when there will be an increase in traffic and earlier dark evenings.

It was suggested that it would be in everyone's interest to have a joint meeting with Ward Councillors and Town and Parish Council representatives from Northwood, Gurnard and Cowes all of whom had a stake in resolving issues ahead of the works, and that this could be held at Building 41.

RESOLVED: THAT Cllr Fuller contact Michelle Love to organise an in-person joint meeting for all parishes and interested parties to discuss issues ahead of the works.

103/25-26 Local Council Tax Support Consultation

To review and agree any response to the Local Council Tax Support Consultation

RESOLVED: THAT members respond to the Local Council Tax Support Consultation on an individual basis should they wish.

104/25-26 Island Transport Plan Consultation 2025-2040

To review and agree any response to the Island Transport Plan Consultation 2025-2040. Cllr Nicholson commented that it was a good plan, but it didn't address the disruption on the road caused by utility companies, the need for more robust enforcement powers for the IWC and Police to deal with abandoned cars, nor did it address a lack of parking facilities. Cllr Fuller advised about the government's 'Lane Rental' scheme used elsewhere which was designed to encourage behavioural change for those carrying out works on the highway by applying a charge for the time companies occupy certain roads on the network during busy times, and that there might be scope for it to be used on the Island. Members proposed it was also an opportunity to improve disabled access and weatherproof bus stops which have been raised as concerns locally and that a forward-thinking approach was required to support those with mobility issues which Cllr Fuller reported he was reviewing currently through the Local Access Forum.

RESOLVED: That the following issues be raised in response to the Island Transport Plan Consultation 2025-2040:

- **The need for a forward-thinking approach to mobility issues**
- **The need to weatherproof bus stops**
- **Adoption of the Lane Rental scheme**
- **Recognition of ferry services being integral to the Island's economy and quality of life.**

105/25-26 Isle of Wight Council Street Trading Policy & Fees Review

To review and agree any response to the IWC's Street Trading Policy and Fee Increase

RESOLVED: THAT Northwood Parish Council have no comment to make on the Isle of Wight Council Street Trading Policy & Fees Review

106/25-26 Councillor's Statement of Assurance

To consider signing up to the new initiative designed by NALC and the SLCC to strengthen positive culture in parish and town Councils

RESOLVED: THAT members already adhere to the Nolan Principles, and don't consider it necessary to sign up to the new initiative designed by NALC and the SLCC to strengthen positive culture in Parish and Town Councils

107/25-26 Reports

- a. **Chair** – the Chair reported that she had attended the presentation of the Best Kept Village Awards where Northwood had been runners up in their category.
- b. **Clerk** – the Clerk circulated a written report and highlighted the invitation from Northwood Primary School to attend their story shed opening on Friday which Cllr Baker would attend on behalf of the parish Council. She had now set up gov.uk email accounts for all members which they should use moving forward, and an invitation to the launch event of the Tree Warden Network had been received and it was hoped that Cllr Coventry would be able to attend.
- c. **Councillor reports** – Cllr Martin provided an update on behalf of the Projects Group. Warm Spaces was going well with the new format. They were collecting donations for the Radio Solent Soapbox Appeal and asked if this could be advertised through the Northwood News. He reported that he had attended a 'beyond the precept' training session which he'd hoped would be useful, but it was aimed at larger Councils with big portfolios and not very relevant for parishes the size of Northwood. He would be



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attending the Village Hall AGM at the end of October and his next audit meeting with the IWC was scheduled for 17th October. Cllr Fuller had circulated a written report and highlighted that McDonalds were hosting an in-person exhibition regarding their proposals for a new Drive Thru restaurant on Three Gates Road in Cowes from 3-7pm at Cowes Baptist Church on Thursday 16th October 2025.

- d. **Cllr Nicholson, the IWC Ward Member for Cowes South and Northwood** – Cllr Nicholson had circulated a written report which was noted.

108/25-26 Statistics

RESOLVED: THAT the statistics be noted.

109/25-26 Correspondence

RESOLVED: THAT the correspondence be noted.

110/25-26 Agenda Items

- Adoption of the Show Ground and Tank Museum
- Seating at Three Gates Road
- Flooding on Wyatts Lane
- Speeding on Oxford Street

111/25-26 Next Meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday 4th November at Northwood Primary School at 6.30pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Signed as a true Record

Chair..... 4th November 2025