WHITWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Held at 19:00 on Wednesday 9 September 2026

Present:

Councillor F Raspin (in the Chair)	Councillor K Austin	Councillor S Maiden
Councillor J Paget	Councillor J Raspin	
3 Members of Public (MOP)	P C A Podam	County Councillor R Hallett

1. **To Receive and Accept Apologies and Reasons for Absence –** Apologies and reasons for absence were accepted from Councillors H Green, D Munro & T Munro. It was agreed that Cllr F Raspin chair the meeting.

2. **To record declarations of personal and disclosable pecuniary interests from members on any items to be discussed** – None.

3. **To receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest (forms to be completed before the meeting)** – None.

4. **Public Participation Session** – to allow members of the public to speak to the meeting (no decisions can be made on any items raised in this session).
   Three MOP spoke about changes to planning application 26/00020/FUL since the Parish Council submitted its response and requested the Parish Council to submit a further response after considering the changes.

   3 MOP left at 19:20

   4.1. Members of the Parish Council and public to raise matters of importance with the **Police**
   PC A Podam reported on crime figures. There had been 39 offences last month, mainly being 20 shop thefts from the Co-op, with two offenders now in prison. He had chased up a previously reported vehicle, and the council will be contacted for removal. No further issues were raised.

   4.2. Members of the Parish Council and the public to raise matters of importance with the **County Councillor**
   The County Councillor reported on the following issues: -
   (i) Overgrown hedge on Hangar Hill – DCC Highways do not consider it to be overgrown enough.
   (ii) Spring Hill – what3words was requested and provided.
   The following issues were raised: -
   (iii) Overgrown footpath on Station Road (in Hodthorpe & Belph parish).
   (iv) Overgrown vegetation onto highway near Whitwell Wood.
   (v) Fallen road sign onto grass verge on Creswell Road

   Cllr R Hallett left at 19:34

   4.3. Members of the public to raise matters of importance with the **Councillors** present
   Bolsover District Council (BDC) – Cllr J Raspin reported that local government organisation has been paused but the District and County Council elections will go ahead in May. The following issues were raised: -
   (i) A blue vehicle has been parked at the George Inn Court over the last year, but others are restricted from parking there. Cllr J Raspin would follow this up.
   Whitwell Parish Council (WPC) – No matters

5. **To consider for approval the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 July 2026**
   It was r**esolved** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2026 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

6. **To consider any matters arising (for information only) from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 July 2026** – None.

7. **Accounts for Approval and Payment –** It was **resolved** to approve the following accounts for payment. Cllr J Paget signed the invoices: -

Direct Bank Payments to be Authorised			
Payee	**Goods/Services**	**Amount**	**Budget**
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	1008.00	19
Clear Insurance Management Ltd	Parish Council Insurance	2473.57	28
Thorpes Building Supplies	Repairs (inv 44128/9 & 44245/6)	81.12	63
Woolley Moor Nurseries	Floral Displays	3354.00	56
FirstAid4Less	PACT 1st Aid Kit	74.83	59
Sutcliffe Play	Playground Spares	60.93	63
Play Bright Ltd	Zip Wire service/repair	600.00	63
	TOTAL	**7652.45**	

8. **Financial Reports and June Bank Reconciliation**
It was **resolved** to accept the Financial Reports. Cllr K Austin signed the July and August bank reconciliations.

9. **Conclusion of Audit – to accept the External Auditor Report and Certificate for the year ended 31 March 2026**
It was **resolved** to accept the External Auditor Report, and the Clerk was thanked for her work on the audit.

10. **Renewal of the Parish Council Insurance with Ecclesiastical from 1 October 2026 (2nd year of 3-year deal)**
It was **resolved** to accept renewal of the Parish Council insurance with Ecclesiastical from 1 October 2026.

11. **Bolsover District Council Legacy Project Funding Bid**
Due to a pause in Local Government Organisation, this has been deferred.

12. **To consider acceptance of the Draft Orchard Lease**
It was **resolved** to accept the draft Orchard Lease, with thanks to Cllr K Austin for his input.

13. **To consider Grass-cutting contract tendering 2027-2030**
It was **resolved** to tender for the grass-cutting contract, requesting each individual area cost to be itemised separately.

14. **To consider draft Publication Scheme**
It was **resolved** to adopt the Publication Scheme.

15. **To consider draft Autumn Newsletter**
It was **resolved** to accept the draft Autumn Newsletter with a few minor alterations and the addition of a report on the Well Dressing and notification of this year's Armistice Parade and Service.

16. **Correspondence**
It was **resolved** to deal with correspondence as follows: -
    16.1. DALC August & September Newsletters – Councillor access to DALC's portal Noted.
    16.2. Friends of The Earth Data Briefing – Noted.
    16.3. BDC – Consultation on Animal Welfare Licensing Policy – Noted.
    16.4. Resident – Great Wolf Planning Application– Extension to be requested & extra-ordinary meeting arranged.
    16.5. Resident – Great Wolf Planning Application – Noted that some valid points are made.
    16.6. Friends of Great Wolf – Noted
    16.7. BDC – Active Communities 2026/27 – Agreed with suggestions for remaining sessions.

    Correspondence not listed: -
    16.8. Neighbouring resident – skate park extension – respond that this could be considered as a future project and request their suggestions with examples.

17. **Planning Matters**

It was **resolved** to deal with planning as follows: -

17.1. Update on Whitestone Solar Farm – Noted.

17.2. 26/00265/FUL – Erection of a three-storey side extension and detached double garage, The Evergreens, 3A Old Green Close, Whitwell S80 4GN – Object to the scale of the extension, impact on neighbours, access issues and not in-keeping within the surrounding area.

17.3. 26/00211/FUL – Retention of buildings 1 and 9, continued use as allotment/hobby garden and gated access. Land south of 24 Parkway, Whitwell – Note that this is a retrospective application, otherwise no objections.

18. **Progress Reports**

18.1. Extreme Wheels Sessions

A report to be requested and future provision to be explored.

18.2. Holiday Club

Report not available until after the committee meeting on 21 October. There has been a decrease in number of attendees, averaging 40 per day, with other local provision being provided. No response yet received from Ofsted following their inspection.

18.3. Climate Action Working Group

The date for the next meeting to be arranged at the October Parish Council meeting.

Cllr S Maiden had attended a session at Clumber Park; the second half was cancelled and re-arranged for Friday. He reported on work on wood pastures by opening wooded areas to cows/sheep for grazing and an idea to install two cattle grids and remove fencing. The second session would look at changing arable land into wood pasture. He was aware of some issues at Whitwell Wood including the potential of flooding due to the Great Wolf proposal. He will be learning more about reed beds etc this week and has also been invited to an old coal site where lots of work is happening, which will potentially give an insight into development of the old Whitwell Colliery site on issues such as sustainable drainage systems etc.

19. **Date of Next Meeting –** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 October 2026 at 7.00 pm.
An extra-ordinary meeting was arranged for Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 7.00 pm

20. **Fifteen-minute public session for members of the public to comment on items discussed at this meeting (no decisions can be made on any items raised in this session)** – no public present.

21. **To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) to exclude members of the public and press from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

21.1. NJC Pay Settlement 2026/27 – Clerk reported on a settlement reached of 3.3%.

21.2. Councillors were informed of some staff sickness

21.3. To consider paying staff overtime for WCC decorating/recharging to WCC – approved. Clerk to inform council of any increase to overtime hours.

21.4. Whitwell Cemetery - Memorial Testing by the NEDDC Cemeteries Officer - approved
To consider an application requiring Burial Authority declaration – approved, subject to no cost to the council.

21.5. Email from resident re Parish Council land – agreed to surrender land back to the property, subject to no cost to the council.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.37.

Signed …..... (Chairman)

Date ….....

List of Resolutions

048/2026-27 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2026 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman.
049/2026-27 It was **resolved** to approve the accounts for payment. Cllr J Paget signed the invoices.
050/2026-27 It was **resolved** to accept the Financial Reports. Cllr K Austin signed the July and August bank reconciliations.
051/2026-27 It was **resolved** to accept the External Auditor Report, and the Clerk was thanked for her work on the audit.
052/2026-27 It was **resolved** to accept renewal of the Parish Council insurance with Ecclesiastical from 1 October 2026.
053/2026-27 It was **resolved** to accept the draft Orchard Lease, with thanks to Cllr K Austin for his input.
054/2026-27 It was **resolved** to tender for the grass-cutting contract, requesting each individual area cost to be itemised separately.
055/2026-27 It was **resolved** to adopt the Publication Scheme
056/2026-27 It was **resolved** to accept the draft Autumn Newsletter with a few minor alterations and the addition of a report on the Well Dressing and notification of this year's Armistice Parade and Service.
057/2026-27 It was **resolved** to deal with correspondence
058/2026-27 It was resolved to deal with planning matters
059/2026-27 It was **resolved** to pay staff overtime hours for decorating, recharged to WCC
060/2026-27 It was **resolved** to arrange memorial testing at Whitwell Cemetery by the NEDDC Cemeteries Officer
061/2026-27 It was **resolved** to approve an application requiring Burial Authority declaration, subject to no cost to the council.
062/2026-27 It was **resolved** to surrender small parcel of land back to the property "The Nest" no. 2 East Parade, subject to no cost to the council.