

**THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
TARRANT GUNVILLE PARISH COUNCIL**

HELD ON TUESDAY 5-MAY-2026

Present: Councillors Charlie Regnart (Chair), Paul Wentworth (Vice Chair), Jim Shephard, Jim Farquharson, Heather Sandison, Shirley Bragg

Apologies for absence: John Holloway – Parish Clerk, Dermot Cusack – Flood Warden

In attendance:, Tony Langdown – Rights of Way.

Members of the public: 1 member of the public present.

26/12. Welcome and opening remarks

The meeting commenced at 18:20, immediately following the AGM. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

26/13. To agree the minutes of the quarterly meeting held on Tuesday 17th February 2026

The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

26/14. Matters arising from these minutes

Councillor Vacancy

Following the resignation in January of Cllr Nicholson, the vacant post was advertised locally and one candidate – Nigel Marsh – indicated a willingness to stand. There being no other candidate, Nigel Marsh was unanimously welcomed onto the Council.

Bridleway at Furzey Down

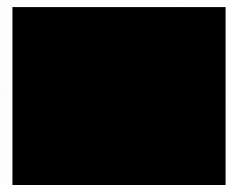
The Chair thanked Pearse Lally (present) for attending to the narrowing of this section of bridleway.

Village Maintenance

David Morrow, who benefited from the recent clearance of the watercourse has made a contribution to the cost.

Speed Surveys

The Highways Authority has recently carried out two traffic speed surveys in connection with the 20mph application. The nominal cost for these is £400 each, although a final total cost of around £550 is anticipated, which will fall in the current financial year. The results of the surveys are not available at this stage.



26/15. Reports from appointed representatives and committees

Rights of Way (Tony Langdown) –

Bridleway Furzey Down (E20/6):

Work has been undertaken and it is a great improvement. An email was sent to the Estate Manager to thank him. Tony will continue to monitor the access along the route.

Tony has contacted the Dorset Ranger regarding fallen trees along the Bridleway from Hanging Coppice towards Ashmore (N56/7) along the edge of Ashmore Wood. He has tasked his Rangers to deal with the obstructions. This is along the northern Parish boundary.

Tony has also contacted the Dorset Council Rights Of Way team for an update on T467 (Dungrove) and T350 (E20/12), both were the subject of appeals and are awaiting submission to the Planning Inspectorate for a final decision.

T350 - the original application was made in 2004 and the case was determined in 2022. This was due to be referred this year but has now been put back to 2028.

T467 - originally submitted in 2006 and determined in 2014. No date for the referral has yet been set.

Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch – Cllr Regnart (as speedwatch co-ordinator) reported that Speedwatch sessions are being carried out regularly, including one earlier today.

It was noted with some disappointment that Janice, our police Speedwatch Liaison, would no longer be attending the occasional Speedwatch session as in the past. However, she has been seen carrying out official speed monitoring sessions in the area.

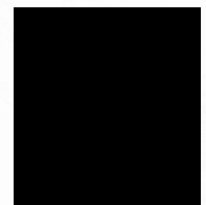
Flood Warden - Dermot had reported that the floodwaters noted at the previous meeting had receded and the immediate threat of flooding had passed.

Following the clearance of the watercourse between Hardy's Corner and Chime Cottage, the main bottleneck now appears to be the ditch downstream of Chime Cottage to Old Home Cottage, and the culvert that passes under the road from this point. The lack of flow capacity causes the floodwater to overspill the road, and as this is a natural low point, the road becomes impassable to cars and pedestrians. The water is prevented from returning to the watercourse by the lack of egress points (the embedded pipes are inadequate). The water remains on the road as far as the Orchard Chase junction before fully returning to the ditch. The Parish Council has applied to Dorset Council's flood alleviation fund to see if any improvements can be made in this area.

Cllr Farquharson reported that the Tarrant River Protection Society is in disagreement with the Environment Agency and Wessex Water regarding the amount of water being extracted from the Tarrant. TPRS are saying that too much is being extracted and that the nature of the chalk stream has been changed. Anecdotally, Gunville villagers used to be able to fish for trout in the village pond which existed just upstream of Garth Cottage (at the end of what is now the front garden of the adjacent bungalow). There is a TPRS meeting scheduled for 18th May.

Village Hall Committee Representative – Cllr Wentworth reported that the application to transition from traditional charity structure to a CIO is ready to be submitted to the Charities Commission.

A formal Reserves Policy is now in place.



The possibility of installing acoustic panels to improve the Hall's acoustics is being investigated.

Squires Playing Field – nothing of note to report.

26/16. Planning matters

Two notifications received for the Parish Council's information only -

P/PABA/2026/01587 – Old Dairy Farm – request for the Planning Authority to determine whether or not prior approval is required.

P/TRC/2026/01996 -Holly Lodge – removal of Leylandii.

26/17. Village Maintenance

When conditions allow, Cllr Farquharson will arrange for the pond opposite Park Cottage to be cleared of the debris which washed down during the recent flooding.

Some of the walls edging the bridges to The Chase bungalows have been damaged by the floodwater, and in one instance has collapsed into the watercourse. A large piece of concrete has fallen into the watercourse from the road edge just downstream of the Orchard Chase bridge. Both issues have been reported to Dorset Council.

Erosion of the bank upstream of Hardy's Corner was again noted this year. This has contributed to the silt and gravel build up at Hardy's Corner. This had been cleared before this year's flooding, but now needs clearing again.

26/18. Correspondence received

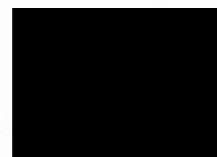
Cllr Regnart reported no correspondence received.

26/19. Financial Matters

The Parish Clerk's report and annual accounts presented at the AGM were approved by a show of hands.

It was noted that the additional expenditure incurred in 2025-26 has left the Council's reserves below the £3,000 adopted as a policy in the last meeting (Feb). This will need to be considered when setting next year's precept in November.

Councillors voted by a show of hands to donate £500 towards the maintenance of the Squires Playing Field.



26/20. Any other business

Lucas Trust – The Chair offered to help Cllr Farquharson unravel the paperwork for this trust which was originally set up for the benefit of the poor of the area. The trust appears to have been inactive for some time after previous trustees passed away.

Parish Records – Cllr Wentworth reminded the Council that there were three or four file boxes of records which were previously stored in the Village Hall loft. Some of the contents – old minute books etc – may be of interest to the Dorset Archive. Cllr Wentworth will suggest some dates for a 'discovery session' to find out what we have.

Coronation Pathways – Cllr Bragg reported that she had received from the Chalk and Chase organisation the offer of a bench donated by Channel 5's Yorkshire Vet programme, to be installed at a point along one of the Coronation Pathways. The Council voted to accept the bench (proposed – Chair, seconded – Cllr Sandison), and would consider suitable locations in the meantime.

26/21. Items from members of the public

None.

26/22. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 4th August at 6pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 19:50

