

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

HELD ON TUESDAY 17-Feb-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, Tony Langdown – Rights of Way. It was noted that Cllr Nicholson has resigned due to family and work commitments.

In attendance: Dermot Cusack – Flood Warden, Sherry Jesperson (DCC)

Members of the public: 5 members of the public present.

26/01. Welcome and opening remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Sherry Jesperson expressed her appreciation of the pro-active and practical approach of TGPC in dealing with local issues.

26/02. To agree the minutes of the quarterly meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2025

The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

26/03. Matters arising from these minutes

Dog Fouling

Cllr Bragg confirmed that new dog fouling signs had been purchased and deployed.

Village Maintenance

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

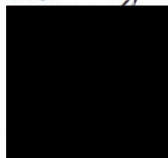
26/04. Reports from appointed representatives and committees

Rights of Way – Tony had previously copied the PC on the correspondence between himself and Pearse Lally concerning a complaint from a member of the public about the narrowness of the bridleway at Furzey Down. Mr Lally has agreed to widen this section. Cllr Regnart acknowledged to Mr Lally the good general maintenance/condition of other footpaths across the Stubhampton Estate.

The PC reaffirmed its responsibility to follow up without prejudice on any complaints or comments received from the public, and to ensure that all rights of way within the parish boundary are kept to the required standards.

Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch – Cllr Regnart (as speedwatch co-ordinator) reported that the planned speedwatch session was held in December but the January sessions were cancelled due to the flooding. A timetable for future sessions is being prepared.

Cllr Regnart has received a letter from the police thanking the speedwatch volunteers for their efforts.



Flood Warden - Dermot commented on the current high level of groundwater which was the main cause of the current flooding in the valley. The Ashmore borehole level is still high, although the Tarrant level in Gunville has dropped slightly, and the water is now largely confined to the ditch.

The recent clearance of the watercourse between Hardy's Corner and Chime Cottage has improved the river's flow and has probably dropped the water level upstream of Hardy's Corner, although the road is still impassable for normal cars.

There followed a general discussion on the current flooding situation with contributions from members of the public having a particular interest.

There has been a considerable flow of water down Bussey Stool lane to Hardy's Corner – this seems to have been much higher than in recent years. It was thought that this was due to the high level of groundwater rather than any physical changes in this area.

It was thought that the diesel spillage at the works at the top of Stubhampton had not been fully resolved. It was questioned whether the water extraction from the borehole here (which feeds Bournemouth and Poole) had been suspended, and whether this may have exacerbated the local groundwater issues.

The ditch downstream from Chime Cottage to Old Home Cottage continues to be a bottleneck, and water is spilling over the road at this point. The natural dip in the road causes the water to pool here and at its height the road became impassible for normal cars and the force of the flow was hazardous to any pedestrians trying to walk through it.

Cllr Jespersen announced that DCC had allocated £5M for local infrastructure improvements aimed at alleviating flooding issues, and suggested that the PC should bid for funding to improve the flow from Chime Cottage and the start of the ditch on the NE side of Valley Road.

There is a significant problem with some drivers creating excessive wash – some deliberately – which is eroding the banks and leaving the road covered in flints and other debris. Some drivers ignore the 'road closed' signs and delivery vans seem to be among the main culprits. It was suggested that clearer signage and more strategic placement might help (eg "Road Flooded at Stubhampton" to be placed at the junction with Valley Road and the C13, visible *before* drivers have turned into Valley Road).

Cllr Farquharson had confirmed that he is on standby to sweep the roads once the floodwater had receded.

Village Hall Committee Representative – Cllr Wentworth reported that transition from traditional charity structure running the hall to a CIO is underway.

After investigating the possibility of saving the costs of combining the two separate insurance policies for the hall and the playpark, it transpired that this is not possible while the two entities are run by separate charities. It would only be possible if in future the two entities were combined.

A formal Reserves Policy is being created to ensure the future viability of the hall.

Squires Playing Field – nothing of note to report.

26/05. Planning matters

One application had been reviewed and approved by the Parish Council – P/CLP/2025/06512 (Bussey Stool Farm fertiliser storage lagoon). P/TRC/2026/00298 (tree removal at Manor View) was received for information only.



26/06. Village Maintenance

Cllr Jespersen urged the PC to report any and all potholes once the floodwater had receded, and not to underplay their severity or urgency as Highways will be facing a huge workload.

26/07. Correspondence received

Cllr Regnart reported no correspondence received.

26/08. Financial Matters

Reserves – Currently standing at around £3,000, or approximately 1 year's precept. It was noted that the hall insurance at £1,890 and the Playpark insurance at £600 accounted for the major part of our spending, leaving little room for extra expenditure like traffic surveys, road signs etc without drawing on reserves. It was suggested that we budget for a reserve of £3,000, and to replenish this retrospectively through the next precept if the level falls below this figure. This suggestion was formally proposed as the PC's Reserve Policy by Cllr Bragg, seconded by Cllr Farquharson and accepted unanimously by a show of hand. Policy to be reviewed every two years.

26/09. Any other business

20MPH Limit – Cllr Regnart reported that the application made to DCC was for the entire section from Park Cottage to the top of Stubhampton. Highways have carried out one traffic survey (near the village hall), but now require two more at different locations, at a cost of £400 each. Cllr Regnart will contact Tony Burden to agree locations for the extra surveys.

26/10. Items from members of the public

General discussion about the recent flooding, as noted under the flood warden's report.

26/11. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 5th May at 6pm in the Village Hall (note earlier time).

Meeting closed at 20:45.

