

Osmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14th September 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Mrs S Miller (Chair), Cllr Mrs H Ballard, Cllr Mrs L Bird, Cllr Mr E Hintze, Cllr Mr N Ireland (Dorset Councillor) and Cllr Mr M Johnson.

Also in attendance: Miss Leigh Johnson (Clerk), Jeff Little (Community Resilience Liaison Representative) and 3 members of the public.

53/26 Public Participation Time

- 53.1 A resident raised concern regarding BBQ's and firepits at local campsites during the summer heatwaves. Whilst the parish council did not have any power to ban the use of BBQ's and fires, it was agreed that a letter be sent to the five local sites to raise the concern of the parish council and request that a ban be put in place during periods of extreme weather. A copy of the statement from the resident is included as Appendix 1 of these minutes.
- 53.2 A resident requested that the parish council pay for the hire of the village hall to host a People's Emergency Briefing on a date to be agreed in the future. It was agreed that this would be considered towards the end of the agenda.
- 53.3 A resident suggested that the wooden noticeboard that was situated opposite Shortlake Lane could be refurbished to a high standard and used to replace the decrepid noticeboard at Upton. The resident would be happy to complete the work needed to the noticeboard.

54/26 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Medrecki.

55/26 Declarations of Interest and Grants of Dispensation

There were no declarations of interest or grants of dispensation.

56/26 Minutes

- 56.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- 56.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

57/26 Co-option to Vacancy

The Chair informed members that two applications had been received for co-option to the vacancy and the council was fortunate to have applicants that were willing to serve their community.

Both applicants left the room whilst discussion took place. Members felt it was important to recognise one of the applicants for his commitment and achievements as a former councillor and discussed the benefits of new skills and new ideas that the other applicant could bring.

Members voted and it was **resolved** (unanimously) that Mr Ed Hintze be co-opted to the council.

Mr Hintze signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Proper Officer and joined members for the remainder of the meeting.

58/26 Planning Matters

58.1 There were no planning decisions to note.

58.2 **P/FUL/2026/04298** – Treehaven, Main Road, Osmington, DT3 6EE – Removal of existing conservatory roof and replacement with flat roof. External works to improve access arrangements to suit clients' specific needs.

It was **resolved** to submit no comment regarding this application.

58.3 **P/HOU/2026/04316** – Mulberry Cottage, Main Road, Osmington, DT3 6EH – Alteration of fence to create new driveway and vehicular access.

It was **resolved** to submit no comment regarding this application.

59/26 Parish Amenities

59.1 In the absence of the Playing Field Officer no update was provided.

59.2 The Speedwatch Co-ordinator informed members that due to the heatwaves no watches had been undertaken during the summer period.

It was noted that the new speed limits had seemed to improve speeding traffic through the village.

The Clerk would enquire when the new Speed Indicator Device would be delivered.

59.3 The Village Hall Officer had been in contact with Pengillys who had asked two questions regarding ownership and valuation of the land at the village hall. These would be responded to once further information had been sought.

59.4 Jeff Little (Community Resilience Liaison Representative) provided an update regarding the emergency community plan which covered areas such as extreme weather, potential winter utility failures, equipment and available resources from Dorset Council and DEFRA.

A stand-by generator had been purchased and would be wired to the village hall. This would ensure that a warm hub and hot drinks could be provided in the event of an emergency. Other equipment such as torches and a water carrying backpack would be available.

It was important to purchase a communications system as mobile phones could not be relied on during times of outage. This would increase readiness and strengthen resilience. It was proposed to purchase a radio set at a cost of £229.99 and an operator's licence that could be used by all named users at a cost of £75.00 for a five-year period.

Cllr Johnson stated that it would be important to use the radios regularly to maintain a healthy battery life. Mr Little said that it was anticipated that a live exercise would be held every four months.

The Chair suggested that one or two of the radios be issued to a resident in outlying areas of the village such as Upton and the bottom of Church Lane.

Members supported the efforts of the local resilience group and it was **resolved** to fund the cost of the radios and operators licence at a cost of £304.99.

- 59.5 Several residents had reached out regarding the removal/refurbishment of the noticeboard at Upton. It was noted that the board was used and a noticeboard should be retained at this location. The wooden noticeboard that was previously situated opposite Shortlake Lane would be refurbished and the council would contribute to the cost of the works.

Cllr Bird informed members that the noticeboard at the top of Chapel Lane was damp and would require some maintenance to make it water-tight.

- 59.6 Cllr Bird had been in contact with the fire service regarding concerns for access at the bottom of Church Lane. An exercise to test logistical arrangements would take place on Tuesday 15th September from 7.30pm.
- 59.7 Cllr Ireland would arrange an autumn litter pick of the village on either the 17th or 24th October.
- 59.8 Members undertook a review of the Playing Field Policy and it was **resolved** to make the following amendments;
- Remove the requirement for a deposit.
 - A booking form should be completed for all events.
 - Ticketed events would be allowed subject to members of the public being able to access the playing field and not being excluded during any event.

60/26 Highways and Rights of Way

- 60.1 Cllr Johnson informed members that there had been two incidents of falls on a slippery pavement. Although Dorset Council had cleaned the pavement, residual moss remained and would need to be monitored.
- 60.2 The over-hanging trees from White House would be cut back in the near future.
- 60.3 Members considered a request for signage at Lower Dairy Farm after further information was provided. The resident would be encouraged to contact Dorset Council Highways to progress this.

61/26 Finance

- 61.1 The conclusion of the audit for 2025-26 was noted.
- 61.2 The pay award for 2026-27 was noted.
- 61.3 The cashbook balances, budget report and bank reconciliation were received and approved.
- 61.4 It was **resolved** to approve the following payments: -

BDO – External audit	£252.00
Leigh Johnson – Clerk’s salary and expenses for July and August	£710.20
HMRC – Tax for July and August	£171.20
Osmington Village Hall – Hire for September	£20.00
Dorset Council – Waste collection	£199.71
Community Heartbeat Trust – Annual emergency phone rental	£72.00

It was **resolved** to retrospectively approve the following payment/s made in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.1.

Mallatite – New SID	£2856.18
HugoFox – email fee for July and August	£41.98
Unity Trust – Bank charges for July and August	£14.00

62/26 Council Matters

- 62.1 The Clerk would check the DAPTC training page for new councillor courses.
- 62.2 The 1100L bin at Osmington Mills had worked well over the summer period. It would be removed on 24th September.
- 62.3 Members discussed a request to fund the hire of the village hall for a People's Emergency Briefing session. Due to the need for a decision before the next meeting, it was **resolved** to fund the hire of the hall for this event.
- 62.4 It was noted that a male occupant had been sleeping in his car overnight at the village hall car park. When approached and asked to leave, the driver showed signs of aggression.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

Chairman

Date

As you are all aware we had the hottest summer since records began in 2026. The forecasters have said this could be the new normal. Also, with El Nino due to hit the UK next summer, it could be an even worse.

There are 5 campsites very near Osmington Village and Osmington Mills, Rosewall, Corner Camp Site, White Horse, Eweleaze and Shortlake. Rosewall, Corner Camp site & I understand Whitehorse banned all campfires from mid-July when it became apparent that there was no rain forecast for the foreseeable future. The owners of these sites all strictly adhered to this ban.

Eweleaze, has planning permission to open for six weeks, mid-July to August Bank Holiday Monday. Also has planning permission to have firepits as long as they are raised above the ground. Peter Broatch (owner) allowed their use even during this extreme hot weather event. There are the charred remains of some campfires directly on the ground at this site. Please note, due to the difficult entrance and approach to Eweleaze, a normal sized fire engine is unable to attend. A smaller tender type is the only type of fire engine able to access it.

Shortlake Farm, also owned by Mr Broatch, is a 28-day allowed 'Pop up' camp site. 2 hours after then National Phone Alert, I decided to walk down and see if campfires had been banned by the owner. Walking on the Coast Path, I counted at least 10 fires alight. One fire I noticed was inside the awning of a tent! Unbelievable.

The Village of Osmington has a high proportion of thatched properties and with the prevailing South Westerly winds, if we have the same or a more intense heatwave next summer as predicted, any fire could be driven towards the Village with disastrous consequences.

What is the PC going to do about this to protect the Village? Including persuading the owner, who owns both the Eweleaze and Shortlake sites to ban **ALL** campfires, as the other 3 local campsites had done this year, if there are similar dry conditions next year.

I would be grateful if this statement could be included in the minutes.

Jane Lock – Osmington Resident.