

**THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
TARRANT GUNVILLE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2025**

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

In attendance: Tony Langdown, Rights of Way Officer; Dermot Cusack, Flood Warden; John Holloway, Parish Clerk

Members of the public: No members of the public present.

25/38. Welcome and opening remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25/39. Apologies for absence

Councillor Jim Farquharson.

25/40. To agree the minutes of the quarterly meeting held on Tuesday 5 August 2025

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

25/41. Matters arising from these minutes

The issue of continued dog fouling was discussed and in conclusion it was decided to replace notices to aid prevention of fouling at the following sites:

Church Hill, Entrance to Squires Field, Entrance to China Lane and Harbins Park Lane. Cllr Bragg to arrange purchase.

A discussion and update from the Chair on the Wessex Water proposal to create a concrete culvert draining into Eastbury pond. The Chair had correspondence with Dorset Council who were unable to assist. Fortunately, Cllr Farquharson has met with Wessex Water, and an alternative solution has been found that does not impact on Eastbury pond.

25/42. Reports from appointed representatives and committees

Rights of Way

Nil to report

Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch

Neighbourhood Watch

Nil to report

Community Speedwatch

Cllr Regnart has taken on the mantle of speedwatch co-ordinator. There are 3 current sites where observations take place: Elms, Brushers Bank and Village Hall. There had been a session this am where two individuals were reported for speeds of 38 and 37 mph.

Flood Warden

Nil to report apart from the fact that the level in the Ashmore borehole has remained constant for the previous two months at least.

Village Hall Committee Representative

Cllr Wentworth reported a recent “uptick” in bookings due to parties and choir sessions. There will be a fund-raising coffee morning in November. He would investigate the potential use of the recently acquired accreditation to “drum up” business. An additional option is the use of an acquired “pin” on google maps to sign post the hall to other websites – the pin has been registered. There is now a new working defibrillator, the cost of which (£850) has been funded by the parish council. VAT will be reclaimed on this purchase.

25/43. Planning matters

No objections regarding the plans at Westbury Cottages.

Planning application: P/HOU/2025/05360

Concerns were raised over this application and the resultant light pollution in the Cranborne Chase Dark Sky Reserve. Clerk to lodge an objection on behalf of the council.

Update post meeting – the following has been lodged via the Dorset Council planning portal with confirmation reply received:

Thank you for your comments on application number P/HOU/2025/05360:

"On behalf of Tarrant Gunville and Stubbampton Parish Council: The council wish to object to this application as it is situated in the Cranborne Chase Dark Sky Reserve - the concern is that this construction will lead to increased light pollution when illuminated at night. There will be an undoubted impact with increased light pollution."

25/44. Village Maintenance

The Chair spoke to this item. This is now a regular inclusion in the parish council minutes. A recent working party removed approximately 120 tonnes of silt and debris from the riverbed of the Tarrant mainly in the environs of Jim Bullpit's and David Morrow's properties. The riverbed is now lower than the road all the way to Arthur's Barn. The council would like to record their gratitude to Cllr Regnart for his sterling work in this endeavour. The cost of this venture is in the region of £600 and would be borne by the parish council. As most of the debris was removed from David Morrow's property he would be asked whether he would like to contribute towards this as a riparian owner.

It was noted that remedial work is occurring in Ashmore Bottom which may ameliorate winter run off water.

25/45. Squires Playing Field

A new sign has been erected at the entrance to School Lane, and another is planned for the pathway by the old school in due course. An event is to be planned by the social committee in July 2026 in the field.

25/46. Correspondence received

No correspondence received.

25/47. Any other business

Cllr Wentworth spoke about succession planning and messaging about parish council activities. An individual approach policy to villagers was muted analogous to TWIG. In conclusion future parish council meetings will be advertised on WhatsApp, Facebook and via the village email list. Cllr Nicholson has kindly taken on the 20-mph zone application and was thanked by all in anticipation of his work on this. Tony Langdown suggested that anyone involved in running the village hall and the play park, in the future, may be better protected if they were run as Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs). As the parish council pay to insure both this may influence premiums. Cllr Wentworth discussed current insurance policies paid for by the parish council insurance and advised consulting neighbouring PCs to investigate their approach to these matters.

25/48. Items from members of the public

None

25/49. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed