WINTERBORNE WHITECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes

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Minutes of Full Council held on **Wednesday 16th September 2026** in The Old School Room
Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

Councillors in attendance:
Julien Turner, Ricky Trim, Chris Royle, Heidi Stephenson, and Pete Cotterill.

There were **3** members of the public in attendance
Cllr Emma Parker (Dorset Council)

FULL COUNCIL

1. Apologies for absence
Cllr's Liam Deeney and Geoff Eaton sent apologies.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest
No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th July 2026
These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Chair's update
The Chair felt that the Parish Council was currently in a good place.
The new SID pole would be installed on Whatcombe Lane by Dorset Council with a time frame of 6 weeks from 08th September.
The dangerous Ash tree on St Marys Close had been notified to Dorset Council.
It had been confirmed that the beech trees on the A354 (west bound) were the property of Dorset Council.
The Chair noted the complexities of flood control, as 8 National Agencies could be involved at any one time, with the possibility of buck passing.

5. Clerk's report
The Clerk would update on planning matters under item 8.
The Clerk would update on flooding matters under item 11.

6. Public participation – items on the Agenda only
There were no comments as this point.

7. Dorset Ward Councillor and Parish Councillor (non-agenda items) reports
Cllr Parker started by confirming a meeting had taken place with Dorset Council as to speeding along Rook Lane and Lower Street.
The Highways Officer had agreed to works on verge clearance, bollard replacement, enhancing road marking and road surface deterioration.
There was no update as the Officer was on leave.

There was no decision on the outstanding planning on Whatcombe Lane, as Development Control was still absorbing the effects of the new NPPF (see later).

There was no feedback on the traffic calming project.

The reporting system for Highways defects was being upgraded, so only emergencies could be logged or notified.
The boundary review had been completed; there were no changes for Winterborne Whitechurch. This would come into effect for the 2029 Elections.

It was asked about an update on Chescombe Court and its residents.
The Clerk confirmed that an interface had been established with SGN, and they had confirmed that residents were being relocated in accordance with personal wishes and not being 'kicked out'. The primary reason for this was that a report had highlighted the increasing risk of flooding at the property and it was no longer practicable for long term letting.
Members were also concerned at the loss of users to the Village Hall.
The Chair reminded everybody that this was a commercial and business decision by SGN, and that the Parish Council had no say in the matter.

8. Planning

a. P/LBC/2026/04177

Church Cottage, Chescombe Lane, Winterborne Whitechurch, DT11 AP
Internal alterations for the repair & reinstatement of flood-damaged internal floor finishes, wall linings, joinery, fittings and decorations at ground-floor level, including compatible lime plaster repairs where traditional substrates are exposed
The Parish Council supported this application.

The Clerk updated on the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the effect of this on the Dorset Local Plan.
The major changes were that to get to Committee, the bar for objections had been raised considerably and that smaller plots (less than 10% of current village size) were being encouraged to fill the housing allocation for Dorset. This may include sites outside any defined development boundary.

9. Financial matters

a. Payments for authorisation

There were **14** payments **(PV's 25-38),** totalling **£ 2416.50,** that were approved and authorised.

10. Matters arising from meeting with Dorset Council on speeding along Lower Street including the purchase of speed wires to monitor traffic flow and speed

Further to the update provided by the Ward Councillor, it was agreed to two sets of speed wires, location to be confirmed, voted on a majority decision.
This will provide the raw data for the Parish Council in partnership with Dorset Council to discuss the next steps.
It was also asked if some 'Horse Signs' could be erected along this road.
A representative would be available to ensure the wires were set at an appropriate location.

11. Matters arising from meeting with Dorset Council on flood matters

The Clerk updated all on the section 19 of the Flood and Water act 2010.
An external body had been appointed to this task; therefore it was very unlikely that any matters would be actioned until this report, and its recommendations had been completed.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should meanwhile write to the riparian landowners and remind them of their legal responsibilities.

12. Purchase of new noticeboards for bus shelters
Cllr Eaton had notified fellow members that the noticeboards were in an adequate condition and recommended, for the short term, that new pins would suffice.

13. Purchase of village information boards
This matter was deferred to the next meeting as Cllr Eaton was not present.

14. Review of Green Spaces management
Members were very aware to the aesthetics of the village. It was also noted of many 'grey' areas, where ownership was not easily established.
To that end, it was agreed that the subcommittee budget be increased from £500 to £1000 from the next financial year, as opposed to a more formal contact – thus enabling a more flexible approach.
It was also agreed to increase the right of way cuts to 3 from 2 and include the permissive path.

15. Ratification of underground high-speed cabling by Wessex Internet
This was unanimously agreed by all, and the documentation supplied by Wessex Internet was signed by the Clerk.

16. Honorariums – a good idea for community volunteers
Members agreed this was a good idea and put aside £250.00 per year for this matter.
The terms and condition would be ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

17. The telephone box – ideas for future use
This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

18. Purchase of Village Gateways
Cllrs liked the idea of this at the price of £840 per unit.
It was requested that suitable sites be identified for this purpose.

19. Conclusion of external audit
It was confirmed that the audit for 25/26 was now complete and posted on the website.

20. Items and date for the next meeting Full Council 18th November 2026
2027 budgeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at **2034 hours.**

Julien Turner _____ Chair of Winterborne Whitechurch Parish Council

Dated _____