

Yeohead & Castleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting on 6th November 2025 at 7.30 pm in Poyntington Village Hall

The following were present: Councillors Perryman, Buckland, Dillon, Lacey, Wheadon and the Clerk

25.60 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Simnett, Stubbs and Dorset Cllr Legg

25.61 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Dillon – Solar farm at Wyke

25.62 **The minutes of the meeting held 4th September 2025** were confirmed and signed.

25.63 **Matters arising:**

Cllr Perryman reported that he had taken part in the earthwatch WaterBlitz water testing on the River Yeo in Osborne earlier in the year. The recently published results show a marked deterioration in water quality between the river in Osborne and the next testing point at the Purlieu Meadows in Sherborne. There was a moderately elevated level of nitrate content in Osborne, with the higher level in Sherborne indicating a poor ecological status. Unfortunately 60% of waters tested across the UK were rated poor with unacceptable levels of nutrient pollution. The council thought that the rise in nitrates between Osborne and Sherborne would be due to farming in the Milborne Port area. Cllr Buckland explained that new rules around slurry storage and use should improve matters, but it was also suggested that taking buffer zones along river banks out of farm use would reduce nutrients entering the water.

Cllr Buckland reported on the inaugural meeting of Wild Sherborne. Set up by Neil Walker the group is bringing together all the associations in Sherborne with a sustainability ethos, e.g. The Green Shed, The Repair Café etc. Cllr Buckland represented the parish council. The council agreed that this is a positive development.

25.64 **Adjournment Session:**

None

25.65 **The financial report for the year 2025-26** to date was received and accepted.

Payments in accordance with budget were approved: Clerk salary: £415.70, (HMRC - £17.20 This will be deducted from the next payment or reclaimed at the end of the financial year), Poyntington Village Hall £20 hall hire.

Payments since the last meeting authorised: HugoFox £100. The clerk explained that the expected £100 grant from the government, for the switch to the gov.uk domain with HugoFox, had been oversubscribed and not issued to Yeohead. However, HugoFox has now introduced a reduced rate for just one email address at £2.49 per month. The clerk has moved the account to this rate from November.

Monthly direct debits paid in September and October: HugoFox Domain £9.99, Microsoft £1.99, Lloyds bank charges £4.25

25.66 **Planning Matters**

Planning matters dealt with since the last meeting for approval or to be decided at this meeting are in bold:

Name	Details /Reference	Status
Mushroom Farm Cow Lane Poyntington	P/VOC/2025/05382 Erect house & garage for agricultural worker & erect 5 no. mushroom sheds. Construct new vehicular access. (with variation of condition 2 of planning permission 1/N/93/000281 to remove occupancy restriction).	Parish Council comments – the agricultural tie is no longer relevant to the land belonging to the property. Granted 29.10.25
Mushroom Farm Cow Lane Poyntington	P/VOC/2025/05195 Demolition of existing agricultural buildings and polytunnels and the erection of 2 residential dwellings (C3), vehicular accesses and associated	Parish Council supported the change of roof materials. Granted 08.10.25

	works (variation of condition 2 of PP P/FUL/2022/02416 relating to a change in the proposed roof materials)	
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- 25.67 **Proposed new solar farm at Wyke:** The clerk has been informed by Marengo Communications that RWE has placed the EIA on hold until timings around the grid connection have been clarified. Cllr Dillon gave the council some information drawn from the internet on the amount of agricultural land used for solar farms in Dorset.
- 25.68 **Highways Issues:**
a. A30 Osborne junction: It was agreed that the clerk should write again to Highways to request a meeting to discuss possible safety improvements at the junction and the speed limit on the A30.
- 25.69 **Mobile signal improvement:** Atlas has informed the clerk that two of the landowners around West Down Farm have rejected the proposal to host a mobile mast. Atlas is still negotiating with a third landowner.
- 25.70 **Neighbourhood Plan:** The clerk will ask the town clerk for an update.
- 25.71 **Items for the next Agenda:** Send to clerk.
- 25.72 **Dates of future meetings 2026:**
8 January, Osborne
5 March, Poyntington
7 May, Poyntington
2 July, Osborne
3 September, Poyntington
5 November, Osborne
The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.