

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday, 9th July 2025 at 7.00pm in Alweston Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Stuart Adams, Acting Chair
Cllr David Crothers
Cllr Meg Crothers
Cllr Andy Harris
Cllr Trevor Rolls
Cllr Robin Legg, Dorset Councillor
Penny Pitcher (Clerk)

Apologies

Cllr David Cuff

25.26 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr David Cuff.

25.27 Declarations of pecuniary and other interests in relation to the agenda

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests in relation to the agenda.

25.28 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 14th May 2025 are a true and accurate record

The minutes of the meeting of 14 May 2025 were agreed as a true and correct record and signed by Cllr Adams as Chair.

25.29 Matters raised by members of the public (15 minutes)

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

25.30 Issues arising from the last meeting

The AGAR report has been received back from the internal auditor, published on the Folke Parish Council website, and forwarded onto the external auditor.

The majority of the recommendations from the internal auditor were of an administrative nature that can be easily undertaken. Clerk requested the same internal auditor be used for next year, to have verification that the recommendations had been undertaken.

Update on traffic issues caused by the local car boot; the next car boot sale is scheduled for August. The organizer of the car boot will be invited to attend the September Parish Council meeting when future plans, including traffic management, can be discussed.

Simon Williams had repaired the playground fencing to a high standard. Clerk had not yet received his invoice.

Due to the previous chair stepping down, Cllr Adams now required full signatory powers for the bank account, along with a debit card. **Clerk to arrange.**

Chair.....Date.....

Clerks Report

Clerk advised the cost of a solar panel charged defibrillator was in the region of £3000 plus VAT. It was agreed that this cost was prohibitive. Further discussion around the positioning of a defibrillator will take place at the next meeting.

Cllr Crothers was working on updating the Standing Orders and the Financial Controls documents.

Clerk advised the “dot gov” email address from Hugo Fox was now live, although it had not been tested by the clerk.

25.31 Land Registry – Transfer of Title

The playing fields had been held in Trust, and the original Trust has been reinstated, with two new Trustees, i.e. Cllr Cuff and Cllr Adams. The land the playground was sited on had now been registered with the Land Registry, other than a small area which was owned by a different party. There was discussion around:

- whether the Parish Council as an entity should be a Trustee;
- continuity of the Trust should the current Trustees stand down in the future;
- should the Trustees sell the land to the Parish Council for a nominal sum;
- the Parish Council agreement to continue paying upkeep costs.

It was agreed that the subject of the Playing Field would become a Standing Item on the agenda.

25.32 Capital Leverage Fund

Cllr Robin Legg informed the councilors of the Capital Leverage Fund. Cllr Legg gave examples of projects that either have received funding or that may be suitable to funding application. Folke Parish Council currently have no projects that would be suitable for application to this fund.

25.33 To receive a report from Dorset Council

Cllr Legg informed the councilors he had discussed the situation regarding overgrown road signs with Roly Skeets from Dorset Council. Ian Styrene will make sure the signs are exposed and free from vegetation, especially the speed limit signage.

Signage that required replacement will be incorporated into one sign for ease of production, the production time currently was five months.

An investigation into mobile phone signal coverage had been undertaken by Dorset Council, the results of which were being collated.

Dorset Police had decided to close the police station in Sherborne on a permanent basis. The replacement offer was for Sherborne Town Council to offer space in the Manor House to use as a drop in.

A proposed temporary traffic order at the junction with Bradford Abbas / Nether Compton and the Yeovil road was being drawn up for consultation.

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Dorset Council was bringing in a system of booking a time slot to use the local recycling center. Cllr Legg advised approximately 20% of waste taken to Dorset recycling centers and landfill sites originated in Somerset. Dorset Council were working on a resolution around cross payments with Somerset.

25.34 To receive reports from Councillors attending meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.

None to report.

25.35 To receive a Finance Report and to agree actions in response to proposals and payment approvals

19/05/2025	Service charges	Bank service charge	£4.25
28/05/2025	Hugo Fox	Website Provision	£11.99
29/05/2025	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.36
02/06/2025	Zurich Insurance	Insurance - playground	£378.00
02/06/2025	HMRC	Tax for clerk salary	£59.49
02/06/2025	DAPTC Unity Trust	DAPTC mailbox renewal	£47.75
17/06/2025	Service charges	Bank service charge	£4.25
19/06/2025	Porter Dodson	Legal Fees and Expenses	£250.00
30/06/2025	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.36
30/06/2025	Barker-Fox Associates	Internal Audit - Paula Harding	£100.00
30/06/2025	Hugo Fox	Website Provision	£11.99

Clerk requested that the above payments as listed be sanctioned. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**
Cllr M Crothers requested a grant of £85.00 for White Hart Vale Magazine. Council agreed to approve the Grant Request of £85.00. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

25.36 To determine a response to any planning applications received as listed below:

Response already submitted – no objection

P/FUL/2025/01686

Proposal: Construct a slurry pit & erect cover

Location: Alweston Farm, Roselyn Crescent, DT9 5HT

25.37 Items of urgent nature subject to Chair's approval

Chair advised the pink bench in the playground needed replacing. Chair to obtain prices.

25.38 Confidential Matters (public and press to leave the meeting)

No matters arising.

25.39 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 10th September 2025 at 7.00pm

There being no further business to be transacted the meeting closed at 20:20 hours

Chair.....Date.....