

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday, 11th March 2026 at 7.00pm in Alweston Village Hall

Present:

Cllr David Cuff, Chair
Cllr Stuart Adams
Cllr Andy Harris
Cllr Trevor Rolls

In attendance:

Parish Clerk, Penny Pitcher
Cllr Robin Legg, Dorset Councillor
Four members of the public

Apologies

Cllr Mike Lugg

25.90 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Cllr Lugg gave apologies due to sickness. Cllr Cuff advised that Cllr Lugg had sadly decided to step down from the Parish Council.

25.91 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.

25.92 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 14th January 2026 are a true and accurate record

The minutes of the meeting of 14th January 2026 were agreed as a true and correct record and signed by Cllr Cuff as Chair.

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

Waste bins at recreation ground – email from Heather Rawlings. The bin at the playground had been blowing around in the wind and rubbish had been strewn across the playground. Ann Hyland had also raised this issue on a previous occasion.

Discussion around cost for Dorset Council to empty this bin when the village hall bin is emptied. The cost is around £7.45 per week for weekly wheelie bin emptying, and the bin will need to be moved to an accessible point each week for collection and emptying. Much of the village hall waste is removed and taken home by those using the hall. From 1 April 2026 the waste collection payment will change to become one month in advance.

It was agreed to cancel the weekly wheelie bin (village hall) collection and emptying, and to investigate the costs of obtaining a bin for dog waste. Possible dog bin sites are Roselyn Crescent and the village hall.

Action: Cllr Rolls and Cllr Adams will investigate the costs of obtaining two dog bins and the costs and process for having the bins emptied regularly.

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

25.94 Issues arising from the last meeting

Car boot sale – Traffic management

Cllr Harris was meeting with Sue, Julia and Joseph to run through ideas to enable the car boot sale to proceed safely with the minimum of disruption to the sellers and buyers

Asset valuation for playing field

The asset valuation for the playing field was in hand.

Defibrillator training

The dates for defibrillator training will be advertised in the local community magazine.

Discussion around insurance of the defibrillator; clerk will contact current insurers to add the defibrillator to the insurance, and will also add the defibrillator to the asset register.

25.95 Clerks Report

Clerk reported:

- Internal Audit arranged for week of 8 June 2026, the internal audit will be undertaken by the same auditor as 2025.
- DAPTC AGM Saturday 30 May 2026, Clerk had forwarded details of the AGM onto the councillors.
- Next meeting would be the annual Parish Meeting – Ann Hyland will advertise the date in the magazine, 13 May 2026 at 7.00 pm.

25.96 To receive report from Dorset Council

Cllr Legg gave further information about the idea of a weekly bus service. The company ECT were interested in running local bus services based in Blandford. Possible route may include Glanvilles Wooton, Kings Stag, Folke and Sherborne. The company would use the buses and drivers usually driving primary school children to school. There was some money available from Dorset Council, and there would be a collective contribution from the surrounding parishes.

Folke Parish Council had already agreed in principle to contribute towards this scheme (minute number 25.64 from November 2025 meeting). Chair confirmed the Parish Council would continue to support this initiative.

Cllr Legg advised Dorset Council had earmarked £5 million towards the repair of flood damaged roads, and £250,000 towards clearing gullies. Cllr Legg asked that details of areas requiring this type of repair, or areas that had ongoing issues, be made known to him.

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

No reports were received.

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25.98 Dorset Council grass maintenance contract – details of 1 year and 3 year Service Level Agreement quotation

Dorset Council had provided figures for both a one year and a three year grass cutting contract. The three year contract did not offer any cost saving. It was agreed to accept the three year contract, Chair signed the acceptance form, clerk to return to Dorset Council before 15 March 2026.

25.99 Playing Field

Item deferred from last meeting; replacement unit for climbing tower with slide. Cllr Adams showed examples of replacement units with costs, which ranged from £6,000 to £11,000 plus installation costs. Cllr Adams will discuss further with his contact, and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

25.100 Request from North Wootton Church for contribution towards upkeep of churchyard.

A request had been received from North Wootton church for a contribution towards the upkeep of the churchyard. It was agreed to increase the contribution to £200 per annum.

25.101 Prospective councillors

There were two vacancies for Councillors, and the resignation of Cllr Lugg opened up a third vacancy. Three members of the public put themselves forward as prospective councillors and gave a short introduction about their background and why they wanted to join the parish council. It was agreed to appoint as councillors Joseph Crocker, Pauline Elsworth and Phil Bennett. Clerk to forward to them the appropriate information, e.g. conflict of interest forms and links to training. Chair welcomed the new Councillors.

25.102 To receive a finance report and to agree actions in response to proposals and payment approvals

Councillors noted the below payments made under delegated powers by bank transfer out of Council:

12/01/2026	Hugo Fox	Email Provision	£2.99
19/01/2026	Service charges	Bank service charge	£4.25
26/01/2026	Transfer to Instant Access Account	Transfer to Instant Access Account	£3,000.00
26/01/2026	P and R Pitcher	Travel expenses	£19.80
28/01/2026	P and R Pitcher	Salary January 2026	£121.25
28/01/2026	Hugo Fox	Website Provision	£11.99
29/01/2026	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.10
10/02/2026	Hugo Fox	Email Provision	£2.99
17/02/2026	Service charges	Bank service charge	£4.25
02/03/2026	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.10
02/03/2026	P and R Pitcher	Salary February 2026	£137.90
02/03/2026	Hugo Fox	Website Provision	£11.99

Clerk requested that the above payments as listed be sanctioned. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

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

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25.103 Discussion of presentation of finance report – inclusion of new instant access account figures

The spreadsheet showing the reconciliation with the payments and bank account incorrectly showed the transfer of monies to the savings account as an expenditure, Chair to manipulate the spreadsheet to show the transfer on an appropriate row.

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

Planning application P/FUL/2026/00232 had been received. Comments to be received by 12 February 2026, the council advised no objection.

25.105 Items of urgent nature subject to Chair's approval

Chris Went requested the parish council bank account details, so she could pay in the tennis court monies. Clerk to forward these on to her and clerk to ensure monies are transferred to savings account.

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

No confidential matters to discuss.

25.107 Date of next meeting – Wednesday, 13th May 2026 at 7.00pm

There being no further business to be transacted the meeting closed at 20.05 hours.

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