

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday, 10th September 2025 at 7.00pm in Alweston Village Hall

Present:

Cllr David Cuff, Chair
Cllr Stuart Adams
Cllr David Crothers
Cllr Meg Crothers
Cllr Andy Harris
Cllr Trevor Rolls
Cllr Mike Lugg
Penny Pitcher (Clerk)

Apologies

None

25.40 To receive and accept apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

25.41 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.

25.42 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 9th July 2025 are a true and accurate record

The minutes of the meeting of 9 July 2025 were amended to correct Cllr Trevor Rolls named which had been incorrectly recorded. Subject to this amendment, the minutes were agreed as a true and correct record and signed by Cllr Cuff as Chair.

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

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

25.44 Issues arising from the last meeting

Overgrown road signs – the area around one sign had been trimmed back but was still partially obscured. Hedge cutting work will be commencing soon and it was hoped the signage would be included. To follow up next meeting.

Replacement bench – in progress, Cllr Cuff to circulate weblink for company supplying picnic style benches made of treated timber. Bench to be fixed to ground. Suggested spend around £400. Bench anticipated to be in situ for November meeting.

Action: Cllr Cuff and Cllr Adams

25.45 Clerks Report

Cllr Adams was a full signatory for the Lloyds bank account, replacing Cllr D Crothers. Discussion around the need for a new debit card, Cllr Adams has ordered a new card for his use.

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

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

Hugo Fox have confirmed the email address of clerk@folkeparishcouncil.gov.uk is now live and is the address used on the 'contact us' section of the website. Clerk uncertain about how the domain name is displayed as it still displays in the email inbox as "folke@dorset-aptc.gov.uk". Clerk to understand this further for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

Recommendation 1 by the Internal Auditor to restate AGAR for 2023/24 and 2024/25 due to rounding error has been carried out and published on website as "restated".

Recommendation 6 by the Internal Auditor related to clerks' pay and pay arrears; Clerk presented a workings out to show pay arrears due, agreed by the Council. New pay banding to be paid from October 2025. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

25.46 Playing Field

Management of the Playing Field

Currently Cllr Adams and Cllr Cuff are Trustees of the Playing Field. Discussion around whether the Trusteeship should transfer to the Parish Council to ensure continuity should the current Trustees be unable to continue in this role.

It was proposed to transfer Trusteeship to the Parish Council from Cllrs Cuff and Adams.

Proposed: Cllr T Rolls

Seconded: Cllr A Harris

ALL IN FAVOUR

Chair to contact Zara Davis at the Yeovil office of Porter Dodson to start the process of transferring Trusteeship to Parish Council.

Action: Cllr Cuff

A valuation of the Playing Fields as an asset for the 2025/26 AGAR report will be required. Cllr Cuff to arrange for Symonds and Sampson to undertake an initial casual valuation.

Action: Cllr Cuff

Management of the Tennis Courts

Cllr Rolls advised the income from the tennis courts was around £250 from the Sherborne Tennis Club, who also undertake some maintenance on the courts.

It was agreed to set up a second Lloyd's bank account in readiness for the transfer of tennis court hire income currently held by the village hall committee, which will be ring fenced for playing field and tennis court maintenance.

There was discussion around using the courts for pickleball or paddleball, which may require new court lines painted and a net at a different height.

Cllr Harris to ascertain the requirements for pickleball and paddleball, for further discussion at the next meeting.

25.47 Footpath Maintenance

Some of the public footpaths within the parish have fallen into a poor condition, some footpaths are missing signposts, missing bridges across rivers, and access can be difficult.

Clerk to forward onto Cllr M Crothers any information held relating to the footpaths. Cllr M Crothers to report the poor condition of these footpaths on the Dorset Council website.

25.48 Siting of defibrillator

It was agreed that the best site for a defibrillator would be along Vincents Close on the estate wall. Cllr Rolls to speak to residents who may be willing to supply the electricity required, for which a nominal sum would be paid.

25.49 Budget setting – preparation for November meeting

Chair suggested a five percent increase in the budget and precept. This will be given further consideration at the November meeting.

25.50 Agree the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Cllr D Crothers had updated the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. It was proposed these be adopted and uploaded to the website.

Proposed: Cllr Adams

Seconded: Cllr Rolls

ALL IN FAVOUR

25.51 To receive report from Dorset Council

No report was received.

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

No reports were received.

25.53 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:

21/07/2025	Service charges	Bank service charge	£4.25
22/07/2025	White Hart Vale	Community Magazine grant	£85.00
26/07/2025	HMRC	end of year tax adjustment	£30.29
26/07/2025	HMRC	interest	£1.04
26/07/2025	HMRC	interest	£1.04
28/07/2025	Hugo Fox	Website Provision	£11.99
28/07/2025	DAPTC	Annual Subscription	£197.15
30/07/2025	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.36
19/08/2025	Service charges	Bank service charge	£4.25
28/08/2025	Hugo Fox	Website Provision	£11.99
29/08/2025	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.10
29/08/2025	F Cuff and Sons	Repair to Noticeboard	£679.20

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

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

None received.

25.55 Items of urgent nature subject to Chair's approval

Cllr M Crothers and Cllr D Crothers advised due to their imminent house move, their last meeting would be 12 November. Cllrs to approach residents whom they believe may be interested in taking on the role of Parish Councillor. Any interested parties could attend the November meeting as a member of the public to understand what is involved before committing.

The organisers of the recent car boot sale will be attending the November meeting to discuss their future plans, including traffic management.

The street sign at Roselyn Crescent was lying flat on the grass, and it was believed to have been knocked over by Magna Housing when the grass was recently cut. Clerk to write to Magna to ask for sign to be reinstated.

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

No confidential matters to discuss.

25.57 Date of next meeting – Wednesday, 12th November 2025 at 7.00pm

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

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