

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday, 9th September 2026 at 7.00pm in Alweston Village Hall

Present:

Cllr D.Cuff (Chair), Cllr A.Harris, Cllr T.Rolls, Cllr J. Crocker, Cllr P Elsworth,
Cllr P Bennett.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllr S. Adams.

In attendance:

Cllr Robin Legg, Dorset Councillor
Parish Clerk, Penny Pitcher

26.44 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Cllr S Adams sent apologies, which were accepted by the Council

26.45 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.

26.46 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 8th July 2026 are a true and accurate record

The minutes of the meeting of 8 July 2026 were agreed as a true and correct record and signed by Cllr Cuff as Chair. After the Chair had signed the minutes an error was found in paragraph 26.35, which should read as PC Matt Robinson.

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

A member of the public raised an issue relating to defibrillator training which had been noted in the minutes of the 14 January 2026 meeting, but to date no training had been provided. This had become an issue because the defibrillator had recently been taken out of the cabinet in order to use on a member of the public. Although in the event the defibrillator was not used, the person who retrieved it from the cabinet and those needing to administer first aid to the casualty had received no training in its use. There was also an issue in that the defibrillator cabinet was locked, and the person sent to retrieve it was unaware of the unlock code. The defibrillator pads required replacement following these events and the member of the public wanted to ensure that the relevant persons were made aware of this.

Cllr Harris explained that the Golf Club were arranging the defibrillator training, and he would chase this up.

Cllr Cuff advised that the unlock code was pinned to the noticeboard inside the village hall, was also pinned to the noticeboard on the wall adjacent to the defibrillator, and on the defibrillator cabinet were printed instructions to dial 999, give the location, and the emergency services would provide the code.

Cllr Cuff explained that following use, an email is sent to the registered owners informing them of its use and informing them that the pads will need to be replaced. Cllr Cuff had already replaced the pads, and ensured the defibrillator was recharged and ready for use. Cllr Cuff thanked the member of the public for raising these issues, and he was pleased that the defibrillator had been available for use.

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

26.48 Issues arising from the last meeting – Clerks Report

- Correspondence had been received from a parishioner, who had visited the play park at Stourton Caundle, and asked if the parish council could consider this as an good example, and liaise with Stourton Caundle parish in relation to the supplier and the costs involved. The correspondence was discussed later in the meeting under item 26.49.
- Sign re dogs on lead on playing field. Already in situ was a small sign saying “No Dogs”. Cllr Cuff would order a new sign stating that dogs must be kept on a lead. Also the bin had not been emptied since the car boot sale.
- Signage along Mundens Lane advising the road was not suitable for large vehicles. Cllr Legg agreed to follow this up.
- Martyn’s Law discussion with car boot sale committee. This item was on the agenda for discussion at the Easter 2027 meeting of the car boot sale committee.

26.49 Replacement play park equipment

A goal net had been donated to the play park, Cllr Harris will place this in the field and secure it with sockets. Cllr Harris confirmed the mowing contractor will strim around the socket when grass cutting the field.

Cllr Cuff informed the meeting he had contacted the clerk at Stourton Caundle, who advised the play equipment cost £30,000. A local resident there had spent a lot of time applying for grants, and the village had also benefited from a generous donation.

Cllr Ebsworth had researched two possible options for play equipment, and these were costed at over £30,000 plus VAT.

Cllr Cuff circulated information from Wickey Leisure, a German company who supply play equipment in kit form. Cllr Cuff has ensured the play equipment meets current UK standards. Cllr Cuff suggested the council purchase one of the kits and erect the equipment with local expertise. There would be a requirement to dismantle the current equipment, enlarge the current safety area, insert sockets into the ground and have the equipment inspected by RoSPA Playsafety before use. The cost of the equipment and delivery would be in the region of £5,000.

Cllr Cuff asked whether the tennis court monies the Council is holding could be used towards the cost of the proposed play equipment. Cllr Rolls agreed this would be an acceptable use of the tennis court monies.

Use £5,000 of tennis court monies to purchase kit form play equipment – proposed Cllr Rolls – seconded Cllr Harris.

26.50 To receive a report from Dorset Council

Cllr Legg updated the meeting about the proposed village bus, which was scheduled to start on 22 September 2026. This date may be set back to allow for sufficient publicity of the scheme.

The service will cost £9.00 for a return journey, and £2.00 for the town service, eg stopping at the GP surgery. The town service will commence in November. Customers will need to book a ride the day before travel. It was planned to have a loop around Roselyn Crescent. The service will run for a six month trial period.

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

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

The faded road markings along the A road will be re-marked soon.

There was an incident of flytipping along Downs Lane. Cllr Cuff had already reported this via the Council website.

A Community Conversation will be held on Tuesday 13 October at 2.30 pm. This will be chaired by Naomi Mason of Dorset Council.

Boundary Commission proposal – the consultation period began on 1 September and ends on 9 November 2026.

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

None to report.

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

10/07/2026	Hugo Fox	Email Provision	£2.99
20/07/2026	Service charges	Bank service charge	£4.67
21/07/2026	P and R Pitcher	Travel for Clerk	£19.80
28/07/2026	Hugo Fox	Website Provision	£11.99
29/07/2026	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.10
10/08/2026	Hugo Fox	Email Provision	£2.99
18/08/2026	Service charges	Bank service charge	£4.25
28/08/2026	P and R Pitcher	Clerks salary August 2026	£137.90
28/08/2026	Hugo Fox	Website Provision	£11.99
01/09/2026	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£13.61

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

Cllr Cuff advised the meeting that the November meeting would include budget setting for the year 2027/28, and the council would need to raise the precept to ensure all financial commitments could be met.

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

No planning applications had been received by the clerk, but Cllr Legg had forwarded a planning application onto the Chair prior to the meeting. *Post meeting note: the clerk ascertained that Dorset Council planning department were using the old email address for Folke Parish Council. This has now been updated.*

26.54 Items of urgent nature subject to Chair's approval

Cllr Bennett had reported to Wessex Water the water running along Mundens Lane. There is uncertainty around whether this is a water leak or a natural spring.

Chair enquired whether the car boot committee would consider making a small donation towards the play park replacement equipment. Cllr Crocker would discuss with the committee.

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

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

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

No matters arising.

26.56 Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 11th November 2026 at 7.00pm

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

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