

Osmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 5th January 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Mrs S Miller (Chair), Cllr. Mrs H Ballard, Cllr Mr N Ireland (Dorset Councillor), Cllr Mr M Johnson, Cllr Mr B Kuflik, Cllr Mr J Little, Cllr Mr J Medrecki.

Also in attendance: Miss Leigh Johnson (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

1/26 Public Participation Time

- 1.1 A resident asked if the hedge was to be cut twice a year. It was confirmed that this was the case and this would be followed up.

2/26 Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

3/26 Declarations of Interest and Grants of Dispensation

Councillor Little declared an interest in agenda item 6.3 as a trustee of the village hall and remained in the meeting during the update.

4/26 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd November and 27th November 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following amendment;

03.11.2025 – 76.5 – “She also raised the matter of an article that had been published by Cllr Kuflik stating that some members of the parish council **appeared** to want to obtain ownership of the village hall and asked for evidence to support this statement”.

5/26 Planning Matters

The following planning decisions were noted:-

- 5.1 **P/HABR/2025/05972** – Ringstead Farm Access Road to Ringstead Dairy, Ringstead, DT2 8NF – Temporary campsite for up to 60 days between 22-31 May (10 days), 10-19 July (10 days) and 23 July – 31 August (40 days) – **Granted**.
- 5.2 **P/CLE/2025/04434** - Shortlake Farm House, Shortlake Lane, Osmington, DT3 6EF – Use of land as campsite including setting up and taking down – **Refused**.
- 5.3 There were no planning applications to be considered.

6/26 Parish Amenities

- 6.1 The Playing Field Officer provided a brief update regarding the play area and field. The new swings had been well received and more progress would be made in 2026 with other areas of the play area project. He agreed that he would speak to the grass contractor about the hedge cutting as well as the installation of the new perimeter hedge.

- 6.2 The Village Hall Officer provided an update regarding the amendment to the village hall lease. He had attended a meeting of the trustees where he was given a 15-minute slot to provide an update. He addressed anxieties and concerns that had been raised in relation to ownership of the village hall and stated that it was not the intention of the parish council to seek ownership. He also assured trustees that the terms of the lease would not be changed.

It was proving difficult to track the original copy of the lease and this had delayed matters further. The Treasurer of the village hall stated that he may have an original copy and would confirm this.

Due to conflicting legal advice and the lack of clear communications at times, the matter had not been resolved. It was now his intention to resolve the matter which would be sustainable and at as low a cost as possible.

Cllr Medrecki enquired as to whether or not the village hall trustees planned to go ahead with the patio area at the rear of the hall. He felt that due to the cost involved to date and the fact that it would provide a good asset for residents, it would be a shame if this wasn't progressed. The Treasurer of the village hall confirmed that the decision not to go ahead with the patio would be reviewed by the trustees.

Cllr Kuflik asked why a new lease was required as it was confirmed by the Clerk in 2024 that this was not necessary. Cllr Johnson confirmed that this was due to conflicting legal advice given at that time.

Cllr Ireland stated that the parish council should be represented at the Village Hall AGM and enquired if a date had been agreed for this. It was confirmed that this would be held on Tuesday 24th February 2026.

7/26 Highways and Rights of Way

- 7.1 The Chair informed members that she and Cllr Ballard had met with residents regarding the lack of access for fire service vehicles at Lower Church Lane. Several options were considered in relation to the wall, the steps and a storage area for fire safety equipment although no progress had been made to date. The creation of a ramp was discussed and this was dismissed as not a feasible solution. Further discussions would take place with the residents affected and an update would be provided at a future meeting.
- 7.2 The A353 Osmington 30mph speed limit consolidation order was noted.
- 7.3 Cllr Ireland provided an update regarding options for the pavement from Chapel Lane to Craig's Farm Dairy (on the north side of the road). Three options for improvements had been received from Dorset Council and further discussions would take place before any decisions were made.
- 7.4 The road closure had proved confusing for some motorists and additional signage had been requested.
- 7.5 The footpath from Ringstead to Ringstead Farmhouse needed to be cleared.
- 7.6 The fingerpost at Craig's Farm Dairy had been removed for repair.
- 7.7 The stile at Ringstead had now been repaired.

8/26 Finance

- 8.1 The cashbook balances, budget report and bank reconciliation were received and approved.
- 8.2 The Clerk provided a budget report and the budget for 2026/27 was approved.
- 8.3 After the consideration of the budget for 2026/27, members discussed the precept for this period.

It was **resolved** that the precept for 2026/27 be increased to £19,228.17. The Band D equivalent charge would remain the same.

- 8.4 It was **resolved** to approve the following payments: -

Community Heartbeat Trust – Annual emergency cellular phone rental	£72.00
Leigh Johnson – salary/expenses – November/December	£819.28
HMRC Tax – November/December	£124.60
SLCC – Annual subscription	£116.00

It was **resolved** to retrospectively approve the following payment/s made in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.1.

Unity Trust – bank charges for October, November and December	£18.00
Playdale – 50% final payment for swings	£6,932.28

9/26 Council Matters

- 9.1 Cllr Little provided an update regarding the Community Emergency Response Plan and members noted that the next meeting of the group would be held on 20th January. He had taken part in a useful meeting with Dorset Council and informed members that the DAPTC would be taking on the co-ordinating role for emergency plans from April. New volunteers would also be welcomed.
- 9.2 Members considered an IT Policy circulated by the Clerk. This was a requirement for Assertion 10 of the Annual Audit and Governance Accountability Return. Cllr Johnson felt that the policy was not the right fit for the parish council and agreed to draft a new policy.
- 9.3 Members considered the Recording of Meetings Policy and it was **resolved** to approve the policy.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm.

Chairman

Date