

Draft Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council (V1)

Monday 23 March 2026

Magna Community Room

Present: Cllrs, Nuttall (Chair), Fitzgerald, Hutchings, Walker, Pemberton, Eversden

Apologies: Cllrs Hosford

Democratic Period:

A parishioner expressed concern about the increasing amount of litter in the village and surrounding lanes. They described:

- Significant litter on the road to Hardy's Monument.
- Rubbish blown from recycling bins during storms.
- A lack of organised litter-picking beyond Dorset Council's pre-cutting clearance.

They explained they had begun litter-picking independently and proposed a volunteer-based "adopt a road" system. He emphasised he did not wish to organise large group events and was not seeking council funding, as equipment was inexpensive.

Cllr Nuttall suggested Facebook for volunteer recruitment; the parishioner expressed reluctance but acknowledged its reach. Safety concerns were raised, particularly avoiding litter-picking on the carriageway.

Cllr Eversden reported persistent fast-food litter attributed to drivers visiting McDonald's and that he currently clears the area informally.

Cllr Walker suggested that the high-visibility vests from the former Speed Watch group may still exist and could be repurposed.

A representative from Hardy Half marathon requested permission to use the village green on Sunday 7 May to facilitate event support and confirmed:

- Coordination with the church to avoid service clashes.
- Use of the church water point.
- Traffic management plans, including marshals for occasional vehicle access.

There were no objections from the Cllrs, but Cllr Nuttall requested their risk assessment must be submitted before approval.

A parishioner thanked Cllr Marsh for recent work on the ditch outside their property.

A parishioner asked to speak during the Washpool agenda item.

230/2025 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Nuttall declared a non-pecuniary interest in the co-option item due to knowing one candidate through a charity group.

231/2025 Dorset Cllr report

None received.

232/2025 Police report

This was circulated to all Cllrs with one item relating to the village, a suspicious van driving along farm tracks.

233/2025 Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 25 February 2026

It was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Hutchings that these minutes with the following amendment should be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Agreed with two abstention (Cllrs Pemberton/Eversden) – RESOLVED

Page 2, 220/2025, add, b) On-line planning register to go live on website from 1 April 2026

234/2025 To consider applications for co-option to the parish council and resolve to appoint

Cllr Nuttall advised the two candidates that there is currently only one vacancy on the council and asked them both to give a brief supporting statement.

Candidate 1:

- Resident since 2009; children grew up in the village.
- Professional background in project management.
- Keen to contribute now that work commitments have reduced.
- Priorities: improving footpaths, addressing litter, maintaining village character.

Candidate 2:

- Longstanding connection to the village; returned three years ago.
- Runs a small flock of sheep and manages a large farm professionally.
- Practical and organisational skills.
- Strong interest in drainage, ditches, and watercourse management.

Cllr Nuttall thanked them both and the following questions were asked to both.

Views on development -

Both candidates acknowledged development is inevitable and must be managed sensitively.

Candidate 1 emphasised “organic growth” and protecting green spaces; Candidate 2 emphasised community involvement and ensuring development respects village character.

The Cllrs then voted using a written vote which resulted in a tie, Cllr Nuttall asked Cllrs if they wished to change their vote. None did, so after two successive votes, it was proposed by Cllr Pemberton and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald that the Chair should use his casting vote. All agreed.

The final vote saw Mrs Vikki Andrews being co-opted.

235/2025 Action points from last minutes

- a) 221/2025 – Cllr Nuttall to contact parishioner regarding the rotation of the SID – Next agenda
- b) 221/2025 – Cllr Walker to contact Dorset Council Countryside Ranger – Awaiting response from Ranger
- c) 221a/2025 – Cllr Nuttall to raise motion for next meeting regarding the land at Wash Pool – Agenda item
- d) 221c/2025 – Clerk to contact Highways for an update – The Clerk advised that she keeps missing Cllr Tarr to discuss but that Dorset Council requested the amount the parish is willing to contribute. Councillors agreed they cannot commit funds without cost estimates. The Clerk will continue to pursue this.

236/2025 Finance

- a) Approval of schedule of payments & bank reconciliation

These were checked and approved by Cllr Walker.

- b) To review and adopt the updated Financial Regulations

The Clerk had circulated the draft document prior to the meeting, and a discussion took place which included:

- Need to reinstate quarterly budget monitoring.
- Concern that the Clerk's draft spending authority (£1,000) was too high.
- Agreement that Chair + Clerk joint approval should be reinstated.
- Clarification required on the Memorial Hall's trust status and separation of funds.

Action: Clerk to produce revised draft.

237/2025 Planning

- a) Decision Notices – For Information

P/TRC/2026/00615 - Land Opposite the Brewers Arms Martinstown - T1 Willow - Reduce crown by up to 7m, slightly beyond the previous reduction points and reshape - Decision: Tree Works - CA – Acceptable - Decision Date: 27/02/2026

P/FUL/2025/07358 - Ballarat Farm Martinstown - Demolish existing building and construct new storage barn - Decision: Granted - Decision Date: 02/03/2026

P/PIP/2025/07082 - Land West of Dukes Close Martinstown - Erection of a detached dwelling - Decision: Refused - Decision Date: 26/02/2026

238/2025 Updates on: Highways, ROW and SID/Allotments/Flood, Stream and Riverbanks/Washpool/Grounds

Cllr Walker reported the following.

Highways

- Flooding at village entrance has subsided.
- Meeting scheduled with Wessex Water and Green Martinstown regarding sewage issues.
- Pump on highway still requires removal; Cllr. Walker to follow up.

Rights of Way

- Overgrown path near Stevens Farm has been cleared.
- Dangerous stile near church still awaiting Dorset Council action.

Allotments

Discussion included:

- A tenant vacated two plots and requested deposit return. Records unclear; deposits may have been offset against second-year rent.
- Another tenant wishes to take over the plots.
- One outstanding rent payment remains unpaid.

Action: Clerk to investigate deposit records

- a) Area around Wash Pool. Discussion of obtaining lease of land adjacent.

Motion:

To set in train process of arranging Parish Council lease of land adjacent to wash pool on 99-year lease and costs of approximately £600/700 for solicitors costs.

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall and Seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald

A discussion took place regarding this motion.

Arguments in favour:

- The parish council would gain clear responsibility and control for maintenance and improvement.
- The arrangement mirrors the existing lease for the village green.
- The Chair noted that attempts to establish ownership through the Land Registry had been unsuccessful.
- Leasing provides legal clarity, enabling grant applications and long-term planning.

Concerns raised:

- Legal status:

Cllr. Hutchings questioned whether the land is legally manorial waste without a formal claim. The Lord of the Manor stated no claim was required.

Legal representation:

Several councillors and parishioners questioned whether the Lord of the Manor's solicitor could act for both parties. The Chair agreed this required clarification.

Parishioners referenced past land issues and urged caution.

- Alternative options:

Councillors acknowledged the complexity of manorial law and the need for clarity. The Chair emphasised practicality and the long-term benefit of securing control of the land.

A vote took place on the motion which resulted in 3 in favour, 3 against. Chair used casting vote in favour with the decision to proceed with the lease process. Resolved. Chair to seek clarification on legal independence.

Cllr. Hutchings and Cllr Eversden requested their objection and request for independent legal advice be minuted.

- b) Footpath on land east end of village update

No further update as discussed in actions from last meeting.

238/2025 Update on Wessex Water/Green Martinstown liaison group from Cllr's Walker/Hutchings

A meeting has been arranged, will update at next meeting.

239/2025 V & V

It was agreed that Cllr Nuttall would provide the next update.

240/2025 Village Hall Trustee

Cllr Pemberton gave the following update.

- Activities increasing (pickleball, arts, craft workshops).
- New playground equipment installed; official opening planned.

241/2025 Memorial Hall

Cllr Nuttall advised the group are awaiting Lloyds Bank to add new signatories.

Cllr Nuttall attempted to install a new lock but will instead install a locking bolt.

242/2025 DAPTC

- a) Statement of Reasonable Expectations (SoRE) – advise Cllrs to read ahead of April's meeting

The Clerk advised that DAPTC are looking for feedback on the statement.

- b) New monthly Climate and Webinar Series designed specifically for town and parish councils across Dorset – To consider Cllrs attendance

The Clerk asked if any of the Cllrs are interested in joining. At this stage nobody has the capacity.

243/2025 Staffing Committee

Cllr Hutchings advised they are still waiting response from DAPTC regarding appraisal forms.

244/2025 Change of dates and venue for future Parish Council meetings

Council agreed to trial Monday evening meetings in the Village Hall for six months.

245/2025 External correspondence received

- a) Rainbarrow Farm meeting update – Cllr Marsh

Next agenda due to Cllr Marsh being absent.

- b) Consultation on the potential for wild beaver release in the River Hooke and Frome Catchment, Dorset

No action.

- c) Request for use of the Village Green for Hardy Half event

This was discussed during the democratic period.

- d) Army Embarkation Event (21 June)

Cllr Nuttall advised that the risk assessment has been received.

Council approved the event but noted need for improved marshalling to avoid blocking residents.

246/2025 Parish Matters

Parishioners reiterated concerns about the Washpool including.

- Legitimacy of manorial rights
- Past land disputes
- Risk of unnecessary legal costs

Parishioners raised concerns about speeding and lack of footpath. It was agreed this requires a full agenda item.

A parishioner enquired about the Electric Vehicle Charging Point still not being operational. Clerk to follow up with Highways.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.49pm with notice that the next meeting will be the April meeting which will be held on Monday 27 April 2026, 1900hrs at Martinstown Village Hall.