

Draft Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council (V1)

Wednesday 25 February 2026

Magna Community Room

Present: Cllrs, Nuttall (Chair), Fitzgerald, Hosford, Hutchings, Walker, Marsh

Apologies: Cllrs Pemberton, Eversden

Democratic Period:

A parishioner presented a “radical solution for prevention of flooding in the village”, proposing creation of a bunded lake upstream to regulate Winterbourne water levels.

A similar successful scheme in Highcliffe was referenced.

The land between Martinstown and Winterborne Steepleton was suggested as suitable and potentially profitable (fishing, leisure, hydroelectric).

Cllr Nuttall advised that the Parish Council has limited authority; any such scheme would require Wessex Water, Dorset Council, and landowner consent.

Cllr Nuttall invited the parishioner to join the flood liaison working group with Green Martinstown and Wessex Water.

A parishioner raised concerns about a silted ditch opposite the Brewers pub advising that water from their pump drains into this ditch; if blocked, their property risks flooding.

It is assumed that responsibility is likely split between Dorset Council Highways and the riparian owner.

Cllr. Marsh volunteered to inspect the ditch and liaise with relevant parties.

214/2025 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Marsh declared an interest in item 9c)

215/2025 Dorset Cllr report

None received.

216/2025 Police report

This was circulated to all Cllrs.

217/2025 Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 28 January 2026

It was proposed by Cllr Hutchings and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald that these minutes with the following amendments should be accepted as a true record of the meeting. All agreed with one abstention (Cllr Marsh) – RESOLVED

Page 5, 205/2025, last sentence, remove ‘All agreed’

Page 7, 209/2025, include the following as last sentence, ‘Cllr Hosford co-opted onto the Working Group’

218/2025 Action points from last minutes

- a) 204/2025 – Budget Working Group to make changes to cost codes

Clerk updated cost codes in Scribe.

Budget Working Group to meet in March to review Scribe ahead of new financial year.

- b) 206/2025 – Cllr Walker to contact Highways regarding the discharging of water onto the highway
Highways contacted regarding water discharge; no response yet.

219/2025 Finance

- a) Approval of schedule of payments & bank reconciliation

It was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Nuttall that with the following amendments to the payment schedule, these are a true reflection of payments made and upcoming.

Martinstown Cricket Club, include S137 £500, CIL contribution £2500
Martinstown WI, replace CIL contribution with S137

RESOLVED

220/2025 Planning

- a) Decision Notices – For Information

P/PABA/2026/00355 - Land off Dukes Close Martinstown - Erect portal framed agricultural storage building
- Decision: Prior Approval Not PD - Decision Date: 17/02/2026

P/HOU/2025/07399 - Limbury Weymouth Road Martinstown - Installation of a new dormer window on northwest elevation. Install double doors and create terrace to northwest elevation
Decision: Granted - Decision Date: 03/02/2026

P/HOU/2025/07216 - 28 Cowleaze Martinstown - Demolish garage and porch. Erect rear extension, new porch and car port. Erect retaining wall and landscaping works
Decision: Granted - Decision Date: 16/02/2026

221/2025 Updates on: Highways, ROW and SID/Allotments/Flood, Stream and Riverbanks/Washpool/Grounds

Cllr Walker has reported a request to Dorset Council to replace hazardous stile behind the church.

It was noted the SID has not been rotated recently which goes against the agreement with Dorset Council. Cllr Nuttall agreed to speak with the parishioner who had volunteered to manage the device.

Action: Cllr Nuttall

Cllr Walker to investigate replacing footpath signs with traditional wooden fingerposts.

Following an email received from Dorset Council's Countryside team, the Parish Council are supportive of a rolling programme.

Cllr Walker will respond to the Dorset Council Ranger and coordinate with Chair and Cllr Marsh.

Action: Cllr Walker

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

A discussion on obtaining a lease for unregistered land around the wash pool took place and the key points raised were:

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- Land is manorial waste; a parishioner with manorial rights can claim rights and lease to the council.
- Estimated legal cost: £600–£700.
- Benefits: control over maintenance, tree works, amenity improvements.
- Concerns raised about insurance and liability.

Cllr Marsh asked if nobody owns it then why pay legal costs, why not continue to do maintenance etc as is currently done.

Cllr Nuttall explained that any other parishioner could attempt to claim the land as has happened elsewhere in the village and in his view the Parish Council should be the proper custodian of this area.

No decision taken, general support and councillors to consider options. Cllr Nuttall to bring a formal motion next meeting.

Action: Cllr Nuttall to provide motion for next agenda

b) Update on Willow tree pollarding

Hardy Trees has been appointed to carry out the works. Currently awaiting conservation area consent; work expected mid–late March.

c) Footpath on land east end of village update

Cllr Hosford has been liaising with Dorset Cllr Tarr who has suggested CIL funding. An idea of overall costs needs to be presented before committing to using CIL finds.

A possible extension to the initial proposal should be considered to improve pedestrian safety.

Clerk to check with Highways team for updates.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways

222/2025 Update on Wessex Water/Green Martinstown liaison group from Cllr's Walker/Hutchings

A meeting is yet to be arranged.

223/2025 V & V

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

224/2025 Village Hall Trustee

In Cllr Pemberton's absence, Cllr Nuttall gave the following update.

New activities: table tennis, pickleball, carpet bowls.

- Online booking system now in use.
- Plans for improved key entry system.
- Playground: new equipment installed; adult fitness equipment also added.

A brief discussion took place regarding moving parish council meetings to the hall as it is more welcoming and comfortable. However, due to the popularity of the hall, Monday evenings appears to be the only weekday evening available.

225/2025 Memorial Hall

- a) Review of proposal to add further signatures to existing Reading Room account

Cllr Nuttall updated the council with the ongoing issue of the funds held in a Lloyds account which is inaccessible due to dormant signatories.

The Working Group have a proposed solution, adding Cllrs Hosford, Nuttall and Fitzgerald as new signatories.

Application to be submitted and the long-term plan, if the application is successful is to rotate signatories as council membership changes.

226/2025 DAPTC

Nothing to report.

227/2025 Staffing Committee

Nothing to report.

228/2025 External correspondence received

Cllr Nuttall and the Clerk had received an email from a parishioner concerned with the Washpool sign which had disappeared but since the email it is now back and looks like some maintenance has been carried out on the frame.

229/2025 Parish Matters

No additional matters raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.07pm with notice that the next meeting will be the March meeting which will be held on Monday 23 March 2026, 1900hrs at Martinstown Village Hall.