

Draft Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council

Wednesday 26 November 2025

Magna Community Room

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

Apologies: Clerk

10 Members of the public present.

Democratic Period:

Chairman introduced members of the Council.

The Chairman informed the meeting that as 3 clear days' notice of the budget paper had not been published on the website, no formal decision will be reached tonight. The vote will be taken at the next meeting, but discussion can take place at tonight's meeting.

Since the meeting, the Clerk & Chair has sought advice from the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive at DAPTC.

DAPTC had been led to believe, by a councillor, that the agenda for Mondays Extraordinary meeting (8th December 2025) had not been published with three clear days' notice to the public. This was incorrect. The agenda had been placed on the web page and on the public notice board within the correct notice period.

As a result, the information DAPTC supplied was incorrect. The meeting was lawful, even though the budget proposal was not put placed on the web page. This confirms the clerk's original advice was correct.

However, it has been customary, over several years, for the parish council to publish the budget proposal on the web page and on the noticeboard with the agenda and we did not do that. Cllr Nuttall has apologised for this.

Please be assured that for the next meeting the meeting papers and in particular the proposed budget will be available in advance of the meeting.

A parishioner expressed concerns regarding flooding concerning the proposed development application to be considered at Agenda Item 5. This will exacerbate existing problems with drains and sewage. It is dangerous to walk on the road with no footway, and the appearance of the building does not fit with existing buildings. The parishioner would have no objection if these concerns were addressed.

A parishioner expressed the view that the budget papers should have been published 3 days before the meeting, this has always been custom and practice for this Council. The Chair accepted that this was the case and apologised on behalf of the Council.

A parishioner noted that the second largest item on the budget is stream clearance and in their view this is not the responsibility of the parish council, precept payers are not responsible for stream clearance unless they are riparian owners. It was accepted that some owners are not able to undertake clearance themselves, but Magna should be doing theirs and this should not be included in the parish council contract.

Cllr Marsh agreed to contact Magna Housing to liaise with them regarding their responsibility and the timing of their portion of the work as this year they had come to undertake the work after the parish council's contract work had been completed.

A discussion followed regarding funding of stream clearance. The parish council has no effective powers to enforce riparian owners or charge them; it is however in the wider interest of the village to keep the stream clear. Dorset Council Highways are no longer clearing their half.

A parishioner queried allotment income as it was noted that this is included in Other Income.

1. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Marsh and Hutchings declared an interest in the planning application item.

Cllr Fitzgerald declared an interest in the Cricket Club item.

2. 2026/2027 Budget and Precept setting

It was advised that the highest cost is staff wages and NI. There are also costs associated with the Memorial Hall – standing charge for electricity and insurance. Maintenance costs for Garage which needs repair. Budget for potential costs for elections reduced from £2,000 to £200 pa – elections reserve has £2,500 in it and this will build and be available to fund the next full election.

Cllr Hutchings asked how the carry over figure had been arrived at and an explanation was given.

The proposed precept is higher because stream clearance has previously been paid out of CIL funds. A discussion followed regarding the use of CIL money vs Revenue to fund stream clearance.

3. Martinstown Cricket Club

Motion: a donation of £2,500 from CIL reserves to support the cricket club upgrade.

Proposed by Cllr Hutchings and Seconded by Cllr Walker

Following a discussion, it was agreed that due diligence was needed, and the council should ask for more information regarding funding received to date and accounts from the Cricket Club before a decision can be made.

Further discussion took place about the need to link CIL expenditure to demands created by new development and the desirability of public consultation on how the money is spent. It was also recognised that the money can be reclaimed by Dorset Council if it is not spent within 5 years.

Further discussion and a decision to take place at the next meeting.

A parishioner reminded the council that the telephone box is a village asset, and it will need some maintenance in the near future.

4. Planning consultation

P/PIP/2025/07082 - Land West of Dukes Close Martinstown - Erection of a detached dwelling

Cllr Hutchings took no part in the discussion having declared an interest.

Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Eversden that this application should be not supported due to increased pressure on drainage infrastructure.

All Agreed with Cllr Hutchings & Marsh abstaining. Resolved

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm with notice that the next meeting will be the extra-ordinary, date to be confirmed and the next full council meeting will be the January meeting which will be held on Wednesday 28 January 2026, 1900hrs at Magna Community Room.

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