

Osmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 2nd March 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 and Cllr Mr J Medrecki.

Also in attendance: Miss Leigh Johnson (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

10/26 Public Participation Time

10.1 A resident stated that it would have been beneficial to publish the new email address on the hub. It was agreed that this would be added.

It was noted that although the hedges had been cut, the tops had not. Cllr Medrecki would follow this up.

It was also asked why only one row of plants had been put in with the new fence at the playing field when usually two lines were planted diagonally. The Chair agreed and would follow this up.

10.2 A resident thought that the installation of a new fence at the playing area had reduced the size of the site and may affect the village fete fundraiser. Cllr Medrecki responded that the nettles had been pushed back and little space had been lost.

11/26 Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

12/26 Declarations of Interest and Grants of Dispensation

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

13/26 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14/26 Planning Matters

14.1 There were no planning decisions to note.

14.2 There were no planning applications to be considered.

15/26 Parish Amenities

15.1 The Playing Field Officer provided a brief update regarding the play area and field. He was aware of comments that had been made regarding the new fence and informed those present that the fence would weather in and blend in with its surroundings over time.

Comments had been received regarding new smaller goals for 5-a-side football and quotes would be sought for this. It may be possible to obtain grant funding for this.

The play area improvement project continued and it was suggested that a consultation be undertaken to find out what equipment residents would like to see at the play area. Again, grant funding would be explored to deliver this.

15.2 There were no reports from other officers.

15.3 The Village Hall Officer provided an update regarding the amendment to the village hall lease. Many avenues had been explored to locate the original deeds to no avail. If the original deed could not be located a new one would need to be raised. Until this time, little progress could be made.

At the village hall AGM, a trustee was appointed as a liaison officer to the parish council. Cllr Johnson would make contact shortly.

16/26 Highways and Rights of Way

16.1 The Chair informed members that she and Cllr Ballard had met with residents, the fire service and Dorset Council regarding the fire access at Lower Church Lane. It was confirmed that a storage unit would not be temporary and would be quite large so this option was ruled out. The fire service had agreed to explore the possibility of deploying one of its land rovers closer to Weymouth and conduct a tactical practice exercise to test this proposal.

Cllr Ireland informed members that he had spoken to the South West Ambulance Service and they had no concerns regarding access at this location.

16.2 The roadworks along the A353 were nearing completion.

16.3 The Chair had received an email regarding a stile near to Osmington Mills campsite. The area mentioned did not have a stile only an opening which people used to cut through to the road.

17/26 Finance

17.1 The cashbook balances, budget report and bank reconciliation were received and approved.

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

The Cumbria Clock Company	£234.00
WWCS – installation of fence	£1907.87
WWCS – grass cutting 3 rd quarter	£415.50
Weymouth Town Council	£113.40
Osmington Village Hall – hire for January and March	£40.00
Leigh Johnson – clerk’s salary and expenses for January and February	£855.78
HMRC – tax for January and February	£131.80
Defib Supplies – pads for village hall defib	£81.54
Osmington PCC – churchyard maintenance contribution	£500.00

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

Unity Trust – bank charges for January and February	£12.00
HugoFox – email fee for January and February	£5.98
Dorset Council – waste collection from January to March	£242.19

- 17.3 Members considered a number of documents prepared by The Clerk in readiness for the annual audit of the financial year 2025/26.

It was **resolved** that;

- (a) The Council's Risk Assessment be approved for consideration by the internal auditor;
- (b) The Council's Asset Register be approved for consideration by the internal auditor;
- (c) The Internal Controls be noted; and
- (d) Paula Harding of Barker Fox be appointed as Internal Auditor for the financial year 2025/26.

- 17.4 The annual contribution towards the churchyard maintenance was discussed and it was **resolved** to increase the payment to £500.00. This would be reviewed annually.

18/26 Council Matters

- 18.1 Members noted the dates of future meetings and it was agreed that both the APM (Annual Parish Meeting) and the AGM (Annual Meeting of the Council) would be held on Saturday 9th May 2026 in the main hall of the village hall. It was **resolved** to approve a budget of up to £40.00 to provide cream teas and refreshments for the meetings.

- 18.2 It was **resolved** to approve the IT Policy.

- 18.3 Members considered a draft copy of guidelines for the use of social media. This would be discussed at a future meeting.

- 18.4 Members agreed that it would be beneficial to change their email addresses to "work" addresses similar to that of the new email address for The Clerk.

- 18.5 Cllr Johnson suggested that an induction pack be compiled which would contain policies and useful information for new councillors.

- 18.6 It was noted that the DAPTC AGM would be held on Saturday 30th May 2026.

- 18.7 The Chair informed members that Jeff Little had resigned as a councillor with immediate effect and she had thanked him for his service to the parish council. The Clerk informed members that a Notice of Vacancy would be published on 4th March and outlined the process to call an election or for the vacancy to be co-opted.

Members would look at any gaps that may have been left by Jeff Little's resignation, especially with regard to resilience within the community.

- 18.8 The Chair stated that a new bin was needed at Osmington Mills. The large bin had worked well during peak periods in 2025 and it was hoped that sponsorship could be found for this. A resident agreed that she would approach Hall and Woodhouse regarding this.

The meeting ended at 8.03pm.

Chairman

Date