

FOLKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Wednesday, 12th November 2025 at 7.00pm in Alweston Village Hall

Present:

Cllr David Cuff, Chair
Cllr Stuart Adams
Cllr David Crothers
Cllr Meg Crothers
Cllr Andy Harris
Cllr Trevor Rolls
Cllr Mike Lugg

In attendance:

Cllr Robin Legg, Dorset Councillor
Parish Clerk, Penny Pitcher
Four members of the public

Apologies

None

25.58 To receive and accept apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

25.59 Declarations of pecuniary and other interests in relation to the agenda

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests in relation to the agenda.

25.60 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 10th September 2025 are a true and accurate record

The minutes of the meeting of 10 September 2025 were agreed as a true and correct record and signed by Cllr Cuff as Chair.

25.61 Matters raised by members of the public (15 minutes)

A member of the public raised the issue of Mundens Lane, with overgrown hedges and obstructive parking making the lane difficult to negotiate by car. After discussion it was agreed that the council would write to the residents of Mundens Lane to ask them to trim the hedges, and to be mindful of car parking, Chair to write to Sherborne Castle Estate about the garages.

25.62 Issues arising from the last meeting

- Car boot sales – traffic management

Anne, Liz and Joseph attended to discuss concerns raised around the movement of traffic attending the popular car boot sales. A suggestion of using temporary fencing to funnel cars up the field, to ensure the traffic is not stationary along the main road, will be considered by the car boot organisers at their next meeting in February 2026. Cllr Harris agreed to attend this meeting.

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- Overgrown road signs – update

The situation with overgrown road signs had improved with the vegetation being cut back. This had revealed some of the signs were quite faded.

- Cllr Adams – replacement costs for bench

Cllr Adams advised a new bench would cost in the region of £200. It was proposed that the council purchase the bench from Mole Valley.

Proposed: Cllr Adams
Seconded: Cllr Harris

- Cllr Adams – update on bank account signatory

Cllr Adams was still waiting to hear from Lloyds.

Post meeting note: Card reader, card and pin number sent to Cllr Adams via the Clerk address, Clerk has forwarded these items onto Cllr Adams.

- Hugo Fox “dot gov” email address – update

Clerk reported the new address will be clerk@folkeparishcouncil.gov.uk although this was not yet live.

- Playing field – Cllr Cuff to contact Porter Dodson re transfer of trustee

Cllr Cuff reported that the process of transferring trusteeship from himself and Cllr Adams would be a long winded and expensive process. Cllr Cuff advised parking this situation for the time being.

- Playing field – Cllr Cuff to obtain asset valuation for 2025/26 AGAR report

Cllr Cuff had arranged for a land agent to provide an asset valuation for the play park.

- Tennis courts – Cllr Harris to advise re pickleball and paddleball requirements

Cllr Harris advised that the different requirements for each sport e.g. height of net, would be too onerous to provide and recommended the courts remain for tennis use only.

- Siting of defibrillator

Cllr Cuff suggested the defibrillator be attached to the village hall as there was an electrical supply readily available. The defibrillator could be moved to an alternative venue at a later date. Cllr explained the two options of defibrillator the St John Ambulance recommend. It was agreed to purchase the Heart2 option at £1409 plus a second set of pads. A contribution towards the electricity costs for the village hall would also need to be made.

Proposed: Cllr Cuff
Seconded: Cllr Adams

- Street sign at Roselyn Crescent

The street sign at Roselyn Crescent had been reinstated.

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- Footpath maintenance

Cllr M Crothers reported that one of the footpath bridges had been closed and she had raised a concern with the council relating to access. Cllr Cuff will highlight the relevant bridge on a map and forward to Cllr Legg for reporting to the council.

25.63 Clerks Report

Clerk reported:

Management of tennis courts monies – Lloyds Banks had suggested the use of an Instant Access account, payments to be made via the community account. Agreed for Clerk to set up the Instant Access account for tennis court monies only

Clerk had attended the Clerks Conference, which was focussed on devolution and transferring responsibility for management of assets to Parish Councils, e.g. war memorials. Folke Parish Council have no assets that could be directly managed.

25.64 To receive report from Dorset Council

Cllr Legg advised the section of the A30 road by Bradford Abbas and Over Compton would have funding for average speed cameras to be provided.

Cllr Legg advised the CR5 bus on the Sherborne to Dorchester route, was being cut back to a school service only bus and would no longer run through Glanvilles Wooton. There is no other current bus service. Cllr Legg encouraged the council to consider whether an alternative could be provided, running once a week, requiring a contribution from each affected parish, which would be in the region of £300 - £400 every six months.

Chair indicated that the parish council would be generally supportive. Cllr Legg will approach the other affected parishes for their views.

Cllr Legg advised the monies available to spend by the Parish Council for the benefit of solely Folke and Alweston residents was very limited. Clerk will confirm the amount available per person at the next meeting.

25.65 To receive reports from Councillors attending meetings on behalf of the Parish Council

No reports were received.

25.66 Playing Field

The playing field had recently been inspected for safety by Play Safety Ltd, and the Clerk had previously circulated the report. The report stated that the multi-play had come to the end of its useful life. Cllr Cuff would provide a repair to make the equipment safe, and recommended it was replaced during 2026. When choosing the replacement equipment, Councillors were asked to consider which age group should be provided for. To be discussed at next meeting.

25.67 Prospective councillors

Due to Cllr D Crothers and Cllr M Crothers moving to Bournemouth, and thus having to resign from the parish council, there would be two vacancies on the parish council. Interested persons will be invited to attend the January 2026 meeting to ascertain whether they may be interested in joining.

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25.68 To receive a finance report and to agree actions in response to proposals and payment approvals

Councillors noted the below payments made under delegated powers by bank transfer out of Council:

19/09/2025	Service charges	Bank service charge	£4.25
29/09/2025	Hugo Fox	Website Provision	£11.99
29/09/2025	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.10
29/09/2025	Simon Williams	Fencing at play park	£830.00
20/10/2025	Service charges	Bank service charge	£4.25
28/10/2025	Hugo Fox	Website Provision	£11.99
29/10/2025	Microsoft	O365 Subscription Fee	£12.10
13/10/2025	Playsafety Limited	Playpark Inspection - RoSPA	£318.00

Clerk requested that the above payments as listed be sanctioned. **ALL IN FAVOUR.**

25.69 To receive the Budget Report and agree the Precept Proposal for 2026/27.

The budget report and precept proposal for 2026/27 had been previously circulated by the Clerk. The budget forecast had increased by 5% and it was proposed the precept be increased by 5% to cover these costs.

Proposed: Cllr Rolls
Seconded: Cllr Adams.

25.70 To determine a response to any planning applications received as listed below

None received.

25.71 Meeting schedule for 2026

The meeting schedule for 2026 was agreed.

25.72 Items of urgent nature subject to Chair's approval

Chair thanked Cllr M Crothers and Cllr D Crothers for their work with the parish council, and wished them well with their move closer to family.

25.73 Confidential Matters (public and press to leave the meeting)

No confidential matters to discuss.

25.74 Date of next meeting – Wednesday, 14th January 2026 at 7.00pm

There being no further business to be transacted the meeting closed at 20:30 hours

Chair.....Date.....