

Winterborne St. Martin Parish Meeting

23 May 2025

Martinstown Village Hall

29 Members of Public present.

Parish Cllrs present: Cllr Pemberton, Hutchings, Nuttall, Eversden, Newell, Walker

Edward Morello MP

1. Minutes of 2024 Parish meeting

These were agreed as a true record.

2. Update of Parish Matters

A discussion took place regarding CIL payments, how much and when does it need to be spent.

3. Community Asset Transfer

An update was given by a representative who had applied for a Community Asset, this is with Dorset Council's Climate Control team.

Concerns were raised regarding where the allotments will go. If agreements go ahead the benefits won't be seen for 3 – 4 years. Further meetings will be held when more information is received.

A question was asked if there is a plan B if solar farm doesn't happen. The representative responded stating the solar farm isn't the main part of the project as this will depend on the lease duration.

There is currently a display in the church.

4. Edward Morello MP

Edward Morello MP attended the meeting and advised the Parish of the following.

- It has been a year since the election, and it has been interesting in parliament with around 330 new MPs.
- Good to have different views especially the environmentalists.
- The big issue is money and how it filters down, causing Dorset Council to hand down some responsibilities.
- The Care sector is 60% of the council tax bill which will increase to 80% by the end of the decade.
- Local Councils in the Southwest are badly funded.

- Big campaign from the Liberal Democratic MP's concerning how expensive it is to deliver services in rural Britain compared to urban Britain. Bus finding got hit in Dorset, affects policing, council services. The finding model needs to change, and the Liberal Democrats are campaigning for this.
- The Liberal Democrats have a lot more power than they have ever had before.
- Work on principles of crime and policing has started.
- There is a private members bill on solar on new builds which will affect new building regulations.
- Accepted principles on net zero.
- Sewage/water pollution is being discussed, clean river action network. A meeting with the Environment Agency has been held where it was discussed how more time can be spent locally. There is a water monitoring group at Bridport which has been set up looking at West Bay.
- Mr Morello sits on the Foreign Affairs & National Security Committee.

The following questions were raised.

Q. Sewage – fining sewage companies has no effect.

A. They should be fined, it is important what happens to money, this should go back into the community and to those affected by the issue.

Q. What model are the Liberal Democrats looking at.

A. A workable model is to be presented. A Community Benefit company is being used which imposes rules on what can and can't be done. Effectively the shareholders aren't pulling the money.

Q. North of Dorchester housing proposals.

A. MP's have no influence on Planning; this is influenced by the Dorset Council Members.

The right houses in the right place for the right people are needed especially for first time/young buyers.

The wrong types of houses are being built in West Dorset, preference would be for the council to build.

70% of Dorset is natural landscape so majority of development sits outside of it.

5. Dorset Cllr Roland Tarr

Dorset Cllr Roland Tarr attended the meeting and gave the following update.

- Housing in Dorchester is the right place for development and Brewery Square is a good example.
Successful villages between Dorchester and Yeovil.

- Starting in August is an 8-week consultation on the County Plan which all are able to comment on.
- Sewage – Wessex Water are sealing drains, upstream flooding issues. Farmers are working with a group to solve flooding issues.
Hollows in chalk is what 's happening to reduce amount of water flooding the village. Work will commence in 2026 and will take 2 years to build.

The following questions were raised.

Q. Sad news about the reed beds, resolving by doing something that's past the village. It would be better to stop the sewage not the flooding.

Impact of environmentalists, what has been done.

- A. Climate change is discussed everywhere, and the solar bill has been adopted as principle.

Q. 1 in 8 16–24-year-olds are not in education/employment.

A. There are a lot of issues in West Dorset including transport links to Weymouth College/Kingston Maurward. University is discussed in schools more than apprenticeships.

There is a desire for young adults to earn money but how can these opportunities be given. Work needs to be done about putting more funding towards this.

There is a shortage of rental properties, lack of transport links including road network. All of these makes it difficult to attract people.

Dorset Council has an approach to economic growth.

Population of Dorset is getting older.

Q. Care homes – eventually 80% of council tax will be for care. There is a dilemma around care not being resolved, how do we get out of it?

A. The NHS is being staffed from overseas in low paid, hard work positions which is not attractive to young people. We need to pay more or keep taking lower paid personnel from overseas.

The care home delivery service is huge. Family connections are lost in care as families don't want to help.

Cllr Pemberton thanked Edward Morello MP and Dorset Cllr Roland Tarr for attending the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

