

**Minutes of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING of  
Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish Council  
Held 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7:30pm @ Parish Office, 6 Town Farm Workshops, Sixpenny Handley.**

Item		Action By
	<b>0 members present at the public open session</b>	
1850	<p><b>Attendance &amp; Apologies</b>            Cllr Simon Meaden (Chairman of the Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee)            Cllr James Reed (Chairman of the Parish Council)            Cllr Stuart McLean            Cllr Dave Adams            Cllr Robert Hassall</p> <p><b>Also in Attendance</b>            Ciona Nicholson (Clerk)</p> <p><b>Apologies</b>            Cllr Colin Taylor</p>	
1851	<p><b>Declarations of Interest &amp; Grants for Dispensation</b>            None</p> <p><b>The following members declare non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to:</b></p> <p>Cllr Colin Taylor – Pentridge Village Hall &amp; SH Village Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Woodcutt Scouts, CCIO            Cllr James Reed – Community Land Trust &amp; Item Speed-watch            Cllr Andy Turner – Community Land Trust &amp; Skate-park Project            Cllr Simon Meaden- 1<sup>st</sup> Woodcutt Scouts</p>	
1852	<p><b>Matters arising from the last F&amp;GP Parish Council Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026.</b></p> <p>No matters to report.</p>	
1853	<p><b>Play Area Matters &amp; Reports</b></p> <p>No weekly on-sight observations were reported. The monthly inspection was carried out by Cllr McLean who reported that the Play Area was in good order. The newly installed climbing frame was being used by lots of school children at the time of the inspection which was pleasing. The outstanding refurbishment works had also been completed.</p> <p>The PC are currently waiting for a response from the First School regarding the official opening.</p>	



	<p>Members discussed that merits of purchasing a new container to be positioned in the corner of the cricket pitch to store cricket equipment and junior goal posts.</p> <p>Clerk to contact Chairman of the Sports Association to discuss further.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>1856</b></p>	<p><b>Village Hall Matters</b></p> <p><b>Emergency Generator Update</b></p> <p>Clerk to contact DES to establish time limit on repairs to the generator, Hyundai are expected a call out visit to check the faulty sensors.</p> <p><b>Solar Panel System Update</b></p> <p>DES Engineer checked the status of the solar powered battery as it had previously been turned off due to excessive heat. No problems were found and the system was turned back on.</p> <p><b>Extract from the VH Tree Risk Assessment Report carried out by Nick Baxter MB Tree Consultancy on 20/3/26.</b></p> <p>T1 Ash Tree - Past crown lift. Thinning crown with very minor crown dieback on the western side. Minor deadwood but mostly over a low-use area. Located in a low-use area beside the pond. No action required.</p> <p>T2 Ash Tree - A suppressed crown leans over the pond. Adventitious shoots in the crown indicating very early symptoms of Chalara ash dieback but no obvious significant defects at this stage. Located in a low-use area beside the pond. No action required.</p> <p>T3 Ash Tree - Thin crown with early symptoms of Chalara ash dieback (Class 1) but no obvious significant defects at this stage. Crown leans away from the drive. Located in a low-use area beside the pond. No action required.</p> <p>T5 Beech Tree - Symmetrical crown. Past crown lift. No obvious significant defects. This tree has the potential to be a perfect specimen. No action required.</p> <p>T6 Rowan - Crown leans south. Past crown lift. No obvious significant defects. No action required.</p> <p>T4 Hybrid Black Poplar Tree (TPO)</p> <p>Surface roots on the western side have mower damage with minor localised decay but there is obvious healthy wound wood present indicating good vitality. The bank to the north-west has some minor soil erosion which has also exposed surface roots. A large surface root extends north-west which appears sound. The use of a sounding hammer indicates sound buttressing with no obvious basal decay. Past crown lift and all pruning wounds have healthy wound wood present which is a further indication of high vitality. The crown has once been reduced and anecdotal evidence suggests that it was last pruned 2-3 years ago. Healthy new shoots have since re-grown from the latest</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>

	<p>reduction, some lower adventitious shoots have also grown from greater sunlight into the lower/internal canopy. Tarmac parking bays to north on levels 600mm lower than the base of the tree. Protected by TPO SH/12 2004.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Regular pruning is required to maintain the reduced crown framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Reduce the crown to the previous pruning points in 12-18 months' time to maintain the reduced crown framework.</b></li></ul> <p>The recommendation is 'advisory' which is for general tree management rather than for immediate risk management purposes.</p> <p><b>Statutory Tree Protection</b></p> <p>The Hybrid Poplar is protected by a TPO; permission will be required from Dorset Council before the recommended works are carried out.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Members agreed to complete a tree works application to Dorset Council for the Hybrid Poplar and include a copy of the Tree Assessment Report.</p> <p><b>Village Hall / Laurel bank Boundary Trees</b></p> <p>The boundary line of trees between these properties was significantly reduced by the owner of Laurelbank before the tree survey was completed. The PC were intending to reduce the height and manage this area in much the same way and are therefore satisfied with the outcome. Some of the tree stumps will rot away and the others will continue to be managed by the PC.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>1857</p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scout litter pick due to take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March starting at the Village Hall at 10.00am. Ferndown Depot supplied litter-pickers, gloves and bags. Risk Assessment carried out was approved by members.</li><li>• A hand delivered request by local resident aged 5 was received earlier in the month. The beautifully drawn image of a tree represented a request to plant an evergreen tree in the play area in order to provide natural shade to families visiting on sunny days.</li></ul> <p>Members appreciated the effort made by such a young resident and agreed that there was limited shade available at the play area and so will continue to give the matter further consideration.</p> <p>Whilst planting a tree is a good way to provide shade it may not achieve a solution within a satisfactory timescale. Members didn't dismiss planting a tree especially as the children were happy to help nurture and water a new one, members discussed other pergola type structures as an option to provide shade.</p> <p>Carry the item forward to the next meeting.</p>	<p>JR DA Clerk</p>

<b>1858</b>	<b>Financial Matters &amp; Expenditure</b>  The RFO circulated to members prior to the meeting a report on finances to 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2026. Bank Reconciliation for signing; List of Receipts & Payments for scrutiny.  Members confirmed End of Year Reserves and Earmarking for 26/27.  <table><tr><td><b>Play Area</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>£10,000.00</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Highways</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>£8,000.00</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Property Maintenance</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>£25,000.00</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Community Transport</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>£11,000.00</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Election Costs</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>£4,000.00</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Community Planning</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>£10,000.00</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Community Activities/Sports</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>£10,000.00</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Land Acquisition</b></td><td style="text-align: right;"><b>£14,000.00</b></td></tr></table> Clerk to administrate payments, Scrutineer Cllr S McLean 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cllr C Taylor & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cllr Meaden to authorise payments.	<b>Play Area</b>	<b>£10,000.00</b>	<b>Highways</b>	<b>£8,000.00</b>	<b>Property Maintenance</b>	<b>£25,000.00</b>	<b>Community Transport</b>	<b>£11,000.00</b>	<b>Election Costs</b>	<b>£4,000.00</b>	<b>Community Planning</b>	<b>£10,000.00</b>	<b>Community Activities/Sports</b>	<b>£10,000.00</b>	<b>Land Acquisition</b>	<b>£14,000.00</b>
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Meeting Closed 8.40pm

**These minutes are to be signed by the Chairman after approval  
at the next Full meeting of the Parish Council.**

**Signed;..... 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish Council**

**Payments – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Date	Description	Receipts	Payment
05/03/2026	Dorset Council Rent	SO	484.00
05/03/2026	C Nicholson (February Salary Payment)	On-line	1,094.69
05/03/2026	Nest Pension Payment	DD	82.48
05/03/2026	Marc Hayward (x4 Litter bins)	On-line	30.00
05/03/2026	L J Tuckey (x4 Parish Office cleans)	On-line	30.00
05/03/2026	Reimbursement Robert Hassall (Replacement Parish Laptop)	On-line	681.23
05/03/2026	Reimbursement Robert Hassall (Downsman Publication)	On-line	36.64
05/03/2026	Reimbursement Robert Hassall (Shipment of SID to Germany)	On-line	79.00
05/03/2026	M Nicholson (x5 Sports Pavilion Cleans)	On-line	75.00
05/03/2026	On-line Playgrounds (Flat Swing seats)	On-line	70.80
05/03/2026	S Wallworth Electrical Services (Replacement Emergency Lighting)	On-line	132.00
05/03/2026	Complete Fire Services (Fire Risk Assessment Pavilion)	On-line	264.00
05/03/2026	Complete Fire Services (Supply & fit new fire panel)	On-line	762.00
05/03/2026	Alfie Burt Countryside Services (4th Quarter Grass Cutting)	On-line	1,000.00
05/03/2026	Alfie Burt Countryside Services (Maintenance Contract 25/26)	On-line	950.00
05/03/2026	Sixpenny Handley Allotments Reimburse x20 water meters	On-line	419.80
05/03/2026	NB Tree Management (Tree Risk Assessment VH Inc. TPO Poplar)	On-line	470.00
05/03/2026	Greenhams (Yellow Grit Bin - Recreation Ground)	On-line	208.66
05/03/2026	Andrew Hancock (2nd part of playground Refurbishment)	On-line	530.00
05/03/2026	C Nicholson (Reimburse Digital Support desk)	On-line	44.99
02/03/2026	Kinetico Watersoftener Service	DD	8.75
26/02/2026	Vodafone Broadband	DD	38.09
16/02/2026	Wessex Internet	DD	1.20
			-
	<b>March Total</b>		<b>7493.33</b>

To be submitted by the Clerk on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Scrutineer – Cllr S Mclean 1<sup>st</sup> On-line authorisation Cllr Meaden 2<sup>nd</sup> On-line authorisation Cllr Hassall

Scrutineer.....Date.....