

**Minutes of the FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of
Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish Council
Held at the Sixpenny Handley Parish Office on 27TH March 2025 @ 7:30pm.**

Item		Action By
	<p style="text-align: center;">1 member of the public open session present.</p> <p>Concerns were raised by a local resident regarding the future of Garston Wood after speaking to a representative of RSBP who believed that it is the RSPB's intention to divest themselves of the liability of Garston Wood within the next five years.</p> <p>Recently the wardens from Arne have erected several fenced off areas to monitor the health of the various areas so that it can be recorded and used as part of any transfer to an organisation.</p> <p>As a daily visitor to the wood he did not think that the RSPB are particularly good at looking after the wood and their deer management policy and by their own admission in front of the parish meeting in 2023, is a failure. They admit the boundary fence should not have been erected and would be removed.</p> <p>Questions raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When the four woods that comprise Garston Wood were transferred to the RSPB, in 1985, were there any constraints placed about future ownership / management?2. Can the Parish Council seek clarification from the RSPB as to their intentions and that they should bring these to the Parish Meeting this year?3. Will the council take an active interest in the future of this local amenity even to the point of designating as an asset of community value? The current state of the wood leaves a lot to be desired; it attracts visitors from quite a wide area and the public footpaths, which they have a duty to maintain, are, in places, a disgrace. <p>Parish comment: Communication received on 27/3/25 from Peter Robertson Senior Sites Manager, Dorset Reserves stated there appeared to be a misconception about the future of Garston Wood based on poor internal communication at HQ. He reassured the Parish Council that there were no immediate plans and that he would be happy to attend the public meeting to do a short presentation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish action: Clerk to invite RSPB to Annual Parish Assembly</p> <p>Local resident asked members for an update on a previous request to reduce speed limits along Dean Lane & unlawful parking of vehicles on grass frontage of houses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parish action: Clerk to contact Highways to establish speed survey costs and local consultation requirements. Aster Housing Association are aware of the unlawful parking.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>

1552	<p>Attendance & Apologies Cllr S Meaden (Vice Chairman) Cllr J Reed (Chairman) Cllr D Chick Cllr S McLean Cllr A Turner Cllr R Hassall</p> <p>Also in Attendance Mr Piers Brown (Chase Councillor) Mrs Ciona Nicholson (Clerk)</p> <p>Apologies Cllr I Mereweather Cllr D Adams Cllr C Taylor Cllr R Adams</p>	
1553	<p>Declarations of Interest & Grants for Dispensation</p> <p>Cllr SM has a continuation of a dispensation in item Penny Tap Licence.</p> <p>The following members declare non-pecuniary interests in matters relating to:</p> <p>Cllr Colin Taylor – Pentridge Village Hall & SH Village Hall 1st Woodcutt Scouts/CCIO Cllr James Reed – Community Land Trust & Community Speed-watch Cllr Andy Turner – Community Land Trust/Skate-park Fundraising Group/Sustainable Handley. Cllr David Adams – Sixpenny Handley Sports Facilities/ Allotment Association Cllr Rosalie Adams – Sixpenny Handley Village Hall / CCIO Cllr Simon Meaden – 1st Woodcutt Scouts/Allotment Association.</p>	
1554	<p>Dorset Council Cranborne Chase Councillor Piers Brown</p> <p>Blandford’s new Waste Management Centre – the facility will replace the existing site located on Blandford Heights. Construction of the new facility will be starting in February 2025 and be completed in Autumn 2026. Traffic management will be in place for the foreseeable time. The site selection as the preferred site due to location, accessibility and buildability.</p> <p>Grants available to businesses – applicants can apply to Dorset Council Shared Prosperity Funding. An opportunity for businesses to boost their productivity.</p> <p>Dorset Council acknowledged Lloyds Bank decision to close Blandford branch on 10th November 2025 as part of a wider plan by Lloyds banking to cut costs.</p> <p>Dorset Council has paused plans to introduce a £2.20 overnight car parking charges in their car parks but the Council is still considering introducing overnight permits for £50.00 per year.</p>	

1555	<p>Confirm the minutes of the last Full Parish Council Meeting held 27th February 2025.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting having been previously circulated to members were confirmed as correct was signed by the Chairman. <i>Unanimous</i></p>	
1556	<p>Matters arising from the last Full Parish Council Meeting held 27th February 2025.</p> <p>There was no response to the enquiry made to the Planning Case Officer regarding Frogmore Development's pedestrian entrance. Clerk to follow up with a second enquiry.</p>	Clerk
1557	<p>Confirm the minutes of the last F&GP Parish Council Meeting held 6th March 2025.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting having been previously circulated to members were confirmed as correct and was signed by the Chairman. <i>Unanimous</i></p>	
1558	<p>DAPTC Matters</p> <p>Cllr CT attended the meeting of the Eastern Region is on March 25th – report to follow.</p>	CT
1559	<p>Highways Matters</p> <p>Dorset Highways Enquiry 1278709 – Garston Wood pothole reported Dorset Highways Enquiry 1278710 – Garston Wood pothole reported Dorset Highways Enquiry 1278711 – Back Lane pothole reported</p> <p>Clerk to chase Frogmore Lane sump clearance request.</p> <p>The road from Horton to Wimborne has undergone significant strips of patching which has resulted in a very uneven surface camber. There is also a long standing road defect (a broken drainage cover) directly located in the carriageway that affects every vehicle. Cllr Brown to raise with Highways.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>PB</p>
1560	<p>Rights of Ways</p> <p>No matters to report.</p> <p>Members discussed the rise of dog behaviour related incidents in the parish and agreed to encourage the reporting of them to the County's Dog Warden.</p>	All
1561	<p>Sports Pavilion Matters</p> <p>The boiler flues and base plates have been repaired by Cllr Adams – this was done without prior consultation with Marsh Isaacs and therefore will not be signed off by the Company.</p> <p>Members appreciated Cllr Adams work and were pleased that the boilers were fixed. Members agreed to engage with a further local Plumbing Contractor for a second opinion and anticipate that the repairs can be signed off. Clerk to arrange an appointment.</p> <p>Members debated whether it was worth seeking a second opinion on the grounds that the boilers although old are still serviceable and for many years were hardly used and only since the introduction of the Penny Tap have there been used more regularly. It was agreed to install carbon monoxide alarms in the boiler room.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>DA</p>

	<p>Members continue to debate the future energy decisions for the building. As the energy efficiency project has evolved there have been many factors that have changed and will need to be considered – solar, insulation, heat pumps, new radiators, repaired boilers, venting, hot water cylinder, immersions and potential new boilers.</p>	Clerk/Pavilion Working Party
1562	<p>Village Hall Matters</p> <p>The VH Electrical Installation Condition Report highlighted urgent electrical works which have already been carried out.</p> <p>Further electrical remedial works have been recommended – quote for £955.00 to carry out the works.</p> <p>Clerk to request copy of the EICR and carry item over to F&GP for approval.</p> <p>VH Generator has been installed, internal works for the installation have also been completed. Clerk has alerted DES to the lack of security and weatherproofing of the unit.</p> <p>Commissioning day is scheduled for 4th April 2025. There will be a requirement for on-going health & safety checks. Clerk continue to liaise with VH Committee.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
1563	<p>Grass Cutting Contract Tenders 2025-26</p> <p>The Grass Cutting Contract tender invitations were sent out to the following businesses:</p> <p>Alfie Burt – Countryside Maintenance Stephen Harris - Wessex Grounds Works Stephen Merrick -Terraforma Bradley Kilshaw – Garden Maintenance</p> <p>Responses Wessex Ground Works declined to tender on this occasion but would like to be invited for the 2026-27.</p> <p>Terraforma – Did not submit a tender for 2025-26.</p> <p>Garden Maintenance – Did not submit a tender before the deadline of the 27th March. Clerk to forward a Maintenance Contract tender invitation.</p> <p>Decision With only 1 tender received members considered the previous reliability and performance of Alfie Burt and unanimously agreed to re-appoint the contract to Countryside Maintenance.</p> <p>On reflection after the meeting, the Clerk noted that there was no formal motion proposal therefore not seconded. The Clerk will carry the motion forward to the next FPC meeting to retrospectively correct the lapse of procedure.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
1564	<p>Skate-Park Update</p> <p>AT & Team have started to review suitable grants to progress the project. As the new financial year approaches it makes sense to sequence base applications.</p>	AT

<p>1565</p>	<p>CCTV</p> <p>AT confirmed that the local shop has replaced their current CCTV cameras with vehicle plate recognition software.</p> <p>AT will continue to prepare presentation packs and arrange suitable dates for public consultation meetings.</p>	<p>AT</p>
<p>1566</p>	<p>The Penny Tap Renewal of Licence to Occupy</p> <p>Following a positive meeting between the PC & all of the Directors of the Penny Tap the final draft licence was approved. The licence was signed by Company Director Mr Nigel Turton.</p> <p>Cllr Reed will sign the licence on behalf of the PC.</p> <p>AT/Penny Tap to agree a joint communication statement following the renewal of the licence.</p> <p>PC to arrange for regular inspection plan in accordance with Licence terms.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>1567</p>	<p>The Downsman Magazine</p> <p>In March 2025 Naomi Booth stepped down from her voluntary role as Editor of the Downsman after 10 years of service. The Parish Council would like to thank Naomi for her commitment and for the huge contribution she has made to our community. With her patience, editorial skills and integrity, her legacy is a vibrant, informative and revered local magazine.</p> <p>Unanimously, members of the Parish Council would like the Downsman magazine to continue but have accepted relying on volunteers for key roles is not necessarily achievable. Editors like Naomi Booth don't come along too often. Along with Naomi, there has also been a loyal team supporting her for which we are grateful and it is hoped that many will want to stay invested and support the next era of the Downsman.</p> <p>It was hoped that a replacement Editor would be found within our community but unfortunately it has proved difficult.</p> <p>'The Downsman' has always been the responsibility of the Parish Council and will continue to remain so. Its basic constitution values to distribute any profits to local causes is shared by those of the local Community Fund (CCIO). Moving the Downsman under the umbrella of the CCIO would be a natural progression where it would benefit from the CCIO's charitable status. Any profits resulting in donations to local causes would be passed to the Trustees of the Community Fund for distribution.</p> <p>Members acknowledged that the key role of Editor needs to be a remunerated position and whilst the current financial position of the Downsman isn't viable, the PC will propose to financially support the new era. It is hoped that going forward the current state of finances can be turned around and be self-funding once again.</p> <p>Interim Proposal: Clerk to liaise with the Chairman and members of the CCIO to confirm potential affiliation. The proposal includes hosting the new Downsman finances.</p> <p>Clerk to pursue professional Editorial options initially liaising with the outgoing Editor and then beyond.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>A handover of accounts meeting between Cllr Taylor and current Treasurer to be arranged with progressing plans to move the finances over.</p> <p>A handover meeting between the out-going Advertising Manager and the PC to be arranged in order to generate income for 2025-26.</p> <p>Members to consider and approve new Downsman arrangements at the next FPC meeting on 28th April 2025</p>	CT/SM/AG
1568	<p>Annual Parish Assembly</p> <p>Members proposed Wednesday 21st May @ 7.00pm Village Hall.</p> <p>Councillor McLean to draft the annual report and distribute to the rest of the Council for approval.</p> <p>Clerk to invite local agencies including Doctors Surgery, Dog Warden and RSPB Dorset Reserves.</p>	SMc/All Clerk
1569	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dorset Council Update circulated prior to FPC• Dorset Business News circulated prior to FPC• DAPTC E-news circulated prior to the FPC	
1570	<p>Information to Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wessex WIFI experiencing a technical problem at the Pavilion – Clerk advise Wessex Internet to list AT as an authorised point of contact.• Keats Meadow tiled wall is defaced by ball games – responsibility of Midsommer Homes.• Members notified of air rifle/bird incidents – AT to advise individual to report to the authorities.	AT
1571	<p>Approve Parish Council Communication Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Downsman Editor/Team update.• Joint statement confirming the licence renewal between the Penny Tap & Parish Council confirming on-going support.	

Meeting Closed 9.30pm

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

Signed;..... 24th April 2025