

**Minutes of the FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING of
Sixpenny Handley & Pentridge Parish Council
Held at the Sixpenny Handley Parish Office on 26th February 2026 @ 7:30pm.**

Item		Action By
	<p style="text-align: center;">1-member present at the Public Open Session</p> <p>A member of the public thanked the Parish Council’s Flood Warden support during the past 5 weeks. Regular flood updates were helpful, the provision of sandbags and general support appreciated. The speed of cars driving through floods was concerning and support given for Dorset Council to fine owners of vehicles who are caught speeding. The verges and carriageway along Dean Lane towards Garston House has collapsed in parts – areas larger than potholes have been reported. It was noted that in 2014 recommendation from County to strip back the carriage way from Garston House through Sixpenny and install a new road surface.</p>	
<p>1833</p>	<p>Attendance & Apologies Cllr J Reed (Chairman) Cllr S Meaden (Vice Chairman) Cllr D Chick Cllr A Turner Cllr D Adams Cllr C Taylor Cllr S McLean Cllr I Mereweather Cllr R Hassall</p> <p>Also in Attendance Mrs Ciona Nicholson (Clerk)</p> <p>Apologies Cllr R Adams Mr Piers Brown (Cranborne Chase Councillor)</p>	
<p>1834</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest & Grants for Dispensation</p> <p>None</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. Cllr Ian Mereweather – Community Land Trust</p>	

<p>1835</p>	<p>No report this month.</p>	
<p>1836</p>	<p>Confirm the minutes of the last Full Parish Council Meeting held 29th January 2026.</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>	
<p>1837</p>	<p>Matters arising from the last Full Parish Council Meeting held 29th January 2026.</p> <p>Due to hedge cutting restrictions deadlines Countryside Services are unable to carry out the work on New Barn Allotment's boundary.</p>	
<p>1838</p>	<p>To confirm the minutes of the Finance & General Meeting held on the 5th February 2026.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting, having been previously circulated to members were confirmed as correct and were signed by the Chairman. <i>Unanimous</i></p>	
<p>1839</p>	<p>Financial Risk Assessment</p> <p>Members reviewed and approved the Financial Risk Assessment for 2025/26.</p>	
<p>1840</p>	<p>Risk Management Policy 2026</p> <p>Members reviewed and approved the Risk Management Policy adding the extra provision of a grit bin at the Recreation Ground to minimise the risk of slipping.</p>	
<p>1841</p>	<p>DAPTC Matters</p> <p>The Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils AGM 2025 has been rescheduled to Saturday 30th May. This change has allowed Dorset Council additional time to take the draft Statement of Reasonable Expectations (SoRE) through its internal service areas.</p> <p>Presentation of the draft SoRE will take place on 3rd March at Dorset Councils' Cabinet meeting and once considered will be circulated to their Council for review.</p> <p>Once fully endorsed, the final version will be circulated to Town & Parish Councils.</p>	

<p>1842</p>	<p>Highways Matters</p> <p>.</p> <p>It was noted that potholes at Minchington were already being repaired despite further rain expected.</p> <p>The Sheasby Close pavements and roads are in in a poor state following leaf fall and heavy rain. Matter reported to Aster Housing Association.</p> <p>Large potholes following the floods along Dean Lane have been reported to Highways:</p> <p>Enquiry 1314152 Enquiry 1314154 Enquiry 1314151 Enquiry 1314150</p>	
<p>1843</p>	<p>Rights of Ways</p> <p>Cllr Adams has cut back ROW behind Post Office Lane and removed a fallen Eucalyptus tree. PC to consider including this task on an annual maintenance contract.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>1844</p>	<p>Village Hall Matters</p> <p>Generator – Awaiting Hyundai call out to fix the faulty sensor.</p> <p>Solar – Currently ‘Off’ waiting for a call out from DES.</p>	
<p>1845</p>	<p>Flood Matters</p> <p>Cllrs Turner & Hassall (Flood Wardens) updated members on 4+ weeks of ground water flooding in the village, the emergency flood action procedure and the impact the flood water has had on Sixpenny Handley in recent weeks. A full report Appendix-A Groundwater Flooding Report 2026 which was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Sixpenny Handley is a high risk area for groundwater flooding. Gaining traction with (Dorset Council, Wessex Water & the Environment Agency) to improve our flood defences and expect Planners to make more appropriate development decisions the PC will need to collate a robust evidentiary record of incidents.</p> <p>Property owners that have flooded, toilets not working, sewerage infiltration, impact on the local Surgery, services like the Citizens Advice Bus unable to attend.</p> <p>The Parish Council will need to convey to all agencies that the floods this time were deeper than in previous years, that there’s no longer a sump at Frogmore to soak up the ground water, show the flow had a greater strength and hold Dorset Council accountable for not demonstrating that there are alternative lower flooding risk sites available for developments to take place.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Turner summarised the report and highlighted key observations, noteworthy information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the 2026 floods there was a significant increase to the power of the water which quickly filled Dean Lane with a large amount of flints and debris which will need to be cleared. • Frogmore Meadows flood water flowed more effectively (very quickly) through the development instead of slowly meandering to flow onto the highway. • The higher ground at Frogmore Meadows has pushed the flood water onto the highway causing deeper flooding than in previous years. • Cllr Hassall’s drain pipework schematics confirmed that the pipes are narrower on Frogmore side which is why it builds on Dean Lane side at the Crossroads. <p>Next step recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the PC Website flood reporting with this information and photographs. • Seek to have the gullies before Handley Garage extended to provide greater capacity and to look at grass verges on the opposite side of the road to have grips and gullies added, noting that pedestrian access is still a factor. • Address the wrong camber opposite the Surgery car park. At the point the road drains start the flow of water goes to the opposite side of the road rather than towards the drain. • Ensure all drains are cleared post floods and that there is a regular inspection to make sure they do not block throughout the year so that they have full capacity to take as much groundwater as possible when it starts. • Ensure the developer at Frogmore Close clears the silt from the gully in the field as it has a lot of silt build up from the three and a half weeks it has been flowing. • Ensure DC carry out their responsibilities when flooding occurs, the Flood Warden is an immediate action role and to support parishioners with their flood problems and not to manage DC resources. • Engage with Wessex Water to ensure the appropriate protection is in place for the sewage plant and pipes. We were advised by the Flood Risk Manager that they have a project to line sewage pipes to prevent floodwater entering the system. It would be useful to know if and when this is being considered for our system. • Find out where the 20 million made available to address flooding has gone? 	
<p>1846</p>	<p>CLT Update</p> <p>Currently waiting for approval of the Full Planning Application submitted to Dorset Council. The Case Officer has no delegated authority and it is expected to be an item on the Northern Planning Committee meeting being held on 14/4/26.</p> <p>Optimistically, the Board has agreed in principal that the development could be ready by November 2027.</p>	
<p>1847</p>	<p>Correspondence</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council Update circulated. • Dorset Business News circulated. • DAPTC E-news circulated. 	
1848	<p>Information to Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Fire Risk Assessment of the Sports Pavilion was completed on 20/2/26. <p>The assessor recommended replacing the fire panel board – carry forward to F&GP to approve expenditure. Clerk to follow upon minor action points regarding emergency lighting, removal of flammable items from the boiler room and installing a log book to record testing. It was noted that the pavilion was generally in good order and that electrics and boiler servicing were both up to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Risk Assessment Report received, findings to be discussed at F&GP. • A Surveyor was observed at Brushy Bush Allotments – Clerk to contact Rushmoor Estate. • SSE requested Landowner consent to reduce tree height for line clearance at Common Road Allotments and the Recreation Ground. Approved. • AGAR 2025/26 confirmed external audit timetable. 	Clerk
1849	<p>Approve Parish Council Communication Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Flood incident reporting on FORT. • The link to Dorset Council’s consultation on Fire Service’s proposed closures. 	

Meeting Closed 9.00pm

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

Signed;..... 26th March 2026.

Sixpenny Handley Groundwater Flooding 2026 Report – Appendix A

Observations

Our Flood level is 102m, this year the flood did not occur until over 108m. It ran into the village within 24 hours, and the flow rate has been much higher than past floods.

The debris in the flow has been significant; golf ball size pieces of flint have been evident down to the crossroads. There are some large berms (30 ft long) against the kerb in dean lane, most are as high as the kerb.

The pooling of water by Town Farm Workshops is due to the road drain pipes being narrower in Frogmore Lane than Dean Lane and therefore not able to maintain the flow rate. (see note 3)

Whilst the drains may have been clear before the floods the volume of debris blocked them, by the time the Jetter was on site many drain were visibly full to the top with flint and mud.

Traffic does not slow down in the floods, this puts pedestrians at risk and erodes the kerbs, verges and driveways. DC will need to do significant repairs outside Town Farm Workshops.

Drivers used the grass verge at the crossroads, 2 of the 3 water covers have been damaged as well as the grass being torn up.

Part of the road surface in Back Lane has delaminated and will need to be repaired, there are also potholes in Dean Lane, outside the village is unknown and at the time of writing the road to Endless Pit is still closed due to the depth of the flooding.

At the start of the flooding Back Lane was closed due to the work for the house development. The X20 only used the access via the roundabout and turned around at the crossroads.

Support was only given when requested, monitoring the roads which is a DC responsibility

Recommendations

Update the PC Website flood reporting with this information and photographs.

Seek to have the gullies before Handley Garage extended to provide greater capacity and to look at grass verges on the opposite side of the road to have grips and gullies added, noting that pedestrian access is still a factor.

Look to address the wrong camber opposite the Surgery car park. At the point the road drains start the flow of water goes to the opposite side of the road rather than towards the drain.

Ensure all drains are cleared post floods and that there is a regular inspection to make sure they do not block throughout the year so that they have full capacity to take as much groundwater as possible when it starts.

Ensure the developer at Frogmore Close has maintenance to clear silt from the gully in the field, it has a lot of silt build up from the three and a half weeks it has been flowing.

Ensure DC carry out their responsibilities when flooding occurs, the Flood Warden is an immediate action role and to support parishioners with their flood problems and not to manage DC resources.

Engage with Wessex Water to ensure the appropriate protection is in place for the sewage plant and pipes.

We were advised by the Flood Risk Manager that they have a project to line sewage pipes to prevent floodwater entering the system. It would be useful to know if and when this is being considered for our system.

Diary Of Events

The following outlines the calendar of events related to this year's floods

Date	Event	Action
28 Jan	Flood Alert notification received	Impacted homeowners set up their pump

		systems
28 Jan	Head of Dorset Council issues a public statement	See document titled 'Storm Chandra Dorset Council Statement' I have highlighted in red text key statements in that article
29 Jan	Impacted homeowners asked for a PC Contact	AT confirmed covering for RH Updates to homeowners initiated
30 Jan	Springs at Garston Wood started running	Signage put up around the village and posts started on Facebook Sand moved to Town Farm Workshops
31 Jan	Waters flowing through the village with a large pool outside Manor Farm	Photographs and Video evidence started for the week. Requested additional signage from Highways via DC Website Flood reporting
2 Feb	Highways team visited village to assess impact of closing A354 due to flooding on the dual carriageway	Call to DC Highways highlighting request from 31 Jan. Asked to liaise with the Highways team – they put out signage when requested (no action from ticket request)
3 Feb	Met Environment Agency rep as I was checking the floods	Michael Holm explained what they were doing, provided information about an improved road sign (being requested via DC) and asked to send photos of the floods to wsx-intel-report@environment-agency.gov.uk for their records
3 Feb	Flood Wessex issued an update report which had no information about our situation	Updated Flood Wessex on the situation see NOTE 1 below
3 Feb	PC Office toilets not flushing due to flooding	Crossroads Café Cancelled. The toilets flushed the next day as the level outside the office dropped. Call to Wessex Water cancelled. Citizens Advice Mobile not visiting due to floods, using Village Hall car park until floods stop
6 Feb	Submitted Flood Line Report (FORT)	Provided information about the flooding, its impact. Posted the link to Homeowners to use and on Facebook for anyone else
9 Feb	Requested Highways team visit to discuss the flooding and what could be done to reduce flood impact	Site visit not possible for a week due to availability
12 Feb	Vehicles were still using the access from Endless Pit Junction when the water would have been at least 30cm deep	I requested road closed signs be deployed either side of the floods.
13 Feb	Notified that Public Toilet at the Surgery is not working	Advised Surgery to call Wessex Water.
13 Feb	Sewage Manhole covers in Frogmore Lane leaking	I logged a call with Wessex Water, it was added to the Surgery ticket
13 Feb	Updated the FORT report due to numerous properties adjacent to Frogmore and Dean Lanes not being able to flush downstairs	No action taken by anyone, or they did not notify us if they did anything

	toilets	
13 Feb	Reported the situation to Wessex Water, Dorset Flood Risk Management contacts	This was to get support to start addressing our situation. I also attached the FORT report (not in notes provided in another file) See Note 2 Andy Proberts passed my email onto the rest of Risk Management team, Harry from Highways and a contact in Wessex Water. I highlighted that on the 12 th Feb DC approved £20m of a £50m Gov infrastructure grant be allocated to Flood affected areas that were hotspots.
14 Feb	Wessex Water on site to check Surgery and Frogmore Lane manholes	Wessex Water on site and called me to confirm the blockage and leaks were due to the Groundwater flooding entering the sewage system and that this would only clear once water levels dropped
16 Feb	Site visit by Highways	We walked the floods from the Surgery to Handley Green highlighting all issues. Highways booked the only Jetter truck in the county to be out in 7 days They stated that they were getting a second Jetter Truck from the £20m and that was it for Highways, the truck will be new and has a 2 year waiting list as it is a specialist vehicle They provide a snapshot view of the drains in Dean and Frogmore Lanes – See Note 3
18 Feb	Site Visit by DC Area Flood Risk Manager Justin Neely	Justin had been briefed by Guy Parker on Groundwater flooding and so was aware of what we faced. That said he was surprised by the impact Groundwater was having and valued the visit. He took actions to help our situation and has provided a Ground Water Impact map (he copied it to the Planning department) and stated we should use it for any future planning applications if appropriate. (separate document) He has asked for support in funding the improved road signs – this is currently bouncing between Highways and Flood Risk Mgmt. He has provided contact details for our area Flood support team. He could see the benefit of having larger drains but these would be prohibitively expensive. We suggested adding additional grips and gullies between Oakley Lane and the Surgery where ground permits. He agreed that the field next to Frogmore Close should have a better output but stated it is best practice to slow water up rather than push it downstream. It would therefore make sense to address the outflow into Back Lane but holding

		water back in the field would be a sensible approach.
23 Feb	Email from Frederica at Wessex Water	See Note 4, my reply (black text) is in line with her statements. I attached the flood risk level for our area and a photograph of a loose sewage manhole cover
25 Feb	Jetter vehicle on second visit to the village	On Monday the Jetter cleared one drain outside TF Workshops, the water levels dropped significantly overnight. Today the returned and cleared some more drains which has resulted in the water from The Parsonage to the crossroads now being clear less water pumping from houses.
25 Feb	Road Closure sign at the roundabout due to works at Tollard Royal, as a result buses did not stop in the village	I contacted Damory Coaches to advise that they could access the village and to also use Frogmore Lane and Back Lane rather than turn around at the crossroads. Divers where updated on the route and operations would update their instructions from tomorrow.

Notes

Note 1 Flood Wessex Update Email:

There are 6 properties that pump, mainly due to cellars, these are along Dean Lane and Frogmore Lane, with one of these having a French drain under their floor. Two of these also have a sewage pump which also had a power failure with Wessex Water providing engineers and pumped their tank out twice whilst the fault was being fixed.

We usually get problems with sewage in that the flood water gets into the system, I found 2 manhole covers in Frogmore Lane bubbling and so will be reporting these to Wessex Water post the floods so they can come and reseal them. The Parish Office toilet was affected; I logged a call with Wessex Water but was able to cancel it the next morning as the flood level had dropped sufficiently to allow the toilet to flush and I did hear second hand that a few houses adjacent to Frogmore Lane had problems. I have not been able to check the Sewage station below the village as the flood is over 50cm deep on the road, but I will find out from the Farm who is normally affected by sewage waste when we have floods.

The roads have a lot of debris on them, washed down into the village and drivers going too fast causing bow waves, again a regular event when we are flooded. I met with Environment Agency staff on Tuesday who provided a better road sign to help address this, I have passed this onto the PC so that we can look to purchase some for the future.

I have photos of the floods from each day so that we have a photo record of the flood and I will be using these to update the Parish Council website (<https://sixpennyhandleyandpentridge-pc.gov.uk/Flood-Management>) so that we continue the record of flood events given we were not listened to when the planning was being approved for the development that is now Frogmore Close, thankfully they have not been affected by the floods although I am not sure about sewage.

Note 2 Email to Wessex Water and DC Flood Risk Management Team

Charlotte, Andrew,

apologies for reaching out directly but given we have had 14 days of flooding in the village I want to make sure your organisations are aware of the current situation. I have been reporting via FORT with a copy of my latest update attached, but to date I have not had any feedback/support and hence this email.

Flooding and roads

When I have requested signage beyond those we as Flood Wardens deploy we have received support from a highways team. This week I called to request Harry comes and visits as we are still flooded and will be for some time so that he could advise on what could be done, several drains are blocked with debris, whilst some are clear and the floods on the road have disipated. He unfortunately is on a course, Mark has

stepped in but has not been able to come out this week, we are still waiting to hear whether he or a member of his team can make it out next week.

The X20 Bus between Blandford and Salisbury is having to turn around at the crossroads in the village as the Back Lane route out of the village is closed. Equally the road through the village heads to Shaftsbury via Tollard Royal which I am sure you are aware also has flood issues.

Minchington and Farnham have their flood problems, a road accident on the A354 last week routed down through Farnham and round to Minchington resulting in cars stuck in the floods that local farmers had to assist.

I am therefore hoping Andrew, that you can escalate this and get a highways manager out here early next week to get the right resources working on addressing the flood issues, given the announcement this week Record highways funding makes around £50m available for Dorset's roads.

Charlotte,

We have had issues with sewage manholes taking in water along Frogmore Lane for sure and a number of properties unable to flush ground floor toilets. I have asked them to log a call to see what can be done for them. I logged a call last week for the Parish Office toilet, but it had cleared the next morning and so I cancelled it. Today I have heard that the Village Surgery public toilet is blocked, this is a single-story building and so could end up having to close if the staff toilet blocks. Again I have asked them to log a call. At the crossroads to the village there is a strong smell of sewage today, so we now have it running down through the village, people have to walk through the floods to get to the shops or surgery and so are now at risk from the potential contaminated water. I appreciate this may not be your area of responsibility but hope you can pass this onto the right person in Wessex Water.

Note 3 – Water Run off pipe throughput:

Robert has calculated the following which highlights why there is a backup at the Junction of Dean Lane with the High Street, notwithstanding the height of the High Street at the junction causing a holding area. When I did the original calculations it was based on the figures from Mark's email. He mentioned 575mm for the larger pipe. On the Map we were given it is 525mm so we need to use that figure. It sort of stacks up.

I have updated the spreadsheet with the correct figures.

As we are talking of gravity feed water with a small head (height difference) then flowrate is totally determined by the size of the pipes.

In a gravity-fed system, the flow rate is determined by the gradient (slope) and the pipe's internal roughness.

Flow Capacity 525mm at 1 m/s: At a typical self-cleansing velocity of 1.0 m/s, the pipe will carry approximately 216.5 litres per second

Flow Capacity 375mm : At a typical self-cleansing velocity of 1.0 m/s, the flow rate is roughly 110 litres per second (L/s).

Therefore 2 times 110Litres per second equals 220 litres per second Feeding into this is 216.5 litres per second from the 525mm pipe.

In theory the capacity is there but there are other factors like increased friction, the hydraulic effect of a larger volume of water going into a two smaller volume pipes.

Note 4 Email from/to Wessex Water in response to my email of 13 Feb:

Good afternoon all,

[The sewerage treatment plant serving this area is not considered at risk of flooding.](#)

Please see the attached Groundwater Flood Risk Map, you need to update your assessment, that said it has been affected every time we have had groundwater floods and so should already have some sort of flood mitigation. You will see that where the pumping station is sited it is Groundwater can be within .25 and .5m below the surface.

[Regarding the comment about the manhole at Manor Farm lifting, I am unable to find any information about this incident. As mentioned, if any member of the public has any issue with their drainage, they can contact our customer service team directly on 0345 600 4600 so that we can try to assist them.](#)

I have raised calls about the flood water affecting properties via the above number and emails to yourself, there is even one in this email chain from 13th Feb so please do not state that you cannot find any information about flooding. I could only raise information about the manhole as a result of the water levels dropping sufficiently to reveal it to photograph. Attached is today's picture showing outflow adjacent to the farm entrance to Manor Farm on Back Lane. This week you have engineers working in Dean Lane and this morning I have had further reports of sewage in the road near to the entrance to Mulberry Court. The previous emails stated manhole covers taking in water around 31/1 and outputting water the following week, which is still the case in Frogmore Lane today.

[Upon grant of planning permission, developers have a right under the Water industry Act, to connect to the public foul sewer network. Connections are made on a size for size basis, Developers fund the cost of connecting to the nearest 'size for size' sewer and Wessex Water will manage the sewer network to accommodate foul flows from granted development. We fund this through our infrastructure charging arrangements.](#)

This is understood and is not being challenged, I was merely pointing out that the infrastructure for the village has not been updated but numerous properties have been built since. At what point is this too much, I am aware that a recent development was denied being connected to the system at planning as the sewage system would not be able to cope and therefore have off mains sewage systems installed. How many developments will be allowed before the overall system is reviewed and addressed.

[Planning Liaison review each proposed development on an individual basis as and when they come forward to assess impacts on the existing network and where necessary, plan and implement reinforcement work to accommodate said flows.](#)

As per my last statement

[Any question please let me know](#)

[Best Regards](#)

Federica Villa