

Draft Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council

Wednesday 26 March 2025

Magna Community Room

Present: Cllrs Pemberton (Chair), Nuttall, Hutchings, Marsh, Walker, Newell, Eversden

Apologies: Cllr Fitzgerald

Democratic Period:

Two of the members of public that were present advised they were at the meeting to discuss items on the agenda.

A parishioner expressed concern regarding the transfer of the Reading Room Trust to the Parish Council, stating the Parish Council recently became the trustees of the Reading Room, taking on the important role of managing the trust assets for the beneficiaries and advised that the Parish Council are not the owners or beneficiaries as some believe.

The Parish Council spent £1000 on legal advice from a specialist trust solicitor, who advised that the only legal document produced was the trust indenture of 1921 and would require court approval for change which would cost about £5000 with no guarantee of approval.

The parishioner also expressed concern that the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on the agenda suggests the legal advice is being ignored and could be seen as an attempt to deprive the Trust and its beneficiaries of their asset.

The parishioner feels that if legally allowed the asset should be purchased from the Trust as open market value.

32/2025 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Eversden declared an interest in item 9b) relating to the enforcement matter.

Cllr Nuttall declared a potential interest in item 18 relating to the Green Martinstown.

33/2025 Dorset Cllr report

No update received.

34/2025 Police report

The most recent report received advised of vehicle damage in the parish.

The Clerk asked the Cllrs who wanted to be copied into the Dorset Alerts received and all apart from two who already receive them confirmed they want them.

35/2025 Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 26 February 2025

It was proposed by Cllr Nuttall and seconded by Cllr Newell that these minutes with the following amendments should be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Page 2, 15/2025, fourth paragraph, first line, remove 'the Parish Council and Trustees made'.

Page 2, 15/2025, fourth paragraph, first line, include 'was made' after building

Page 7, 31/2025, second paragraph, first line, change memorial to 'Reading Room'

All agreed.

36/2025 Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council extra-ordinary meeting on 12 March 2025

It was proposed by Cllr Eversden and seconded by Cllr Walker that these minutes should be accepted as a true record of the meeting. All agreed with abstentions from Cllrs Pemberton & Nuttall.

37/2025 Action points from last minutes

- a) January, item 7.1, previous Clerk - access to the NALC document repository – Clerk has contacted DAPTC for confirmation – Clerk advised access has now been processed.
- b) Democratic Period – All Cllrs to review The Green's plan and consider motions - COMPLETE
- c) 29/2025 - Cllrs Nuttall, Fitzgerald & Eversden to form working group and respond to Land Registry - COMPLETE
- d) 30/2025 – Clerk to respond to parishioner – COMPLETE

38/2025 Hardy Half event

A representative from the Hardy Half running event attended the meeting to request the use of the Green for the event.

The representative confirmed that there would be no conflict with church services.

Approval was given for the use of the Green.

39/2025 Green Martinstown

A representative from Green Martinstown committee attended the meeting to request support for their application for CIL money although this is not a request for funds at this time. It's a request to support it at some point in the future. Cllr Pemberton advised this is a valuable addition to the village.

Motion: The Parish Council is minded to support the Green Martinstown application for £2500 of CIL money and will earmark this in our CIL record subject to the length of the lease.

Proposed by Cllr Pemberton and seconded by Cllr Hutchings. All agreed.

40/2025 Finance

- a) Approval of schedule of payments & bank reconciliation

Cllr Nuttall signed the documents. It was proposed by Cllr Eversden and seconded by Cllr Hutchings that these are accepted. All agreed.

- b) Asset register

Cllr Pemberton advised that the asset register has been updated, and this will be cross referenced with the insurance policy. The register will be uploaded to Scribe and reviewed in the new financial year.

41/2025 Planning

a) Planning consultations

P/FUL/2025/00745 – Little Paddocks, Clandon Monkey Jump Roundabout to Junction Below Alington Place Martinstown - Demolition of existing bungalow and replacement with a new dwelling with amended driveway.

A discussion took place regarding this application, and it was agreed that no there were no comments to be made.

P/FUL/2025/00591 - Anaerobic Digester Plant, Monkey Jump Roundabout to Junction Below Alington Place Martinstown - Retain digestate lagoon and hardstanding & install proposed lagoon cover.

A discussion took place regarding this application. It was proposed by Cllr Pemberton and seconded by Cllr Eversden that these proposals should be objected to based on the planning history and cumulative impact of repeated planning breaches. All agreed.

b) Enforcement Notice

Land adjoining Downcroft Farm, Bridport Road, Martinstown

This has been received for information purposes.

c) Rainbarrow Farm – Cllr Scarth to update on Planning Committee

Notes circulated to Cllrs prior to the resignation of Cllr Scarth.

The decision for this application has been deferred.

42/2025 Highways, Rights of Way and SID

Cllr Newell advised that a parishioner has volunteered to repair the crack in the SID.

Cllr Pemberton encouraged everyone to report any highway problems direct on the website, <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/roads-highways-maintenance/roads-highways-and-maintenance>

43/2025 Allotments

No update

44/2025 Flood, Stream & Riverbanks

Cllr Marsh agreed to take this portfolio.

45/2025 Washpool

Cllr Walker agreed to take this portfolio.

46/2025 Grounds

Cllr Newell agreed to take this portfolio.

47/2025 V & V

Cllr Marsh agreed to write the Parish Council page for the next edition.

48/2025 Village Hall Trustee

Cllr Pemberton gave an update on the recent meeting which related to the Hallmark, which is a charter, a qualification, which shows that it's being properly managed. The village hall now has its own website which will gradually take over from that which is on the village website, and all the policies and trust documents and trustee links are on there.

49/2025 Memorial Hall

- a) We have become the Corporate Trustee of the Memorial Hall Trust. The building should hereinafter be referred to using that term.
- b) Separation of Roles between the Parish Council and those responsible for day-to-day management of the Trust (the Working Group) – Cllr Pemberton
- c) Legal Advice to the Parish Council – Cllr Pemberton
- d) Trust Banking – Cllr Pemberton/Clerk - Parish Council decision required on account and bankers, and method to establish control.

Motion: That a new bank account is established to control expenditure and revenue from the Memorial Hall Trust that is wholly separate from the old Trustee account.

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall, Seconded by Cllr Eversden. Agreed with Cllr Marsh against and Cllr Pemberton abstaining.

Motion: That the Council 'bankers for this new account should be Cllr Nuttall, Cllr Eversden and the Clerk.

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall, Seconded by Cllr Eversden. All agreed.

Motion: To accept the terms of reference of the Working Group as laid out in the minutes circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall, seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald

There were proposed amendments to be made, and it was agreed these would be produced as a separate document and re-circulated to all Cllrs.

Action: Cllr Nuttall

Motion: To accept the recommendations A-F as laid out in the minutes

Proposed by Cllr Nuttall, seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald

There were proposed amendments to be made, and it was agreed these would be produced as a separate document and re-circulated to all Cllrs.

Action: Cllr Nuttall

50/2025 DAPTC

- a) Confirmation of Cllrs receiving news/updates

The Clerk asked if any of the Cllrs are receiving the DAPTC newsletters. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate these to all except Cllrs Pemberton and Hutchings as they receive them direct.

- b) Report following Central Area Committee – Cllr Pemberton

Cllr Pemberton circulated his report prior to the meeting.

51/2025 Staffing Committee

A discussion took place regarding the new Clerks contract and the process of salary, tax payments.

It was agreed that the contract should be read again by the Clerk and if happy this needs to be signed by the Clerk and Cllr Pemberton.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Pemberton

Cllr Walker agreed to be on the Staffing Committee.

52/2025 External correspondence received

- a) Martinstown Shop & Post Office – concerns received of closure

The Clerk advised that an email has been received from a parishioner expressing concern of the imminent closure of the shop and Post Office and asked for this to be raised to explore how they can be replaced.

- b) VE events request for The Green

The Clerk advised that an email has been received from a parishioner requesting permission to hold a VE day event on the Green. Cllr Pemberton has responded confirming this is ok but that a risk assessment would need to be completed.

53/2025 Parish Matters

Cllr Pemberton thanked the parishioners who've shown interest, not only those who were present, those who have attended meetings, thank each of you as councillors for standing and giving your time since the election or since your Co-option. He particularly thanked Cllr Hutchings for being deputy-chair. He also thanked Les Scarth, who has now resigned for managing the two largest portfolios through his time on the Parish Council.

Cllr Pemberton advised that at the annual meeting held in May, the election of a new Chair and deputy chair takes place and encouraged all Cllrs to give this consideration.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2107 with notice that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23 April 2025, 7pm at the Magna Community Room.

All Agendas & Minutes can be viewed at www.winterbornestmartin-pc.gov.uk