

Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council

Wednesday 4 June 2025

Magna Community Room

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

Apologies: Cllr Newell

Election of Chair: It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Nuttall chairs the meeting.

Democratic Period:

Nothing raised.

72/2025 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Eversden declared an interest in item 8b, due to the matter relating to his family property.

73/2025 Dorset Cllr report

No update received.

74/2025 Police report

This has been circulated to all Cllrs.

75/2025 Minutes of Winterborne St Martin Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 23 April 2025

It was proposed by Cllr Hutchings and seconded by Cllr Eversden that these minutes should be accepted as a true record of the meeting. All agreed.

76/2025 Action points from last minutes

- a) 65/2025 – Clerk to respond to parishioner concerning grass cutting – COMPLETE
- b) 68/2025 – Clerk to respond to advisor confirming Memorial Hall is not a Charity – COMPLETE
- c) 68a/2025 – Cllrs Nuttall/Fitzgerald/Eversden to reissue Terms of Reference with amendments - COMPLETE

77/2025 Finance

- a) Approval of schedule of payments & bank reconciliation

Cllr Fitzgerald signed the documents. It was agreed that these are accepted.

A discussion took place regarding how payments should be reviewed in the future, and it was agreed to have this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to include in next agenda

- b) Insurance renewal

The Clerk advised that the renewal has happened automatically and payment needs to be processed.

Action: Bankers

A discussion regarding the Memorial Hall insurance took place and this needs to be explored by the Working Group.

Action: Memorial Hall Working Group – Insurance Policy

- c) To consider and approve the submission of a Certificate of Exemption for the 2024/25 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council can submit exemption for the 2024/25 financial year and has prepared the forms for signing.

The Council proceeded to complete the Annual Governance Statement and these were signed.

The Clerk advised the internal auditors report has been received which will be reviewed.

Action: Clerk to submit Exemption to external auditors

78/2025 Planning

- a) Planning Consultation

P/FUL/2025/01469 - Steepleton Manor Residential Home, Winterbourne Steepleton -Erect new extension in the walled garden of the existing main building at Steepleton Manor, to comprise 7 x 1-bedroom 2-person apartments (Use Class C3) with bin enclosure and new link building to connect with the main building

Cllr Pemberton reminded the Council that these proposals have previously been opposed due to the additional strain it will put on the existing sewage system. There weren't any other planning reasons for opposing it.

A discussion took place, and it was proposed by Cllr Pemberton and seconded by Cllr Eversden that the Council oppose the application for public harm and a nuisance to the neighbours. All agreed with one abstention by Cllr Nuttall.

- b) Enforcement

APP/D1265/C/25/3363267 - Appeal by Mr Richard Eversden against the Enforcement Notice served by Dorset Council - Land adjoining Downcroft Farm, Bridport Road, Martinstown, Dorset, DT2 9DS

Cllr Eversden left the room whilst this item was discussed.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Pemberton and seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald that the Council supports Dorset Council with the planning process. All agreed.

Cllr Eversden returned to the meeting.

79/2025 Highways, Rights of Way and SID

Motion: The parish council recognises the safety and access benefits that would accrue from the creation of a solid footpath across the uneven and often boggy grass at the east end of the village (corner of Weymouth Road) between Fairfield and East House. It will therefore endeavour to establish ownership of the strip of land and promote the provision of a path with the relevant authorities.

The above motion was discussed which included the following:

- There is a need to include those residents at the end of the village.
- Safety for disabled users and families.
- Costs associated with any proposed methods.
- Concern if this path does get the support and is eventually built that it will set a precedence for other areas.
- Ownership of land needs to be identified.

The motion was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Nuttall. All agreed.

80/2025 Allotments

Cllr Walker advised that the allotments are looking good since the area was cleared.

It was agreed that the contracts should be reviewed to include maintenance responsibility on users.

81/2025 Flood, Stream & Riverbanks

No update.

82/2025 Washpool

No update.

83/2025 Grounds

Cllr Marsh requested a copy of the contract to have full understanding of what is to be expected from the current contractor.

Action: Clerk to send contract to Cllr Marsh

84/2025 V & V

Cllr Pemberton agreed to produce the Parish Council page for the next edition which isn't until August. If a new Chair has been elected this will fall to them to action.

85/2025 Village Hall Trustee

Cllr Pemberton advised there hasn't been any meeting recently but asked if the Parish Council wants to continue to have a nominated village hall trustee and if so, are they happy for Cllr Pemberton to continue.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Pemberton should continue as the trustee.

86/2025 Memorial Hall

Cllr Nuttall informed the meeting that a letter from the Land Registry has been received advising that the application for title has been cancelled which isn't surprising. A significant problem is the lack of evidence of a legally recognised transfer of trusteeship between the original Trustees and those who became acting trustees in the 1990's.

The working group need to explore what needs to be done next.

A parishioner who had involvement with the latter "acting trustees" and who now has signatory control of the existing account for the Memorial Hall spoke about the account being frozen and the delay in transferring the account. They also advised that Cllr Eversden being part of the Working Group could also be an issue and asked if Cllr Eversden would be prepared to step down from the group whilst the issues are being resolved.

Cllr Nuttall said it was unacceptable for the public to make such demands.

Concern was raised that the previous trustees who had signed the legal documents are now not adhering to what they agreed regarding the transfer of the monies.

It was agreed that the Working Group will meet to discuss the next steps.

87/2025 DAPTC

No update.

88/2025 External correspondence received

The Clerk advised of an e-mail received from Wessex Internet properties in Winterborne St. Martin which will be given access to full fibre broadband direct to their home or business premises. What they're asking is that they would like to come and speak to the parish council from July onwards, just for a few minutes and then they will also hold a residents meeting late August, early September to let everyone know about their plans. They want to know a suitable venue and if possible, contact person so that they can go ahead and get something in the diary.

Action: Clerk to invite Wessex Internet to the July meeting

The Clerk advised of confirmation received by Dorset Council regarding the installation of the EV charging points in the lay-by.

89/2025 Parish Matters

Cllr Nuttall informed the meeting of a discussion he has had with parishioners who placed a bench on the green outside the church that was put there in 1998 in memory of their daughter. The bench is now in need of replacing and Cllr Nuttall would like to propose that the parish council buy the bench.

It was agreed this needs a motion at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Nuttall to raise motion for June meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2025 with notice that the next meeting will be the delayed June meeting on Wednesday 2 July 2025, 7pm at Magna Community Room.

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