

## STURMINSTER MARSHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall

**Present:** Chair Cllr S Cade, Cllr H Palmer, Cllr L Seare, Cllr M Steel, Cllr H Fookes, Cllr T Weaver, Cllr J Jackson and Cllr L Purtill

Also in attendance: Mrs A Clothier (Parish Clerk),

1 **APOLOGIES – MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

Dorset Councillor W Chakawhata gave their apologies, and these were accepted.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

3 **MEMBERS OF PUBLIC –**

There were 2 members of the public present, both there as candidates for the Parish Council vacancy. There were no comments.

4 **COOPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR**

All candidates were thanked for applying and were asked to leave the room while the vote took place. Voting was conducted by written ballot and counted by the Clerk.

The candidates were then invited to re-enter the room, and the Chair announced that Mr Croucher had been selected as the successful candidate. The unsuccessful candidates were thanked for their interest and encouraged to apply again in the future, as the field of applicants was very strong.

Cllr Croucher was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**Action: Clerk to send ROI form and details of the DAPTC New Councillors Course.**

5 **POLICE REPORT**

See Appendix 1. It was asked whether the Parish Council get any feedback on whether the crimes were solved and it was confirmed that they do not.

6 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were approved as true record of the meeting.

7 **MATTERS ARISING**

A report from the Clerk which had been circulated and is attached to these minutes as **Appendix 1**. Ongoing issues from the Clerks Report are:

- i. Memorial Hall Registration
- ii. Defibrillator at Jubilee Cross

8 **AMENITIES AND FACILITIES**

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- i. Playground – all in good order and the children are pleased with the new basket swing. It was noted that the park needs to be mowed. Sun Clock needs exposing. The inspection is booked for June.
- ii. Churchill Close Green –
  - a. Electrical Box – the electrical box work has been delayed due to the weather and will be carried out as soon as possible,
- iii. Maypole – Work on the Maypole is ongoing and the contractor is sourcing a new pole. The Parish Council has received a letter from the School Society requesting use of Maypole Green for May Day and asking the Parish Council to cover the £28 Dorset Council Road closure fee. This was proposed by Cllr Jackson and seconded by Cllr Palmer, with all in agreement.  
An email has also been received regarding a pothole on Maypole Green. This area falls within the extent of the Highways, and Dorset Council they have confirmed they will not carry out repairs as the pothole does not meet the required depth.
- iv. Memorial Hall –
  - a) To discuss Memorial Hall registration and lease – a new version of the lease is expected shortly and will be discussed with the Memorial Hall Committee.
- v. To report on progress of the repair of WI bench at Millmoor – Cllr Jackson has spoken with the landowner, who is happy for the bench to be installed at the proposed location. However, a main freshwater pipe runs through this area, so installation must be undertaken carefully. Wessex Water will need to be contacted to clear away sewerage before the bench is installed.
- vi. To discuss defibrillator request at Jubilee Cross – Cllr Fookes has spoken with Lytchett Motors, who are happy for a defibrillator to be installed on the side of the garage, subject to details of electricity costs. They will look into sponsorship and possible community funding.
- vii. To discuss progress on Community Asset Transfer of Charborough Way Green – notice of intent to transfer the open space has been published.
- viii. Trophies – all missing trophies have been returned and a receipt will be issued.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

- i. Climate Change Action Plan – Monthly meetings will begin on 31 March. Cllr Palmer and Cllr Jackson will look into attending.
  - a. Grow at Home Scheme – Seeds have been purchased including tomatoes, cucumber, onion, beetroot and radishes, along with four packs of sunflower seeds. Two packs of sunflower seeds will be provided to the school, along with a bag of compost and recycled flower pots.  
At the litter pick event, children will be able to take home a pot with sunflower seeds. Seed compost will be divided into smaller bags.  
A Tallest Sunflower Competition was suggested, with a small prize. Cllr Purtill will design a poster for the school and a £15 Amazon voucher will be awarded to the winner. This was agreed by all. The Guides have also expressed interest in taking part. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should improve engagement about the scheme with residents in Mapperton/Almer and Jubilee Cross.
- ii. To consider a flood resilience open evening – an event has been arranged for Thursday 26 March at 7.00pm at the Memorial Hall. Dorset Council has confirmed attendance. Cllr Cade carried out a walkaround with Dorset Council so they could see the flooding issues. A leaflet will be produced and circulated to affected properties.

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#### **TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT**

- i. A31 / A350 and Related Matters – A pothole on Churchill Close is spraying stones.

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Highways were on Straight Mile investigating a structure beneath the road. Road signs require cleaning and this could be carried out during the litter pick. There is currently no budget for replacement street signs. Vegetation around the 40mph signs on Wimborne Road requires cutting back. Drains on Wimborne Road are still awaiting clearance.

- ii. 20mph Speed Limit Application – A draft application form has been circulated. It was suggested to include that the Guides and Brownies meet at the Memorial Hall. All in agreement for the form to be submitted. Traffic movements on Station Road were noted as interesting, with many movements appearing related to the Industrial Estate.
- iii. Jubilee Cross / Wimborne Road – on going.

**REPORTS**

To receive reports from representatives of the following:

- i Alms House Charity – The charity is financially sound. Bathroom improvements will be undertaken shortly.
- iii. Memorial Hall – A working party has met to prepare for kitchen works. The Memorial Hall Committee and the Parish Council will arrange a meeting to discuss the Business Plan.
- iii DAPTC – Clerk’s Conference in February – covered community resilience plans and Assertion 10. AGM moved to May.
- iv. Flood Wardens – A flood warden meeting has taken place. The team has now expanded and an email group has been set up. The next meeting will take place on 20 March.
- v. School – The School Society has contributed funding towards Forest School. The current school roll is 50.
- iv. Speedwatch – no report
- vii Dorset Councillor – no report.

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**FINANCE**

- i. Accounts for payment. To receive invoices and approve payments as per Schedule of payments. See **Appendix 4**. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the payments with all in agreement.
- ii. To receive the monthly bank reconciliation– the monthly bank reconciliation, budget report was received, noted, and agreed.
- iii. To approve the asset register – It was queried whether the Parish Council owned the Memorial Hall. It was confirmed that the Parish Council owns the land but not the building.  
Actions noted:
  - Seating at Walnut Tree to be removed from Asset Register as they belong to Dorset Council
  - Metalwork on the Maypole to be noted as temporarily removed.
  - Condition of stocks to be reviewed
  - Book Box to be cleaned by the Guides
  - Planter outside the Spar to be weeded (Guides to assist)
  - Silver cups to be cleaned by the Guides
  - Cllr Croucher to obtain a valuation for the silver cups
- iv. To approve the risk assessment and internal controls – this was proposed by Cllr Seare, and seconded by Cllr Steel and approved with all in agreement.
- v. To agree Service Level Agreement for Churchill Close Green – 3 year cutting programme at a cost of: Year 1 £2,814.95, Year 2 £2,955.70, Year 3 £3,103.48. This was noted as good value for money and a high standard of work. This was proposed by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Seare and approved with all in agreement.
- vi. To discuss application for payment of road closure for May Day – as discussed in Item 8 (iii) the application to cover the road closure cost was agreed.

13	<p><b>POLICIES</b></p> <p>i. To adopt Grant Awarding Policy – all in agreement to adopted this policy.</p> <p>ii. To adopt Equality Policy – all in agreement to adopted this policy.</p>
14	<p><b>OPEN MEETING</b></p> <p>i. To update on speakers for the 2026 Open Meeting – Cllr Nick Ireland has confirmed attendance at the meeting.</p>
15	<p><b><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EV Charge Point – query regarding safety signs which has been responded to</li> <li>• Dog bin - Bartons Ground – overflowing. The dog bin has been replaced with a wheelie bin</li> <li>• No parking sign at Old School – contact from a resident about a van parking along the wall of the Old School. The Mackrell Chairty is looking into replacing the sign.</li> <li>• Wessex Water community outreach – Wimborne Library 29<sup>th</sup> June</li> <li>• South East Dorset Rural Mobility Co-Design Workshop – 24<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Steel to attend.</li> <li>• Playing Pitch and Built Facilities Strategy consultation – Clerk to ask for an extension to comment and forward to Football Club.</li> <li>• Flood Wessex Groundwater Community Update – on the website</li> <li>• CPRE – Black Poplar trees offered however no areas for planting could be identified.</li> </ul>
16	<p><b><u>PARISH MATTERS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter pick – 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. Clerk to send poster to the school.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>The Parish Council meeting was suspended at 20.55pm whilst the Planning Committee took place. See minutes 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 for details.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>The Parish meeting re-convened at 21.17pm</u></b></p>
17	<p><b><u>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</u></b> – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm</p> <p>There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.17</p> <p>Signed _____ Chairman 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026</p>

## **Appendix 1**

### **Report for Sturminster Marshall Parish Council Meeting**

Firstly, I am sorry that I am unable to attend this evening. Unfortunately, it is an intensification week this week, whereby we have lots of Action taking place all over the County. I have investigated the Crimes in the Sturminster Marshall Area and have commented on some below.

Again, Crime reporting is low.

We have had 10 reported Crimes in December, January and February. 7 of Which are Domestic related Incidents.

20<sup>th</sup> December reported Theft of Vehicle from Industrial estate – was advertised on social media and possibly linked to that

28<sup>th</sup> December reported Burglary to a Shed in King Street – Leaf blower and other items stolen  
24<sup>th</sup> February reported Damage to windscreen of a motor Vehicle in Churchill Close.

Sturminster Marshall is continuing to be covered by Wimborne Neighbourhood Policing team, although area should be covered by Verwood. This is due to an uplift in our Team.  
We have already had PCSO 7833 Dan CORBETT join the team two weeks ago, but as of the end of March we have three new Police Officers joining the team.  
These are PC 0664 Izzy DOMLEO, PC 0863 Louis KELLAWAY and PC 2991 Ryan JACKSON. All officers have several years' experience but are new to NPT.  
The Plan is to have one Officer dedicated for the Corfe Mullen and Sturminster Marshall area and I will ensure they contact you to discuss any issues or concerns

Many Thanks

Steve

**Appendix 2**

## Clerks Report 05.03.26

<b>Minute Number</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> January Minute 8 (iv)	Environment	Clerk to query Mapperton Ditch with Community Highways Officer	This is on the highways works list of jobs for next financial year.
9 <sup>th</sup> January Minute 9 (ii)	Traffic and Transport	Speed sign on Mill Lane	This is on the highways works list of jobs
5 <sup>th</sup> June Minute 7	Amenities	Memorial Hall Registration	All progressing – updated version of the lease expected.
17 <sup>th</sup> July Minute 7	Amenities and Facilities	Electrical box	Works to take place as soon as possible.
17 <sup>th</sup> July Minute 7	Amenities and Facilities	Clerk to confirm contractor to replace Maypole	Quote confirmed with Mark Farwell and he has been asked to source a new pole
17 <sup>th</sup> July Minute 7	Traffic and Transport	To move forwards with 20mph application including online consultation	Draft form circulated – on main agenda
4 <sup>th</sup> September Minute 8	Playground	Clerk to obtain a quote for the playground repairs	Works confirmed with Dorset Council – delayed due to weather
4 <sup>th</sup> September Minute 8	Asset Transfer	Clerk to contact Dorset Council about the transfer of Charborough Way Green	The CAT request for Charborough Way Green is now logged with Dorset Council and is being progressed. Advert to publicise intent to transfer the open space has been published.
2 <sup>nd</sup> October Minute 8	Millmoor Bench	Clerk to obtain quote to new bench	Permission confirmed with landowner but care needed with water supply pipe in that location.
2 <sup>nd</sup> October Minute 8	Jubilee Cross Defibrillator	Clerk to investigate grant funding towards a defibrillator at Jubilee Cross.	No funding available from the WI.
4 <sup>th</sup> December Minute 9	Traffic and Transport	Clerk to report white lines at Church Corner and A31 surfacing.	White lines raised again with the Community Highways Officer
8 <sup>th</sup> January Minute 9	Traffic and Transport	Jubilee Cross/Wimborne Road	Ongoing

5 <sup>th</sup> February Minute 8	Environment	Grow at Home scheme to be advertised in newsletter	Complete and 4 sign ups submitted
5 <sup>th</sup> February Minute 8	Environment	Clerk to enquire about sandbag provision	Complete – 50 empty sandbags ordered
5 <sup>th</sup> February Minute 11	Finance	Clerk to appeal for return of any village trophies	Article put in newsletter
5 <sup>th</sup> February Minute 14	Correspondence	Clerk to respond to BBQ on the Green organisers.	Complete
Other		Bronze Award  Policy Review	Application submitted – feedback received and resubmission completed.  Review commenced – policies on main agenda

## Upcoming Training

### DAPTC AGM

Schedule of Payments	February payments ratified March					
<b>Payments made</b>						
Payee	Details	Gross	VAT	Net	Chq No.	Invoice number
Barclays	Account Fee	£8.50	£0.00	£8.50		
Vodafone	February Phone Bill	£30.00	£5.00	£25.00	Direct Debit	
Alison Clothier	February Salary	£1,330.24	£0.00	£1,330.24	Standing Order	
		<b>£1,368.74</b>	<b>£5.00</b>	<b>£1,363.74</b>		
<b>Payments to be made</b>						
Payee	Details	Gross	VAT	Net	Chq No.	Invoice number
Alison Clothier	February expenses - mileage and Zoom subscription	£33.98	£2.80	£31.18	Transfer	
Dorset County Pension Fund	Clerks Pension for February	£392.70	£0.00	£392.70	Transfer	
HMRC	National Insurance and Income Tax February	£281.87	£0.00	£281.87	Transfer	
Dorset Council	Sturminster Marshall ATC Surveys	£594.00	£99.00	£495.00	Transfer	<b>1801565611</b>
DAPTC	Clerk's Conference	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	Transfer	<b>354</b>
Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall	Rent of Rooms	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	Transfer	<b>SMMH5059</b>
Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall	Rent of Rooms	£15.00	£0.00	£15.00	Transfer	<b>SMMH5198</b>
Cllr Jackson	Seeds for Grow at Home Scheme	£33.66	£0.00	£33.66	Transfer	
		<b>£1,406.21</b>	<b>£101.80</b>	<b>£1,304.41</b>		

## Sturminster Marshall Parish Council

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)*

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)*

	<b>Bank Reconciliation at 28/02/2026</b>		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		94,772.03
	<b>ADD</b>		
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026		102,418.27
			197,190.30
	<b>SUBTRACT</b>		
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026		75,565.82
<b>A</b>	<b>Cash in Hand 28/02/2026</b> (per Cash Book)		<b>121,624.48</b>
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash	28/02/2026	0.00
	Natwest - Current Account	28/02/2026	0.00
	Natwest - Business Reserve	28/02/2026	0.00
	Barclays Current	28/02/2026	26,931.08
	Barclays Savings	28/02/2026	70,921.22
	CCLA	28/02/2026	25,144.73
			<b>122,997.03</b>
	Less unrepresented payments		1,372.55
			121,624.48
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
<b>B</b>	<b>Adjusted Bank Balance</b>		<b>121,624.48</b>
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		