

## UPPER MARSHWOOD VALE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: John Vanderwolfe FILCM Chartered MCIPD

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### Minutes of a Council Meeting held at Bettiscombe Village Hall on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025, commencing at 7pm

**Present:** Cllr's E Rowe (Chairman), S Forsey, E Blackburn, J Gillingham, B Lumsden, J Piper, C Rabbetts, F Bailey and D Wyatt

**In attendance:** The Clerk, Mr J Vanderwolfe, Cllr S Christopher (Dorset Council) and three members of the public

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| <b>102</b> | <b>Apologies</b><br><br>There were no apologies   |
| <b>103</b> | <b>Declarations of Interest under the Upper Marshwood Vale Code of Conduct</b><br><br>No Declarations were made at this stage of the meeting.   |
| <b>104</b> | <b>Minutes</b><br><br>The minutes of the meeting held on the 15 <sup>th</sup> May, having been previously distributed; were accepted as a true record.  |
| <b>105</b> | <b>Matters Arising</b><br><br>Members who had attended the training session run by the clerk reported that they had found it very useful<br><br>Clerk reported that he had asked our lengthsmen to cut back the hedge in the war memorial garden. |
| <b>106</b> | <b>Democratic Period</b><br><br>A member of the public felt that the website was not as up to date as it should be. This will be investigated.  |

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|            | <p>He also asked about any progress on the finger posts. He was informed that this was an item on the agenda for discussion later.</p> <p>The member felt that a donation should be made to the church to improve kitchen facilities. The clerk informed him that there are restrictions on giving funds to religious organisations. It was also pointed out that no request had been made by the church for such funding.</p> <p>The question of where the coronation bench for Marshwood should go was once again raised. Agreed to place it in the War Memorial Garden.</p> |
| <b>107</b> | <p><b>Dorset Council Report</b></p> <p>Cllr S Christopher informed the meeting that consultation on the Dorset Local Plan will commence next month. There is a great push by the Government for more housing.</p>  |
| <b>108</b> | <p><b>Accounts for Payment and Financial Update.</b></p> <p><b>Account for Payment:</b> HMRC PAYE £256.76</p> <p>Bank Reconciliation: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 £32,889.33</p> <p>Members agreed to the above.</p>  |
| <b>109</b> | <p><b>Casual Vacancy</b></p> <p>There had not been a call for a poll, therefore it was now open for the council to fill the casual vacancy by co-option. A notice had been sent out, with the closing date of the 1<sup>st</sup> September for receipt of applications.</p>  |
| <b>110</b> | <p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>The clerk had circulated members with the information that the Government had withdrawn funding for Neighbourhood Plans, therefore, it would appear parishes wishing to have one, or review the one they have, will have to find the cost from their own funds. It was not known if principal councils would fund the inspection and poll, which they have done in the past, supported by Government funding.</p>  |
| <b>111</b> | <p><b>Finger Posts</b></p> <p>It was understood that some of the parts of the posts were at the foundry.</p>   |
| <b>112</b> | <p><b>Grant to Stoke Abbott Church for churchyard maintenance</b></p>  |

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|            | Resolved to provide a grant of £300 to Stoke Abbott church for upkeep of the churchyard.   |
| <b>113</b> | <b>Speed Indicator System</b><br><br>The clerk had received a complaint that the system was overgrown, and not regularly moved. It is now understood that this related to the system owned by the school, and not the two operated by the council. The clerk would email back to obtain clarification on this.   |
| <b>114</b> | <b>Highway Matters</b><br><br>Some highway works have recently been undertaken in the parishes.  |
| <b>115</b> | <b>Right of Way</b><br><br>A member of the public had complained that there was a bridge closed at Manderville Stoke. Cllr Christopher had asked Stuart Semple to comment on this, and he had responded by stating that the estimated cost of replacing this bridge was £20K. He also pointed out that there was a diversion route avoiding the bridge. He had also informed us that a bridge at Shave Cross was to be replaced. The member of the public had been updated on the situation  |
| <b>116</b> | <b>Correspondence</b><br><br>Relevant correspondence is emailed to members when the clerk receives it  |
| <b>117</b> | <b>Matters of Urgency</b><br><br>Cllr Lumsden stated that the telephone box in Marshwood was, she had discovered, owned by the parish council. It was overgrown and need repainting. Councillors agreed to ask the landowner to clear the area, or, if not able to do so, request the parish council to do so. The clerk stated that Hawkchurch were going to paint their phone box, and that there may be some paint left over, which we could have. Cllr Lumsden stated that she felt there needed to be a consultation on a useful purpose for this box. Hawkchurch use it as a library, whilst some places have a defibrillator in it. |
| <b>118</b> | <b>Closing of Meeting</b><br><br>The meeting was closed by the chairman at 7.55pm  |
| <b>119</b> | <b>Next Meeting</b><br><br>Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7pm.  |

**Signature of Chairman** -----

**Date** -----