

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 20th March 2025, commencing at 7pm

Present: Cllr's E Rowe (Chairman), A Cameron (Vice-Chairman), S Forsey, F Bailey, J Piper, C Rabbetts, and B Lumsden.

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

062	Apologies Apologies had been received from Cllr's J Gillingham, E Blackburn and D Wyatt
063	Declarations of Interest under the Upper Marshwood Vale Code of Conduct Cllr Lumsden declared a pecuniary interest in the planning application for Bridge Farm as she lives near to the application. She stated she would leave the meeting prior to any discussions on this application taken place
064	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 th January 2025, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record.
065	Matters Arising There were no items brought up to the meeting under this heading
066	Accounts for Payment and Financial Update. Resolve to agree the following payments: HMRC PAYE £253.60, Bettiscombe PCC £300.00, Thorncombe Parish Council (Bus grant) £500.00, Society Local Councils £100.00, Dorset Council (Elections) £1340.68 and Bettiscombe Village Hall (Rent) £100.00. A total of £2,594.28.

	<p>Cllr J Piper confirmed payments and bank reconciliations</p> <p>The bank reconciliation as of the 2nd March 2025 was £27,199.59</p>
067	<p>Annual Business Review</p> <p>Members had been circulated with this business review prior to the meeting. They all agreed that they had done all within their power to ensure the protection of their assets during the financial year</p>
068	<p>Democratic Period</p> <p>A parishioner expressed his concerns that he had not received any updated concerning the proposed registration of Bottle Lane as a right of way on the definitive map. Cllr S Christopher requested him to email him the details of this application, and he would endeavour to seek a response from the Rights of Way team.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed regarding the length of time that the traffic lights were in place on A35 due to a landslide. Cllr S Christopher responded by stating that the repairs would involve a road closure, and that required liaising with Devon County Council because of the proximity of the county border.</p> <p>Concerns about the large amount of water sitting on the road near to Bramblehayes.</p> <p>The CLT AGM would be held on the 30th April. Possible funds could be available for replacement or repairs to fingerposts in the parishes.</p>
069	<p>Dorset Council Report</p> <p>Cllr S Christopher made a plea for school governors on behalf of the Broadwindsor School. Cllr Christopher then took the meeting through a recent planning case, which he thought would interest members. At the forthcoming Dorset Council meeting assets and loans will be discussed. There is a thought that by changing the length of long-term loans it could improve the council's balance sheet. He expressed concerns regarding the additional burden faced by the council due to the Government's decision to increase the employers' contributions to National Insurance. There would also be an increase in the council's pension contributions.</p>
070	<p>Planning</p> <p>Blackwell Cottage 9P/IBC/2025/00673 Alterations to rear of property, removing existing rotten wooden window frames, glazing and French doors of a mock Georgian nature. Removal of second set of French doors and</p>

	<p>replacement with single unit of plain double-glazed window. Replace all rear windows and frames with hardwood frames and plain double-glazed units.</p> <p>Members agreed to support this application.</p> <p>Bridge Farm, Cards Mill Lane, Whitchurch 9P/VOC/2025/00948</p> <p>Change of use of agricultural land to caravan/camping site as an extension to existing facility. Construct reception building, kitchen/shower block, bin store and service roads (part retrospective). Resubmission following withdrawal of W/D/16/000730. Members agreed to a site visit before making a recommendation. The working party made their site visit and agreed to support the application.</p>
072	<p>Annual Parish Meeting</p> <p>It was suggested that it would be a good idea to hold the Annual Parish Meeting, scheduled for the 15th May at the newly refurbished Bottle Inn. The Annual Council meeting would also take place at the same venue, but earlier.</p>
073	<p>Highway Matters</p> <p>The clerk reported that following a complaint about the proposed location of the bin for Stoke Abbott a new site was needed. All agreed that by far the best location would be near to the public house. It was noted that at present the pub is closed pending a new tenant.</p> <p>Cllr Bailey was concerned about several highway defects. Cllr S Christopher requested that he email him the specific details so that he could investigate them.</p>
074	<p>Finger Posts</p> <p>Cllr Lumsden made a report on the state of some finger posts. It was understood that Dorset Council would not undertake the replacement or repair of finger posts Mr Beer would inspect the fingerpost at Shave Cross and report back. A total replacement would cost £750.</p>
075	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Relevant correspondence is emailed to members when the clerk receives it</p>
076	<p>Matters of Urgency</p> <p>Cllr A Cameron informed the meeting that, with regret, he felt that he needed to vacate his position on the council from the Annual Council meeting in May.</p>

	The chairman stated that this was very sad news and thanked him for his service to the council.
077	Closing of Meeting The meeting was closed by the chairman at 20.10
078	Next Meeting Thursday 15 th May. Await confirmation of venue.

Signature of Chairman

Date