

# OWERMOIGNE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF OWERMOIGNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026 IN THE VILLAGE HALL. THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.30 P.M.

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## Public Open Forum

There were no matters raised on this occasion.

The meeting opened at 7.35 p.m.

**Attendance:** Cllr Paul Warren (Chair), Cllr Andrew Buckingham, Cllr Jo Chilcott, Cllr John Chilcott, Cllr Kim House and Emma Evans (Clerk), Cllr Nick Ireland (DC Cllr).

Three members of the public and Cllr Nick Ireland.

### 1 Apologies for absence

There were apologies to record on this occasion.

### 2 Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

No declarations were made on this occasion.

### 3 Minutes of previous Meeting

To confirm, as a correct record, the minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 21st January 2026.

It was proposed by Cllr Jo Chilcott, seconded by Cllr Andrew Buckingham and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed.

### 4 Correspondence

- a) **20mph limit through Owermoigne** - to note request received to revive application  
It was **AGREED**:- That the Minutes from the Council meeting held in March 2025 be reviewed to ascertain the progress to date.
- b) **Wessex Internet** – It was reported that communication had been made with the Wessex Internet representative who has confirmed availability to attend the upcoming Annual Parish Assembly. It was noted that some homes were not included within the upgrade and it was anticipated that the Annual Parish Assembly would provide an opportunity for Wessex Internet to provide an update on works.  
It was **AGREED**:- That the representative be invited to attend the Annual Parish Assembly and provide an update during the main part of the meeting.
- c) **Flooding – to note recent flooding in Owermoigne**  
It was reported that the Clerk had reported potential contaminated water to the Environment Agency. Members requested that any future flooding incidents be reported to the Clerk to ensure appropriate action. It was noted that there had been unprecedented

rainfall and that it could potentially be improved by ditch clearance on west hand side of Moreton Road.

d) **Ditch Clearance Responsibilities**

It was noted that landowners were generally responsible for maintaining ditches on their property. Main rivers were the responsibility of the Environment Agency, and roadside ditches could fall under the responsibility of the highway authority. Members were asked to report any issues to the Clerk for onward action.

It was further noted that riparian rights issues could be complex. Concern was raised regarding eroded ditches, particularly on the west side of Moreton Road, where the ditch on the left had disappeared. On the right, the ditch had become infilled due to the verge being pushed into it. It was suggested that reinstating the ditches could contribute to vehicle speed control, with the aim of restoration also improving pedestrian safety.

It was **AGREED**:- that a multi-agency meeting be arranged on site with Dorset Highways and a representative from the Environment Agency to investigate potential solutions.

A query was raised as to whether the Wessex Water repair, during which gravel had been placed in the ditch, may have caused a blockage of the culvert.

Further to Minute No. 8 of the Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026, an update was provided regarding the submitted EIR. It was noted that Wessex Water had requested further clarification of the location.

**5 Dorset Councillor's Report**

To note report from Councillor Nick Ireland

The Dorset Councillor provided a report and noted that, since the last meeting, the budget had been agreed by Cabinet and Council Tax would increase by 4.99%. A three-year financial settlement had also been agreed to provide greater certainty over future funding.

It was reported that there had been significant rainfall, with nearly 42 days of rain recorded in January. Clarification was provided regarding responsibilities: groundwater issues were not the responsibility of Dorset Council; the Environment Agency was responsible for rivers; Dorset Council for surface water; and Wessex Water for sewerage.

Members were informed that there had been a 92% increase in potholes repaired, with approximately 5,000 completed. Unallocated Dorset Council funds had been used to help leverage £5 million in loans to address infrastructure issues, including flooding hotspots, through Highways. Additionally, £250,000 of revenue funding had been allocated to gully clearing, and it was noted that gullies were now full and the programme would likely continue for a further year.

In relation to devolution, it was noted that there would be no merger within Wessex and that a foundation strategic approach was being taken.

An update was provided on Wessex Water main road works, which had been extended, resulting in a road closure lasting one week longer than originally planned. The works were now expected to be completed by 17<sup>th</sup> April. It was noted that temporary traffic lights would be removed over the Easter weekend.

It was further reported that a 40 mph speed limit reduction had been introduced on the dual carriageway, with notifications issued. Works involving two sets of temporary traffic lights at Poxwell Manor and Osmington Mills were noted. From 13<sup>th</sup> April, works would commence at Preston to upgrade a pelican crossing, with approximately three weeks of roadworks extending from the pelican crossing to a puffin crossing.

It was noted that Councillor Ireland would provide the contact details of the newly appointed Highways Officer.

Concern was raised regarding approximately a dozen potholes on the Moreton to Crossways road, which would be reported to Dorset Highways.

It was noted that some temporary repairs had been undertaken. In addition, the A353 from Poxwell was scheduled for resurfacing, with repairs to be completed to the required standard and subject to inspection.

## **6 Police Report**

Dorchester Rural East Neighbourhood Policing Team Crime Report

To note reports from January and February 2026

Further to Minute No. 9 of the Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026, it was noted that a letter had been sent to the PCSO with the PCC copied in. The PCSO had requested a telephone call in the first instance, and a report would be provided to the next Council meeting.

## **7 Matters arising**

Matters arising (not covered by this agenda) from the minutes of previous meetings

7.1 Wessex Water - to receive an update regarding any outstanding issues –An update would be provided following the EIR.

7.2 Footpath - Kit Lane to park – to note the Clerk will review previous minutes and report findings  
It was noted that whilst not directly under threat this is the only access from the road to the playing field.

7.3 Adverse Possession/Property Ownership - to note the current status and that the Clerk will contact the owners and Land Registry prior to the next meeting

The Chairman reported that he had corresponded with the new owners, who had been made aware of the issue. The new owners had indicated that they intended to fence the property along the correct boundary.

It was noted that the Council could employ a contractor to clear the rubbish left on site at an estimated cost of a few hundred pounds, although the area would need to dry out beforehand. It was further noted that, as the homeowners were responsible for erecting the boundary fencing, clearance of the waste should commence once those works had been completed.

It was **AGREED**:- That further correspondence would take place over the coming weeks.

7.4 Housing Needs survey – to note any updates

It was stated that this should remain on the agenda for future consideration.

7.5 Defibrillator Training and Financial Support - to consider arrangements for training and associated financial support

It was reported that there had been some issues logging on to South West Ambulance Service website in order to report monthly updates.

In response it was stated that a login was required and that the defibrillator needed to be registered via The Circuit website: [www.thecircuit.uk](http://www.thecircuit.uk)

Members noted that South West Ambulance would provide training and that the council had allocated funds, originally set aside for the defibrillator.

It was **AGREED**:- That the Chairman would pass on the contact details for South West Ambulance Service to the Clerk to investigate training options.

It was reported that correspondence had been received from Moreton Parish Council seeking joint working regarding lorries accessing the quarries and the lateness of the journeys.

## **8 Council Meeting dates 2026/27**

To note dates for Parish Council Meetings:

Annual Council Meeting - Wednesday 20th May 2026

Council Meetings – To note a Finance-focused meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 17th June 2026 (following internal audit), Wednesday 15th July, 16th September and 18th November 2026

Annual Parish Assembly – Wednesday 15th April 2026

## **9 Annual Parish Assembly**

To consider arrangements for the Parish Assembly including invitees

It was reported that the PCC had confirmed attendance and further invitations would be extended to the PCSO, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Dorset Council's Rights of Way Officer and the Village Hall Committee and the Adam Jones Trust.

## **10 Planning Applications**

To receive and consider all planning, licensing matters and consultations. N.B. Any application received after the agenda publication date may still be considered during the meeting. For an up to date list of applications please check Dorset Council's website

For Information:

10.1 P/TRC/2026/01302 Location: 42 Kit Lane Owermoigne DT2 8HP. Proposal: T1 Tulip Tree - Prune a 2.5m clearance between the tree and the roof (following pitch). Reduce limbs that overhang the roof by up to 2.5m. (Comments until 27th March 2026)

Consultations:

10.2 NDA Stakeholder Survey – completed by Cllr Buckingham on behalf of the Council

10.3 Beaver Wild Release - Consultation on the potential for wild beaver release in the River Hooke and Frome Catchment, Dorset.

The tree work and consultations were noted.

## **11 Governance and Compliance**

11.1 Information Governance Policies - to review and approve the following policies:

- a) IT Policy
- b) Retention and Disposal Policy including Appendix A Retention Schedule
- c) Councillor Email Protocol
- d) Cyber Security Policy
- e) Information Security Incident Procedure

f) Privacy Policy

11.2 Data Protection Compliance – to note the council’s arrangements for data protection compliance, including registration with the Information Commissioner's Office and councillor responsibilities when handling council information (IT Policy).

11.3 Review of Internal Controls – to review the Council’s internal control arrangements including:

- a) Financial Regulations – to review and approve
- b) Standing Orders – to review and approve
- c) Budget Monitoring
- d) Banking and payment authorisation procedures

11.4 Internal Audit – to note arrangements for the internal audit of the council’s accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2026. The internal audit has been scheduled for w/c 8th June 2026

11.5 Risk Management – to review and approve the Council’s Risk Register

11.6 Asset Register – to review and confirm the accuracy of the council’s Asset Register

11.7 External Audit – To note the outcome of the 2024/25 external audit and any recommendations (if applicable)

11.8 Transparency Requirements - To note compliance with transparency requirements for smaller authorities and the publication of required information on the council website.

11.9 Clerk’s Governance Report – to receive and note the Clerk’s report on governance and end-of-year preparations for completion of the AGAR.

Members **AGREED**:- That the Clerks Governance Report be accepted.

It was further **AGREED**:- That the policies be adopted, subject to any further Member comments received prior to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

**POST MEETING NOTE**:- Confirmation received prior to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 that all documents be adopted.

## 12 Finance and Insurance

### 12.1 Community Benefit Fund

It was noted that Council required a confirmation of the spending of the funds and details of the expenditure.

It was **AGREED**:- That the Village Hall representative will provide the Clerk with confirmation of the match funding and a breakdown of the expenditure.

12.2 NS&I “ringfenced” account for longer term payments – Letter sent 02/03/2026 to request change to bank mandate

12.3 Natwest – online form to be completed with the Chairman for change to bank mandate

It was **AGREED**:- That the Clerk would forward the NatWest form to the Chairman and Cllr Jo Chilcott for completion.

12.4 Lloyds bank – form to vary bank mandate emailed 02/02/2026, chased via email 19/02/2026, called Lloyds 02/03/2026 confirmed the case had been re-opened/re-assigned and should gain access 7-10 days.

Members noted that should access continue to be delayed that perhaps the Ombudsman be contacted. An update would be provided to the next meeting.

#### 12.5 Insurance

The Clerk would check the insurance against the Asset Register.

#### 12.6 Bank Balances and Payments

#### 12.7 Invoices - to approve Payments

|                                          |              |                             |               |          |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Wessex Ground Services                   | 14190        | Grounds Maintenance         | 145.69        | 30/01/26 |
| Parish Online                            | 19UH087-0004 | Website service             | 312           | 14/02/26 |
| Village Hall                             | 632          | Hall hire                   | 16            | 17/09/26 |
| Village Hall                             | 659          | Hall hire – Nov – Jan – Jan | 44.5          | 09/01/26 |
| Village Hall                             | 669          | Hall hire – March           | 16            | 09/03/26 |
| Wessex Ground Services                   | 14272        | Grounds Maintenance         | 145.69        | 27/02/26 |
| <b>Total Unpaid as of<br/>18/03/2026</b> |              |                             | <b>679.88</b> |          |

It was **AGREED**:- That the list of unpaid payments be approved.

### **13 Date of next Parish Council meeting:** Annual Council Meeting - Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.