**Motcombe Parish Council**

**Minutes of Motcombe Parish Council Meeting of the Parish Council held at Motcombe Village Hall, The Pavilion**

**On Tuesday the 8th of July 2025 at 7.00pm**

**The minutes are not Verbatim**

**Present: Cllr L Stacey – Chairman, Cllr P Mouncey – Vice Chairman, Cllr S Rogers, Cllr R Craigmile, Cllr J Odell, Cllr M Mason and Cllr M Hurst**

**In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), Dorset Councillors Cllr C Woode and Cllr B Ridout. There were 6 members of the public present.**

**Cllr M Mason recorded the meeting for herself and on behalf of This is Alfred**

**At this point the Chairman thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting and the Councillors. He also welcomed Cllr M Hurst as a new Councillor for Motcombe Parish Council.**

**Public consultation period – The following was raised.**

Mr John Nelson who is a member of the Shaftesbury Sustainability Co-ordination group introduced himself. He gave details of a consultation on The Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy that Dorset Council are asking for comments on. Mr Nelson gave a more detailed report on why he feels it is important for Councils to have their say on the consultation, highlighting Wildlife Corridors to support Biodiversity within Motcombe Parish. After further discussion, Mr Nelson will send relevant information to Cllr Mouncey, for his attention and that of the Parish Council. The web page to view this consultation is dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/nature-recovery-strategy.

A resident that lives in Summer Oaks expressed their disappointment over a planning application P/FUL/2025/02375 that Doret Council have approved for a change of use, to enable a childminding business to be run from a private residence. It was noted that the amount of noise and increase in traffic in a small cul de sac are distressing neighbouring residents. It was noted that there is a covenant on the houses in Summer Oaks stating that a business cannot be run from them. It was also noted that a fence has been erected along a shared driveway, without the permission of the resident reporting this. It was noted that Dorset Council planning team would not know the conditions of the private covenant on these houses and that the this should be reported back to the developers/management team, as they are the authority that will have the powers to enforce any actions against those residents that do not abide to the covenant set out. **Action – Clerk**

**25/27. To receive and accept apologies of absence.**

Cllr F Burney, Cllr W Dunlop and Dorset Councillors Pothecary sent their apologies.

**25/28. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.**

There were none.

**25/29. Co-option for new Councillor**

There were none.

**25/30. Approve minutes dated the 10th of June 2025**

Cllr Mouncey proposed the Minutes from the meeting dated the 10th of June 2025 this was seconded by Cllr Rogers, all members in favour. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**Matters arising:**

**Update on Neighbourhood Development Plan review –** the Chairman reported that a steering group meeting was held on the 8th of July, where a temporary Chairman, Cllr Craigmile and a Secretary, Rebecca Sutherland were appointed. After discussions it was agreed that the first thing the group will produce is a leaflet, detailing the information on the Neighbourhood Development Plan review and asking for more volunteers to come forward. The details will also be available on the Parish Council website, notice boards and on a purposely set up wat’s app group.

**Update on hedge cutting –** it was noted that there are a lot of hedges still growing into the roads and over the footpaths within the Parish. It was noted that the side of the Front Field has been trimmed. After debate it was agreed for the Clerk to report the addresses of any obstructing hedges, that had previously been written to by the Parish Council to Dorset Council for them to enforce. Any new addresses raised will get a polite letter from the Parish Council asking them to cut their hedges back. **Action – Clerk**

**Consider options for the welcome to Motcombe signs that were designed by the winning school children.** The Chairman reported that this project was put on hold, due to firstly, Dorset Council came out and replaced the welcome to Motcombe signs, even though they had stated that there were not going to replace the two damaged signs. Secondly, the Parish Council did not have sufficient funding of £4500.00 to get the signs made by Dorset Council. After debate, which included information on community benefit funding that the Parish Council will be receiving in the near future and the positioning of the signs that can be produced for a lot less cost of up to £600.00, it was agreed Cllr Mason will look at possible sites for the signs to be placed within the 30MPH speed limit area of the Parish and will propose these to the Councillors via email before the meeting in September. **Action – Cllr Mason**

**Review to do list –** the Clerk tabled a few items that have now come of the to do list, which are as follows:

* Agreement for service level agreement from Low Carbon (for the existing solar farm) has now been received and signed by the Chairman. The first annual tranche of funds should be released to the Parish Council in the very near future.
* To remove the proposal for the Parish Council to take over the management of the green areas in Willow Way and the Limes, due to the lack to commitment from Persimmon Homes.
* Graham Stanley has confirmed that the clearing of the ditch along the footpath alongside the Paddocks is on a schedule of works and will be completed in the very near future.
* The Clerk will chase Dorset Council up regarding the re-painting of the white road lines within the Parish and also to remind them to extend the line from the Village Hall, up to nearer Gray’s Close, to highlight how narrow the road gets. The Clerk to order the street cleaner and for all of the gullies to be cleared in the Village by Dorset Council highways team. **Action - Clerk**

**25/31. Report from Dorset Councillors**

**Dorset Councillors reports are available on the Parish Council website, or a copy can be obtained by the Clerk.**

One main point was raised, over the proposed changes to accessing the recycling centre at Shaftesbury.

Cllr Woode reported that there are 4 centres that Dorset Council have allocated for a trial in having a booking service for accessing the recycling centre, including Shaftesbury. The booking system will be on-line to begin with, where people will be allocated a 30min time slot. It was noted that this project had been suggested when Dorset Council were setting their budget and they wanted to try to save money without having to close sites down.

More details can be found on the Parish Council website under Dorset Councillors officers reports.

**25/32.** **Finance**

**To agree: Payment Schedule.** The Clerk tabled the payment schedule for June 2025. Details listed below:



It was proposed by Cllr Rogers and seconded by Cllr Stacey to pay the payments on the schedule for June 2025, all in favour.

**RESOLVED**: to pay the payments for June on the schedule (25/32 – current account)

Cllr Rogers agreed the bank reconciliation.

**25/33. Planning - Review of Working Group recommendations.**

**P/PABA/2025/03518 – Barn at Corner Lane Motcombe – erect barn – No objections**

**P/HOU/2025/03513- Bay Tree Cottage, Shorts Green Lane – extension – No objections**

**25/34. Chairmans report**

The Chairman reported that the necessary forms have at long last been sent from Low Carbon Solar Farm, for the agreement for them to donate annually a Community benefit Fund for the next 40 years to the Parish, through the Parish Council.

The Chaiman congratulated Bill Cooper on his 100 Birthday.

**25/35. Officers’ reports**

**Cllr Odell reported the following:**

Had attended the recent Village Hall Committee meeting, where it was announced they are introducing a 200 club. There are flyers around the village and in the village, shop giving more information.

**Cllr P Mouncey reported the following:**

**Meadows –** confirmed that Dorset Council have cleared the bridleway that leads from the Meadows up to the Coppleridge (which is a part of a SLA that the Parish Council have with Dorset Council).

It was noted that Mr Peter Cooper has received an MBE, who undertakes the annual butterfly count in the Meadows.

It was also noted that the Meadows will be cut later in July, but due to the increase in dog faeces not being picked up by dog owners, the grass will just be mulched, as it is considered by local farmers not fit to be used for animal feed or bedding.

**25/36. Clerk Report and additional correspondence.**

The Clerk confirmed that a few residents have expressed their concerns over the red spray that is being sprayed around dog faeces that dog owners are leaving behind in the meadows. The concerns raised, is that some dogs eat other dog fesses and the paint being used is not digestible for dogs, which could cause sickness to them. Cllr Mouncey reported that the reason for spraying around the faeces is to try and highlight the increase in faeces being left by unresponsible dog owners not picking up after their dogs and also to highlight it so that people do not step in it. After debating this matter, it was agreed to firstly erect new Dorset Council dog signs, which clearly states that anyone seen not picking up after their dogs can be prosecuted by Dorset Council dog warden. The dog warden will be asked to increase their visits, on different days and times of the days. It was also noted that anyone can use the Meadows, and is used by children, where dog faeces can pose a significant health risk to humans, particularly young children. The Parish Council will obtain guidance from local vets on what highlighting product could be used, which is not harmful to animals. **Action - Clerk**

The Meadows is a public space for all to enjoy, so **PLEASE BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER AND PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.**

**25/37. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting – to do list, Welcome to Motcombe Signs - NDP**

The Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY the 9TH of September 2025 at 7pm in the Pavilion at Motcombe Village Hall.** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.23

Signed by the Chairman…………………….............................................

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