**Motcombe Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Motcombe Village Hall, The Pavillion**

**On Tuesday the 9th of September 2025 at 7.00pm**

**The minutes are not Verbatim**

**Present: Cllr L Stacey – Chairman, Cllr P Mouncey – Vice Chairman, Cllr S Rogers, Cllr J Odell, Cllr F Burney and Cllr W Dunlop**

**In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), Dorset Councillors Cllr C Woode and Cllr B Ridout and Cllr V Pothecary. There were 20 members of the public present.**

**This is Alfred is recording the meeting**

**The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and expressed thanks to the Councillors, as they are unpaid volunteers, giving their time for the wellbeing of the Parish.**

**Public consultation period:**

A member of the public asked for an update on the Parish Councill’s decision on the Solar Farm application. Cllr Dunlop reported that the Parish Council objected to the application and full details of the objections can be viewed on Dorset Council planning portal – planning application no P/FUL/2025/03674.

**25/41. To receive and accept apologies of absence.**

Cllr M Mason and Cllr R Craigmile sent their apologies.

**25/42. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.**

There were none.

***At this point the Chairman withdrew standing orders and welcomed representatives from 1st Estate, to give information on a proposed farm based anaerobic digestion plant, located in the Parish.***

**The following bullets points were raised by the representatives, Councillors and members of the public:**

* The proposal is to construct and operate an anaerobic digestion facility at Wessex Farm, Sherborne Causeway. The Facility will produce renewable biomethane by processing agricultural biomass and organic agricultural by-products, supporting sustainable farming practices. This is a joint project with 1st Estate Biomethane Ltd and Kanadevia Inova Ltd.
* It is designed to inject renewable gas into the national gas grid and digestate storage and handling infrastructure to return nutrient-rich fertiliser to farmland.
* Comprehensive technical assessments have been undertaken covering air quality, ecology, heritage, landscape, noise and flood risk
* Concerns were raised over the effect the additional number of lorries using the A30 will have, as this is a very busy main road. A traffic assessment has been completed and has shown there will be minimal impact on the A30 and local roads. It was also noted that the owner of Wessex Farm already run a haulage business from the site, so the site is accessible for heavy vehicles.
* A question of why the proposed sighting are can not be moved closer to the Farm Buildings, as it is very close to a neighbouring farmers land? The position of the units are proposed, as it is right on a gas main and there are rules that the plant can not be nearer than 250 meters to a residential property. It was confirmed that the project would not requite a new connection to the Hawker’s Hill electricity substation.
* Mr Philip Davey form KDI expressed that they are happy to talk to the Parish Council and local residents regarding this application and if the application is successful, they will be available in working hours at the site on an appointment basis.
* The plant has a life expectancy of around 40 years.

**The presentation given, which gives a lot more details, will be available on the Parish Councils website or a copy can be obtained from the Clerk.**

***At this point the Chairman re-instated standing orders***

**25/43. Co-option for new Councillor**

The Chairman stated that there are three vacancies on the Parish Council and if anyone is interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact the Chairman or Clerk. The more Councillors the Parish have representing it; more can be achieved.

**25/44. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated the 8th of July 2025 and the extraordinary meeting of the 12th of August 2025.**

Cllr Mouncey proposed the Minutes of the 8th of July, and the 12th of August are a true record of account, this was seconded by Cllr Dunlop, all in favour.

**RESOLVED**: to agree the minutes of the 8th of July 2025 and the 12th of August 2025 (25/44, no budgetary requirements)

**Matters arising:**

* **Update on process to form Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group –** Cllr Dunlop reported that group has been formed and was meeting every 3 weeks or so. They are working on a consultation for the residents of the Parish and Parish Council on updating the existing Neighbourhood Development Plan.
* **Consider welcome to Motcombe Signs designed by 4 of the Primary School children –** Cllr Stacey thought it was a shame that Cllr Mason could not be present at the meeting, as she originally led this project. The Chairman had circulated the cost of £500.00 for producing the 4 signs and also proposals of where they could be placed. Concerns were raised over the life expectancy of the signs and the siting of them. After debating the cost and concerns of where the welcome to Motcombe Signs can be placed, as Dorset Council have already replaced the broken ones and they have specific rules about where additional road signs can be placed, it was agreed to contact the production team for the Villager, to enquire whether the designs could be used on the magazine. Cllr Dunlop proposed to not to pay for the production of the signs and request the designs are used in other areas, like in the Villager, this was seconded by Cllr Rogers, all Councillors present agreed.
	+ **RESOVLED:** For the Parish Council not to produce the road signs, but to look at other opportunities, like the Villager to show the Children’s designs (25/44a not budgetary requirements)
* **To discuss Dorset Council Local Plan proposal –** Dorset Councillor V Pothecary tabled a report on the Local Plan, which can be seen on the Parish Council’s website or a copy obtained by the Clerk. The main points that came out of the report is that Central Government have given Dorset Council a housing target of 50,000 new homes. Dorset Council have already got 25,000 houses allocated, so are asked to allocate land for an additional 25,000 homes. On the Plan, it has been suggested that Motcombe could be allocated as much as 464 new homes. Everyone is encouraged to take some time to look at the proposed plan and come along to the drop-in sessions at Shaftesbury and Gillingham, as everyone is entitled to have their say. You can view the full plan at [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan) or copies are available at your local library.The draft transport plan is also available to view and comment on.

**25/45. Report from Dorset Council Councillors.**

Dorset Councillors reports can be seen on the Parish Council website or a copy obtained from the Clerk.

Cllr B Ridout re-iterated the importance for everyone to have their say on Dorset Council Local Plan proposal. There are a lot of good aspects in the draft and she with other Councillors are working on producing a mineral waste plan, that will run alongside of the Local Plan.

Cllr C Woode also expressed the importance for everyone to have their say on the Local Plan.

**25/46. Finance**

**To ratify the payments, make for July 2025 and agree the payments for August 2025. Details listed below:**





It was proposed by Cllr Rogers and seconded by Cllr Mouncey to ratify the payment agreed via email for July 2025 and pay the payments on the schedule for August 2025, all in favour.

**RESOLVED**: to ratify the payments for July and pay the payments for August on the schedules (25/46 – current account)

Cllr Rogers agreed the bank reconciliation.

**25/47. Planning: Review of Working Group recommendations and Dorset Councils decision**

**P/PAAC/2025/04074/75 – Old Brickyard Farm - Change of use and conversion of agricultural building to form 2 No. dwellings –** awaiting Dorset Councils decision.

**P/HOU/2025/04250 – The Moorland, Elm Hill - Convert loft into living accommodation –** Approved by Dorset Council.

**P/FUL/2025/03674 – Land South of Motcombe Road - Construct solar farm, comprising solar photovoltaic panels.** The Parish Council have objected to this application.

**P/FUL/2025/02587 – Land at Turnpike Road - Retain change of use of land for the siting of 2no. static caravans & 2no. touring caravans.** The Parish Council had no objection to the application.

**25/48. Chairmans report.**

The Chairman had nothing further to report.

**25/49. Councillors Reports:**

**Cllr Mouncey reported the following:**

The allotment AGM took place a few weeks ago, there are only 2 plots untenanted, and they gained new committee members.

Tabled a quote from the Parish Council’s grounds contractor, to cut the hedge line and brambles back next to the Allotments. It is for the sum of £300.00. It was noted that if the contractor is able to do the works at the same time at the Front Field hedges, this figure will be reduced. The Clerk suggested that the additional works should be added to the contractor’s contact of works, to ensure this is done on an annual basis. After debate the Councillors agreed to the works and to add them to the contractor’s contract. Action – Clerk

Reported that the proposed diversion for part of Footpath 20 in Motcombe at Kings court, Rail Crossing has been approved. It will take the footpath under the line using the existing track alongside the river, instead of across the railway line.

**25/50. Clerk’s report and additional correspondence.**

Nothing to report.

**25/51. Items for the next meetings agenda and date of next meeting –** Agenda items to be confirmed.

The Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY the 14th of October 2025 at 7pm in the Pavilion at Motcombe Village Hall.** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.30

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

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