



Motcombe Parish Council

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

On Tuesday the 14th of April 2026 at 7.00pm

The minutes are not Verbatim

Present: Cllr L Stacey – Chairman, Cllr P Mouncey – Vice Chairman, Cllr J Odell, Cllr R Craigmile, Cllr W Dunlop, and Cllr S Rogers

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk), There were 17 members of the public. Dorset Councillor B Ridout and Dorset Councillor C Woode
This is Alfred will be recording the meeting.

Public consultation period:

A member of the public said he was pleased to see the bin collections are now being completed correctly. The Chairman reported that Dorset Waste team had issues with staffing, which hopefully is now resolved. Concerns were raised over the land off the road to Turnpike The original application had been refused and the owners had 6 months to appeal. An enforcement officer spoke to one of the local residents, suggesting that a fresh application maybe submitted, which needs to be submitted within the same 6 month period. The enforcement officer highlighted that due to the lack of land available for travellers/gypsy sites, Dorset Council would have to take this into account if a new application is submitted.

A member of the public raised concerns of the speed of traffic along Calves Lane, also raised with Shaftesbury TC. This email will be circulated for information to MPC members and the topic added as an agenda item for the Parish Council meeting in May.

25/104. To receive and accept apologies of absence.

Cllr Burney did not attend and Cllr V Potheary sent her apologies.

25/105. Declaration of Interest and Dispensations.

Cllr W Dunlop declared a possible personal interest under agenda Item 7 – planning - 01535

25/106. Co-option for new Councillor

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council entitlement for councillors is 11 and at the moment there are only 7 Councillors representing the whole of the Parish. No one came forward at this time.

25/107. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated the 17th of March 2026

Cllr Mouncey proposed the Minutes of the 10th of February 2026 are a true record of account, this was seconded by Cllr Odell, all in favour. The Chairman signed the minutes.

RESOLVED: to agree the minutes of the 17th of March 2026 (25/107, no budgetary requirements)

Matters arising:

To update on the proposed Anaerobic Digestion Plant – Cllr Mouncey had attended the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held at Dorset Council, and stated the Motcombe Parish Council objections. The Committee had approved the application, with conditions.

At this point Standing Orders were removed to allow the public to speak to agenda item 4

A member of the public reported that he watched the hearing and felt that it was not conducted in the correct way, as questions were being raised over the increase in traffic. There were no representations from Highway at the hearing and none of the questions raised were appropriately answered, as they did not seem to have the answers to hand and it was felt that without that information, the hearing should have been deferred until representatives from Highways could be present to answer questions raised. After debate, it was agreed that



the Parish Council produce a response to the Dorset Council regarding the approval of the application, highlighting the concerns overdue process as Highways were not present at the hearing. Cllr Dunlop will produce a report to send to Dorset Council Planning team.

At this point standing orders were re-instated.

To update to do list – The Clerk read out the actions that still awaiting action, which includes the following:

- Refurbishment of the phone box – Cllr Odell will be working on this in the better weather
- White lines to be extended outside the Village Hall to past the hedge, mirroring the line on the opposite side of the road – this has now been completed. Other road markings will be repainted over the spring/summer.
- If any members of the public see a pothole or blocked drain, please report these using the following links:
The link for reporting potholes is <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/pothole-repairs> and for blocked drains it is <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>. You can also use Fix My Street <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>
- The stream by the Rights of Way footpath next to the Paddocks remains overgrown and still needs to be cleared out. The Clerk will continue to follow this up with Dorset Council Rights of Way officer.

25/108. Report from Dorset Council Councillors.

Dorset Councillors reports can be viewed on the website or a copy obtained from the Clerk.

The main items raised were as follows:

- Cllr C Woode reported an event on flooding to be held at Blandford Corn Exchange on the 23rd of April, where representatives from the environment agency and Wessex Water will be present.
- Cllr B Ridout reported that for low-income households that use oil for heating, Dorset Council have funding which can be applied for at: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/help-for-households-with-oil-heating.

25/109. Finance

To approve the payments for March 2026. Details listed below:

Name	Category	Expense Amount
Lloyds DD	Service Charge	£ 4.25
N Phillips DD	Clerks wages March	£ 1,131.82
Nest	Clerk pension	£ 140.80
HMRC DD	Paye/Ni/emp ni	£ 379.10
Alfie Burt	Grass Cutting 1441	£ 441.66
Motcombe Memorial Hall	Hall Hire 1012	£ 40.20
N Phillips	Clerks expenses	£ 68.49
Allotment Ass	Grant	£ 200.00
Home Start	Grant	£ 200.00
Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance	Grant	£ 200.00
Total for March		£ 2,806.32

It was proposed by Cllr Rogers and seconded by Cllr Mouncey to approve the payments on the schedule for March 2026 for the sum of £2806.32, all in favour.

RESOLVED: the payments for February (25/109 – current account)

Cllr S Rogers agreed the bank reconciliation.

25/110. Planning – review of working group recommendations

Update, reported to Dorset Council enforcement team, the unauthorised works on a piece of land at North End – Dorset Councils enforcement team have acknowledged the complaint. The Clerk will continue to contact them for updates.

P/HOU/2026/01450 – September Morn – replace existing extension – No Objection

P/PAAC/2026/01412 – Calves Lane Farm – change of use – No Objection



P/VOC/2026/01536 – East Coppleridge Farm – erect 1no dwelling – No Objection
P/OUT/2026/00102 – 43 The Street- erect dwelling – Objection due to overdevelopment of the site.
P/CLE/2026/01678 - Land At St E 386391 N 124560 Thanes Lane – change of use – No Objection
P/FUL/2026/01535 – 24&25 Bittles Green – erect extensions and new vehicle access – Support the application, but will raise concerns over the access and parking.

25/110. Chairmans report.

The Chairman reported that Colin House, the long-standing Chairman of Motcombe Allotment Association has stood down. Colin House had contributed enormously to the Allotment Association since the day it was set up. The Chairman reported that unfortunately, it has been reported to the Parish Council that poison had been put in Motcombe Meadows. Near the Allotment Site, it is believed that a dog had eaten poisoned sprats and had sadly died. Cllr Mouncey produced and put up notices at the Meadows asking for dog owners to keep their dog close. Please be vigilant when walking your dogs in the Meadows. This matter will be reported to the police as it is totally unexpected and against the law. If anyone has any information of who could have done such a horrible thing, please contact the police. It was also noted that similar events had occurred in Gillingham.

25/111. Councillors Reports:

Cllr Craigmile reported the following:

Will be working with the Clerk to look at ways to update the Parish Council website.

Cllr Mouncey reported the following:

Meadows - The new fencing at the back of the front field where paths cross the stream was erected today by Hindon Fencing. Cllr Mouncey was interviewed by Keri for This is Alfred about the dog poisoning incident, and the warning notices will remain in place for now.

Allotments –As noted by the Chair, Colin House has recently stood down as Chair of the Allotment Association. Over his years as chair, Colin carefully maintained and administered the site, for which we thank him for all his dedication. It was his suggestion that we lowered the hedge on the south side to remove shade and improve drainage. We have agreed with the Committee that in future our grass cutting contractor will mow round the outside of the site, a job that Colin voluntarily undertook in order to display the site at its best. It was noted that a recent local promotional campaign by the Association has reduced the number of vacant plots.

Rights of Way - All but one of the many issues Cllr Mouncey and other walkers, had logged on Dorset for You for the circular walk from Elm Hill to the Meadows via North End, Cowridge Copse, Larkinglass Farm, Wolfridge Farm, Donedge Lodge and the bridleway (from by the solar farm) have been dealt with by the Rangers in recent weeks, for which they have been thanked. The outstanding one being a new bridge over the stream between Wolfridge & Donedge which remains passable with care and is awaiting replacement.

The White Hart Link is now fully waymarked round the new paths at Littledown, but the Rangers have yet to rectify their own confusing waymarking of the new route at that site. There is a car park there near the new children's play area and the large curved seat installed to enjoy the view over the Blackmore Vale.

The path across the railway at Kingscourt remains closed, awaiting the revised route under the existing bridge over the Loddon to be completed by Network Rail.

Cllr Mouncey asked for the Clerk to contact Furn Brook Solar Farm/Lowcarbon to request an update on the vegetation screening that has still not been planted, which was a condition of the approved planning for this project.

Action - Clerk

Cllr Dunlop reported the following:

Neighbourhood Development Plan – the volunteers on the group regularly meet and have now set up a crowd funding page, to try and raise much needed funds for hiring professionals to help with the updating of the Neighbourhood Development plan. The money given to the crowd funding, is directly deposited into the Parish Council bank account, where the funds will be allocated to the project only. Dorset Council and Central Government withdrew grant funding for NDP, that is why the crowd funding has been set up, to help reach the target needed to complete the update of the NDP.



At this point, a member of the public that just joined the meeting, spoke about concerns over the crowd funding page, but due to the lack of information of why these concerns were raised, was asked to contact the Parish Council giving more information. The Clerk re-iterated that the funds will be secure with the Parish Council finances and will only be allocated to this project.

Cllr Rogers reported the following:

Fly tipping at the top of the Hollow, just before the Shaftesbury sign on the opposite side of the road. The Clerk has reported this to Dorset Council.

25/112. Clerk's report and additional correspondence.

No additional correspondence received.

25/113. Items for the next meeting's agenda and date of next meeting – Annual Parish Meeting, Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting – Calves Lane – other items to be agreed.

The Parish Council meeting will be held on **TUESDAY the 12th of May 2026 at 6.30PM in the Pavilion at Motcombe Village Hall.** There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 19.45pm

Signed by the Chairman.....

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