

Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd October 2025 at Maiden Newton Village Hall.

Present:

Trena Fox (TF) (Chair)
Anne Clements (AC)
Carol King (CK)

Toni C-M (TCM)
Jame Meatyard (JM)
Emma Moore (EM)

In attendance: Mrs M Harding (Clerk/RFO) and 9 members of the Public

25/10-1. Welcome and opening remarks from the Chair.

The Chair welcomed Cllrs and residents to the meeting, noting housekeeping.

The PC have been made aware that the hearing loop in the hall is not functioning at present so this will be looked into with the village hall committee, she explained that for those who could not hear what was being said to please raise their hand and we will try our best to accommodate them.

The chair announced the resignation of Alan Goff, The Chair personally thanked Alan for all he has done as a Cllr and for the support given to the Chair. Alan would however still continue as a flood warden. The vacancy has been advertised as per the casual vacancy policy.

The PC held a very well attended public meeting on 25th September where 41 residents from the village also from Loders, Chilfrome and Frampton. Cllr Neil Eysenck and his colleague Cllr David Northern from Upwey and Broadway Ward, Weymouth who made a presentation on the Local Plan noting the specific concerns that may affect Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch, this was discussed later in the meeting.

The MUGA project is to commence weather permitting on 6th October and should take up to 4 weeks, we will keep everyone posted on its progress.

25/10-2. To receive and approve apologies for absence – Cllr Neil Eysenck, Cllr Bekkie Webb as both unwell and Jeremy Edwards.

25/10-3. To receive declarations of interest or grants of dispensation-none that affected agenda items.

25/10-4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4th September 2025 and sign. These minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed TCM Seconded AC All agreed

25/10-5. To receive any matters arising from the minutes for information only-

AC inquired whether the parish council could provide an update on the progress of the Maiden Newton country cars scheme in collaboration with Dorset Council. The Clerk will contact the Ward Cllr.

The meeting was closed for the public session.

25/10-6. Democratic Forum (15 minutes) –

A resident noted the tree still in the river is now accessible due to low water; CK will inspect it.

On Drift Rd, someone reported concrete blocks were fly-tipped under the bridge to fill in the potholes—allegedly organized by the allotment association—and large blocks were also left at the road's edge. The PC will investigate.

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The Chair reopened the meeting following the public session.

25/10-7. Dorset Local Plan Consultation

Following the public event, comments from residents were gathered and compiled into a report. Councillors noted the site off Chilcome Lane and the proposed traveller site in Frampton, discussing the impact on the village.

CK commented that the site being offered is not suitable due to its location, access issues near the two bridges, inadequate infrastructure, flood risk, and concerns regarding emergency vehicle access. Councillors agreed with this assessment.

However, members also considered alternative sites within the village that could collectively accommodate more than the 45 houses proposed for this site, and these were presented at the meeting for feedback. A map of the village was on screen during these discussions; the sites were pointed out to residents at the meeting and further feedback given.

Cllrs CK and TF will attend the Frampton Parish Council meeting on 7th October, where the proposed traveller site will be discussed in more detail and report back for the PC comments.

It was proposed that the Council objects to the site included in the Local Plan and instead put forward alternative suggestions that would be more in keeping with the village street scene and focus on infill development. Proposed TCM Seconded CK All agreed

25/10-8. Flood Update

As reported last month the flood alleviation channel has been cleared. A further follow up will be carried out with EA and our ward Cllr.

The PC reported the sandbags blocking a gully on Frome Lane, this has been actioned.

25/10-9. Council property:

i. To note and note asset inspections.

Clerk reported that the old Firehouse funds will be paid into the PC account shortly and this will be ring fenced for the project.

There have been a few allotment queries dealt with.

EM reported that she has been investigating the replacement of the roundabout and initial quotes with installation and surfacing is approx. £10,000, EM also commented the group really need committee members and hopes to further investigate becoming a charity.

ii. To receive an update on the MUGA project.

The contract has been signed, and work is scheduled to commence on 6th October. Traction Sports are being fully supportive, and all current users who will be affected have been informed about the upcoming disruption.

iii. To discuss a potential community project for Skips Field

Following the last Parish Council meeting, and after discussions with the CLT and the landowner, a quotation was received at a cost of £750 plus VAT to value the fields. Councillors agreed that, unless the valuation is carried out, neither the CLT nor the Parish Council can move forward with the project to determine whether it is financially viable, therefore this cost was agreed. Proposed: TCM Seconded: AC

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iv. To discuss an agreement of the playing field with the Youth Football club for grant purposes.

Following the Parish Council meeting in September, a quotation was obtained from a solicitor to draw up the lease. Further meetings are yet to take place with the Football Club to discuss how the lease agreement will be managed, including contact details, maintenance responsibilities, and cost sharing. It was noted that a professionally drafted lease would cost £650. Proposed EM Seconded CK. All agreed.

v. To consider the planting of a small oak tree in the rented paddock

A request had been received to plant a small oak tree in the rented paddock by the tenant. Councillors noted that they were opposed to planting the tree in this location, as the land may be needed for future allotment plots adjacent to the existing allotments. However, they were supportive of the idea of planting an oak tree in principle and agreed that, should the Parish Council take on Skips Field, planting a tree in that location would be more beneficial. It was agreed that the Parish Council would communicate these circumstances to the tenant. Proposed EM Seconded TCM.

Following this discussion, it was noted by a resident that the request to plant the tree would not involve land near the allotments. The Chairman will make arrangements to meet with the tenant and the contractor who is to plant the tree. This item will be placed on the agenda for the November meeting for conclusion.

25/10-10. To consider all planning applications in circulation any other planning matters

- P/FUL/2025/04958 Proposal: Retain change of use of land from agricultural to a mixed use of agricultural and the keeping of horses together with the siting of a field shelter. Location: New Farmhouse Southover Frampton- *No objections*
- 2 P/FUL/2025/05311 Proposal: Installation of single parking bollard and bin screen store to house 5 no. wheeled bins and associated groundworks Location: Land off Bull Lane, Maiden Newton, DT2 0BQ-*No objections*
- 3 Planning Application Number: P/FUL/2025/00485
Location: Land At Crupton Farm Crupton Lane Crupton
Description: Construction of a temporary solar farm, to include the installation of solar photovoltaic panels, with substations, inverters, perimeter fencing, landscaping and other associated works. *CK and AC expressed interest in attending the planning meeting and speaking on behalf of the Council in support of the proposal as has been the PC's comment.*

25/10-11. Finance:

i. To consider all payments and receipts due or paid since the last meeting. Payments

The Clerk explained that the precept has now been received. Monies for the multi-use games area project have been transferred to a more accessible account in preparation for the works to be completed and paid for as the grant cannot be drawn down until the work is complete. Additionally, the Parish Council had received a donation of £250 from the Maiden Newton Runners, which will be allocated towards the multi-use games area project.

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Financial Report – Sep/Oct 2025

Payments:

Valda Energy – Electricity at MUGA: £18.41
Maiden Newton Village Hall – Hall Hire: £22.50
Rolls Landscaping Ltd – Grass Contract: £512.39
Lloyds Bank – Bank Charges: £4.25 (Paid)
Starboard Systems (Scribe) – Accounting Software: £414.72
Admin/Office Expenses: £1,340.40
Maiden Newton Village Hall – Hall Hire: £45.00
BDO LLP – External Audit: £378.00
Rolls Landscaping Ltd – Grass Contract: £512.39

Total Payments: £3,248.06

Receipts:

Maiden Newton Runners – Donation: £250.00
Dorset Council – Precept: £18,900.00
Lloyds Bank – Interest: £13.97
Lloyds Bank – Interest: £89.64

Total Receipts: £19,253.61

Proposed AC seconded AK. All agreed

ii. To receive the latest financial reports and bank reconciliation.

Total cash in hand (Cash Book, 30/09/2025): £99,575.80

- Current Account: £10,977.86
- Savings Account: £32,423.17
- Fixed Term Deposit: £30,000.00
- 32-Day Notice Account: £26,174.77

iii. To consider a date for the Finance and Budget meeting and staff appraisal

The meeting is usually the Chair, Vice and Clerk but any Cllrs are welcome, it was agreed to book the meeting on 23rd Oct after 5pm and CK would like to attend. The budget discussions are then put to the full PC in November.

iv. To agree the cost of the Remembrance Day Wreath

This year, the parish council will need to purchase a new wreath, as the old one has been recycled. A budget of £50 has been allocated for this purchase, and it will be ordered accordingly. Proposed TCM Seconded AC

25/10-12. To receive any Highways reports-

The Chair spoke with Sally, the parish transport representative, who expressed her wish to retire. She commented that a meeting is planned regarding a potential discussion with Stratton and Frampton Parish Councils about a community bus service. AC agreed to take on this role and will incorporate the Transport Plan, as well as concerns regarding buses, trains, and the Trailway. A letter of thanks will be sent to Sally.

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25/10-13. To receive any Rights of way reports-

Chris Slade reported that the flood alleviation channel has now been installed. However, this blocks the footpath, so stepping stones or another form of access across will need to be provided.

25/10-14. Eggardon Ward Councillor's Report- *To receive an update from Dorset Councillor*

Not in attendance.

25/10-15. Correspondence- To consider items of correspondence received or for noting-

- The Clerk reported on the broken posts at the War Memorial and suggested painting them white, possibly adding reflectors. The contractor who repaired them is considering installing a spring, so the posts bounce back up.
- EM will follow up with the young person who requested D of E volunteering.
- The Maiden Newton Signal Box sign is currently in Chard; this information will be sent to the Friends of the Station.
- The hearing loop is being investigated with the VH committee to enable accessible meetings.
- Grit bin filling is scheduled to commence in the coming weeks.

25/10-16. To confirm items for the Parish Council meeting to be held on 6th November 2025 -

Budget, MUGA and Flooding update.

25/10-17. Democratic forum 15 minutes- members of the public to raise any other items that may form future agenda items

Comments were made on the location of the Oak Tree

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:28.