

Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9th April 2026 at Maiden Newton Village Hall.

Present:

Trena Fox (TF) (Chair)

Jeremy Edwards (JE) (Vice Chair)

Anne Clements (AC)

Georgina Stephenson (GS)

Carol King (CK)

Toni C-M (TCM)

James Meatyard (JM)

Gareth Scott (GJS)

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

26/04-1. Welcome and opening remarks from the Chair.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting following the annual parish assembly which finished at 7:20 PM.

26/04-2. To receive and approve apologies for absence- none.

26/04-3. To receive declarations of interest or grants of dispensation-None.

26/04-4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 5th March 2026 and sign. These minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed GS Seconded AC All agreed

26/04-5. Clerks Report of actions and updates

- i. The Parish Council has submitted its official response to the fire station closure following the consultation.
- ii. The information and details of the lease have been provided to the solicitor and are currently awaiting confirmation.
- iii. The defibrillator has now been hardwired into the MUGA Hut. An electrician has investigated the lighting further, and at present everything appears to be working correctly. Also, a plumber has been to repair the tap and a new lock has been fitted.
- iv. The allotment gates have been reopened, and the track specification is currently under consideration.
- v. Repairs to the Maiden Newton clock are scheduled to take place around 24th April.
- vi. The bollard quote will be discussed further on the agenda following advice from Highways.
- vii. The Finance meeting has been scheduled for 30th April.
- viii. A litter pick was carried out on 22nd March; however, turnout was quite low this year, so alternative dates may be considered in future.
- ix. The email migration was successfully completed on 20th March.

The meeting was closed for the public session.

26/04-6. Democratic Forum (15 minutes)

CK reported that the Fire Station Action Group has invited a member of the Parish Council to speak at their public rally in Dorchester. CK confirmed that she would be happy to attend and speak, and it was noted that GS may also attend.

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for its support regarding the proposed fire station closure and also expressed thanks to the MP and Ward Councillor. It was noted that the recent public meeting was well attended, and that continued public engagement and consultation could help influence the outcome.

The business of the meeting was reopened

Chair

Date

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26/04-7. Eggardon Ward Councillor's Report

Following the Annual Parish Assembly, concerns were raised regarding the difficulties experienced in contacting the Environment Agency and Wessex Water. It was noted that even the MP had encountered significant challenges in progressing matters.

It was suggested that the Parish Council explore escalating the issue to **Ofwat**, the regulator for water services, to seek further support in relation to Wessex Water.

26/04-8. Council property:

i. Playing field- update

The list remains ongoing and, following the Easter break, it is hoped this will be completed and actioned shortly.

ii. MUGA and MUGA Hut- update

As previously noted, the defibrillator has now been hardwired into the MUGA hut. The plumbing leak has been repaired, and a new lock has been installed on the MUGA hut. Most of the football equipment has now been removed.

It is hoped that the resurfacing works to the MUGA will take place as soon as there is a period of four to five consecutive days of suitable weather to allow the surface to be laid correctly.

iii. Play area- Update

The weekly visual inspections and monthly reporting are due to resume shortly. An online form will be prepared and issued to JM and CK to complete, ensuring that the Parish Council meets its insurance requirements.

iv. Allotments- Access and vacant plots

Prior to the meeting the clerk had carried out an inspection and noted few allotments that require a letter these will be followed up there are two vacant allotments currently the notice board is broken and will be looked into as a specification for the track is being prepared as previously discussed.

v. Other Assets- memorials, car parks, street furniture

Bollards on The Cross: Following discussions with Dawn Heath, Senior Highways Officer, regarding the wooden posts around the memorial, it was noted that these would not be removed unless they were considered dangerous or rotten. However, due to highway safety requirements, any replacement would need to meet appropriate safety standards in the event of vehicle impact.

It was noted that suppliers, including Glasdon, offer a range of compliant hazard marker options.

The Parish Council agreed to replace the existing bollards with a suitable recycled type, taking into account highway safety requirements, at a cost of £651.32 plus VAT. It was further noted that installation would be carried out by Highways free of charge.

Proposed AC Seconded GS All agreed

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26/04-9. To consider all planning applications in circulation any other planning matters

- i. **P/HOU/2026/00399** Proposal: Remove rear conservatory and erect single storey rear extension with balcony above. Install 2no. rooflights Location: 1 Whitehall, Dorchester Road, Maiden Newton- *No objections*
- ii. **P/HOU/2026/01351** Proposal: Site shepherds hut and erect facility structure. Location: Nunnery Mead Throop Farm To Notton Lane Notton- *No objections*
- iii. **P/VOC/2026/01480** Proposal: Erect 14no. social housing dwellings with associated parking, access and landscaping (WD/D/19/002190) With Variation of Condition 2, to amend the approved plans of the road layout Location: Land To The East Of 26-44 Cattistock Road (Webbers Piece) Maiden Newton- *no objections*
- iv. **P/HOU/2026/01530** Proposal: Replacement of roof lights with dormer windows Location: Cromwell Cottage-1A The Cornstores. Dorchester Road, Maiden Newton- *no objections*
- v. Planning appeal in respect of Construction of a temporary solar farm, to include the installation of solar photovoltaic panels, with substations, inverters, perimeter fencing, landscaping and other associated works. at Land At Cruyton Farm Cruyton Lane Cruyton- *for information only*

26/04-10. Finance:

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

Payments totalling **£2,689.96** were noted and included:

- BWP Creative Ltd (website domain): £36.00
- S C Marsh Ltd (hedge trimming – 2 years): £816.00
- Valda Energy (electricity at MUGA): £20.09
- Lloyds Bank (bank charges): £4.25
- MNVH (hall hire – February and March): £36.00
- Office administration: £1,777.62

Receipts totalling **£13,940.57** were received, including:

- Old Fire House funds: £80.00
- HMRC VAT reclaim: £8,354.04
- Rent (grazing): £400.00
- Friends of Play Area funds (ring-fenced): £5,045.21
- Interest: £48.32
- MUGA cash: £13.00

Proposed TCM Seconded AC All agreed

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

Bank Reconciliation Report (as at 31 March 2026)

The balance per bank statements was confirmed as:

- Fixed Term Deposit: £30,000.00
- Lloyds 32 Day Notice Account: £36,426.02
- Lloyds Savings Account: £12,986.32
- Lloyds Current Account: £5,818.83

Total: **£85,231.17**

The reconciliation was noted and approved.

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26/04-11. To receive any Highways reports- ²

Concerns were raised regarding the speed of traffic within the village and what further measures could be taken. It was noted that the 20mph scheme is progressing, and the situation will be reviewed following its implementation.

Concerns were also raised regarding CCTV cameras on the public house overlooking children waiting for school transport. It was agreed that this matter would be referred to School Transport for further consideration. It was noted that School Transport are looking to relocate the bus stop to ensure community safety at the public house and for the children.

It was noted that the Maiden Newton 20mph Panel has met and agreed that the proposed schemes can progress to formal public consultation. This represents Stage 2 of the process, in line with Dorset Council's Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) procedures.

26/04-12. To receive any Rights of way reports-

The RoW officer commented on the lovely show at Blubell Wood, also commented on the access land at the National England site.

26/04-13. Correspondence- To consider items of correspondence received or for noting-

Fly tipping has been reported on Greenford Hill.

26/04-14. Date and items for the Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting, to be held on 7 May at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. At this meeting, the annual business of the Parish Council will be conducted, including the confirmation of roles and responsibilities, agreement of meeting dates, and approval of the AGAR.

26/04-15. Democratic forum 15 minutes- members of the public to raise any other items that may form future agenda items

A resident commented on the bus timetables and requested that these be displayed on the village notice board to encourage greater use of the service, noting that there is a risk of losing the service due to low usage. It was agreed that further information would be provided and displayed.

The Clerk will arrange for the relevant bus timetable information to be posted on the notice board.

It was also noted that an email will be sent to allotment holders reminding them of the rules regarding the use of bonfires on site.

A request was made for the Rights of Way map to be displayed on the notice board again, and this will be arranged.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 19.51.