

**Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch  
Group Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at Maiden Newton Village Hall.



**Present:**

Trena Fox (TF) (Chair)

Jeremy Edwards (JE) (Vice Chair)

Anne Clements (AC)

Georgina Stephenson (GS)

Toni C-M (TCM)

James Meatyeard (JM)

Gareth Scott (GJS)

In attendance: Mrs M Harding (Clerk/RFO) Mrs A Crocker (new Clerk) and 5 members of the Public

**26-06-1. Welcome and opening remarks from the Chair**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that it had been a very busy month.

It was reported that following the resignation of Michele the Parish Clerk, who would be leaving at the end of June, Amanda has been appointed as the new Clerk and has been working alongside Michele over the last few days to support a smooth handover.

The new bollards at the Cross have now been installed. These were purchased by the Parish Council and installed by Highways. It was noted that they should look much improved once the temporary traffic management signs have been removed.

The MUGA surface works are progressing, with the line markings to be completed when weather conditions allow.

The Chair also reported that there had been several incidents of vandalism at the allotment site, the MUGA and the car park. Locks had also been broken during the MUGA works. These incidents will be reported as appropriate.

The allotment track has been repaired and was noted to look much improved.

The Chair then moved on to the remainder of the meeting business.

**26-06-2. To receive and approve apologies for absence.** Cllr Carol King and Cllr Neil Eysenck

**26-06-3. To receive declarations of interest or grants of dispensation.** *None*

**26-06-4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and sign.** It was resolved to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting, and they were duly signed by the Chair. Proposed: AC Seconded: JM Resolved: Approved.

**26-06-5. Clerks Report:**

- Following the recent interview process, a new Clerk has been appointed and will commence during June, with a full handover completed by the end of the month.
- The two recycled benches have now been ordered. One will be placed in the village and the other at the play area.

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- The allotment track has now been repaired.
- The MUGA surface has now been completed and coloured. We are now waiting for suitable weather so that the final line marking can be carried out.

**26-06-6. Democratic Forum (15 minutes)** *An opportunity for members of the public to ask questions, or comment on any local issues.*

A resident raised concerns regarding the give way road markings at Higher Frome Vauchurch, noting that the lines are no longer clearly visible and require replacement. It was also noted that additional volunteers are needed for Community Speed Watch. A Councillor lead for the scheme will also need to be agreed.

**26-06-7. To receive a report from the Eggardon Ward Councillor for Dorset Council.** None as apologies given.

**26-06-8. Council property:** To receive the reports on parish assets and any actions due:

**i. Playing field-**

It was noted that the lease matter remains ongoing and was followed up with the solicitor on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

It was reported that the line marking works for the MUGA will be carried out later this month, when weather conditions allow.

Councillors discussed the ongoing security concerns at the site and the need to balance keeping the MUGA open for the benefit of the community with protecting the new surface and ensuring it lasts as long as possible before further maintenance is required. It was noted that activities such as cycling and skateboarding on the surface could cause damage and reduce the lifespan of the works recently carried out.

Councillors considered whether CCTV could be explored, noting that the school's camera appears to cover as far as the gate on the school side. It was suggested that CCTV signage could also be installed as a deterrent. Further discussion took place regarding the potential use of Wi-Fi from the hub and whether the school could be approached to ask if the Parish Council could access CCTV footage in future, subject to GDPR requirements.

An incident involving TF and CK at the MUGA with some children and parents was discussed and will be reported to the PCSO. It was also noted that previous reports of damage to the locks had been made to the PCSO, although without direct evidence or those responsible being identified, limited action could be taken.

The issue of a skate park was raised again. It was noted that this had been considered previously, with the CLT and a local resident having looked into potential costs and locations. However, a suitable site has not yet been identified. Councillors also discussed whether an alternative option could be explored, such as creating a cycle area around the perimeter of the playing field. Councillors agreed to look at examples from another parish where cycle jumps have been installed, to consider whether a similar approach could be suitable.

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Councillors agreed that a notice should be prepared for social media to remind residents that the MUGA is a valuable community facility, that significant public money has been invested in it, and that everyone is encouraged to take ownership and help look after it.

**MUGA Hut Door Lock-** It was noted that the lock on the MUGA hut door needs to be replaced. There had been an incident where individuals gained access to the area and some items belonging to the contractors working on the surfacing were taken.

Following discussion, it was agreed to continue exploring options to improve security and protect the MUGA surface, while keeping the facility available for community use wherever possible. This was proposed by JE and seconded by GS

- ii. **Play Area** -JM reported that the gravel and sand had been collected and is ready to fill the gaps in the surfacing. It is hoped that this work will be completed within the next couple of weeks.

It was also noted that the Health and Safety Inspector is due to inspect the site in the coming weeks. He may also introduce an inspection app, which Councillors would be able to use to add comments when carrying out their visual inspections.

- iii. **Allotments** It was reported that the allotment track works have now been completed and the surface is much improved. The works also included some drainage improvements. The new recycled noticeboard will be installed in due course.

TF and TSM have been working through the vacant plots and waiting list, following plots becoming available.

- iv. **Other Assets-** It was reported that the order for the two new benches has now been placed. Delivery is awaited, after which the benches will be assembled and sited. TC-M asked if there could be a bench at Rock Pit Car Park, this will be added to the July agenda.

### **26-06-9. To consider all planning applications in circulation any other planning matters.**

*To review and respond to planning applications received since the last meeting.*

**CLE/2026/02650-** Proposal: The use of land for the siting and residential (C3) occupation of a caravan Location: Land off Dorchester Road, Maiden Newton.

The Parish Council can find no evidence to contradict the information provided in the application and therefore raises no objection to the Certificate of Lawfulness being determined by Dorset Council.

Planning application P/HOU/2026/00399 was brought to the attention of the Parish Council following concerns raised by residents regarding landscaping works at the site.

The Parish Council agreed to follow this up with the case officer to seek clarification on whether the landscaping works form part of the approved application and whether any further planning or enforcement action is required.



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Highways. This will include requesting a site meeting, if possible, to discuss the issues in more detail and consider any appropriate measures.

It was also agreed that the Community Speed Watch team would be contacted again. Further volunteers will be sought, including through a request on Facebook, to help support the scheme and gather further information.

A Councillor lead for Community Speed Watch will be agreed at the July meeting.

## **26-06-12. Flooding Update- CERP update**

A report had been received from CK, who was attending the Stratton flood event on the evening of the meeting.

CK had spoken with Wessex Water, who indicated that they hoped to carry out a walk around the village with her to identify the springs at the allotments and consider how these may contribute to the overflow of sewage and water affecting properties by the river. Particular concern was noted regarding incidents of raw sewage entering residents' homes and gardens. It was also noted that the Environment Agency will be in contact regarding the updating of the Community Emergency Resilience Plan. A further report will be brought to the July meeting.

## **26-06-13. To receive any Rights of way reports- none.**

## **26-06-14. To consider items of correspondence received or for noting.**

*To review items of correspondence received since the last meeting and decide on any actions required and to gather content for inclusion in the MNFVPC Council newsletter.*

*The following updates and correspondence were noted:*

- A grant application had been received from Home-Start Blackmore Vale and will be considered in accordance with the Council's grant process at the July meeting.
- The River Mapping Day took place on 4 June, from 10.00am to 12.00 noon.
- The Maiden Newton Runners are due to hold their event at the Playing Field on 22 July.
- A complaint had been received regarding Highways verge cutting and No Mow May. This will be followed up as appropriate.
- AC reported she had attended the DAPTC AGM on behalf of the Council and had voted on the motions circulated prior to the meeting. The motions considered included matters relating to reviewing rented housing standards, with the Landlord and Tenant Act in place, and the consideration of closed churchyards, including the lack of funding from the Diocese when assets or responsibilities are taken over by councils.

The Statement of Reasonable Expectation between Dorset Council, DAPTC and Parish Councils was also considered and noted. AC was thanked for attending.

## **26-06-15. To confirm items for the next Parish Council meeting. To agree on items or topics for the agenda of the next meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026.** The Old Firehouse. The Cllrs will hold their asset site meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June starting at 6.30pm at the MUGA and a report will be on the July agenda.

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**26-06-16. Democratic forum 15 minutes-** members of the public to raise any other items that may form future agenda items. *(A final opportunity for the public to raise issues or suggest topics for consideration at future meetings)*

A comment was made regarding the MUGA, noting that, given the amount of money spent on the recent repairs, support would be given to cameras being installed at the site to help protect the facility.

A resident asked whether the Trailway could be included on the July agenda. The resident agreed to provide a full report to the Chair prior to the meeting.

Councillors agreed to follow up the previous request for a picnic bench at Rock Car Park. It was also agreed to contact the DIG team regarding the sign they had previously indicated would be installed.

Thanks were given to Michele by the Parish Council and residents present for the support and work she has provided to the community during her time as Clerk to the Parish Council.

**26-06-17. To consider moving to closed session to consider staff matters**

Councillors resolved to move into closed session to consider confidential staff matters.

The employment of the new Clerk was ratified by Full Council.

Resolved: The appointment of the new Clerk was approved.

Proposed JE,                      Seconded JM,                      all agreed

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm*