



Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch Group Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd July 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 Meatyard (JM)

Carol King (CK)

In attendance: Mrs A Crocker (Clerk/RFO), Dorset Councillor Neil Eysenck and 13 members of the public

26/07-1. Welcome and Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new Clerk, Amanda. Members were reminded that they should complete the new Register of Interests form as soon as possible.

The MUGA surface, line marking and fencing is now complete and the facility is open. New signs have now been put in place.

The two commemorative benches are in place; one outside the shops and one in the play park. The plaques are in the process of being organised.

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

26/07-2. Apologies for Absence- Cllr Gareth Scott

26/07-3. Declarations of Interest or Grants of Dispensation- None

26/07-4. Approval of Minutes- 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: TCM

Resolved: Approved.

26/07-5. Co-Option of a Councillor for Maiden Newton parish

Dorset Council had already approved the co-option. New posters will be drawn up and put on the notice boards, Facebook and website.

26/07-6. Clerks report of actions and updates

- The MUGA - several issues were highlighted during the asset review on the 25th June and these have been reported to the Project Manager.
- All the vacant allotments have now been allocated.
- The school has been contacted regarding CCTV coverage of the MUGA.
- The consultation for the 20mph speed limit went live on the 25th June. As many people as possible need to be encouraged to respond via the Dorset Council link. It was noted that there have been eight comments made on Facebook in response to the post.

Chair

Date

Residents will be made aware that comments made on Facebook will not be counted towards the consultation and should be made via the link.

26/07-7. Democratic Forum (15 minutes)- *An opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or comment on any local issues.*

Concern was raised regarding the extent of the 20mph zones as it was felt that they should have extended further towards the end of the 30mph limits at either end of the village. It was noted that the final decision as to the location and extent of the 20mph limits were set by Dorset Council Highways. However, the consultation is an opportunity for residents to comment on the proposal, but the comments must be made online.

Sarah Butterworth of Emerald Ant addressed the meeting. She gave a brief outline of the Bubbles & Squeaks project currently underway in the surrounding area. Various events will be happening over the next few months, including a lantern workshop in the village hall on the 12th August. A steering group will be set up and it is hoped that a resident of Maiden Newton would like to sit on the group. If anyone is interested, they can contact Sarah on sarah@emeraldant.com

The hedge alongside the road leading up towards the railway station needs to be cut back. This is necessary so passersby can see into the play park and check for anti-social behaviour.

A request was made for the bus sign on the pole at Webbers Piece to be removed.

Social Prescribers – The village has recently lost two podiatrists who carried out home visits. The Social Prescribers are putting together a list of residents of the parish who need this service. This will be advertised in the newsletter.

A Bereavement Group will be starting up from Webbers Piece. If anyone would like to attend, they should contact David Jenkins on 01300 320059.

26/07-8. Eggardon Ward Councillor's Report-

Cllr Eysenck gave a brief report on events from Dorset Council. He offered congratulations to all those who helped raise the profile of the Maiden Newton Fire Station, resulting in the threat of closure being delayed for another year.

Flooding – It was noted that Maiden Newton has originally been omitted from the Cabinet Paper that was due to go before Council in May. It was subsequently realised that Frome Vauchurch had been included. One issue that has arisen is the lack of flood incidents reported on FORT (Flood Online Reporting Tool) – only six in the last three years, although local knowledge clearly shows there have been many more incidents than this. With the help of Cllr Carol King, a comprehensive list of every property that floods and when it has flooded has been produced. This will be passed to the Flood Risk Team at Dorset Council.

Trailway – The section between Toller and Maiden Newton has yet to be sorted out. A meeting is scheduled for 3rd July at which Loders Parish Council will be in attendance to put across their concerns.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan – This aims to enhance the public rights of way network. The existing plan is currently under review. A public consultation will be held over the summer months.

EV chargers – A resident raised a query regarding the lack of signage telling drivers where the charging points were located. Cllr Eysenck responded that usage is not under the expected level at this point, and the provider does not feel signage is necessary. It was noted that owners of electric vehicles tend to have a telephone app that pinpoints charger locations.

26/07-9. Council Property: To receive the reports on parish assets and any actions due:

- i. **Playing field**
Work to the MUGA has been completed and the fence at the entrance has been repaired. The fence at Harvey's Green has also been repaired.
- ii. **Rock Pit Car Park**
An information sign is still awaiting from DIGS.
A request has been made for a picnic bench on the site. This will be brought back to the September meeting.
- iii. **MUGA and MUGA Hut**
The snagging list will be followed up and reported back to September.
- iv. **Play Area**
The signage needs to be update.
The annual inspection is due in August. Cllr Meatyard continues to repair the edging of the play equipment surface.
- v. **Allotments**
All vacant plots are let and the track has been upgraded.
- vi. **Other Assets**
Old Fire House – No update is available. This will be brought to the September meeting.
- vii. **Update on Skips Field**
The owners have requested a meeting which will be held in late July/early August. The results will be brought to the September meeting.

26/07-10. Planning Applications and Related Matters- *To review and respond to planning applications received since the last meeting*

P/FUL/2025/00485 – Land at Cruxton Farm – Construction of a temporary solar farm. Notification of a Hearing has been received and will take place on 14th July 2026. Cllr Carol King requested to attend and be allowed to speak.

26/07-11. Finance and Procedural Matters

- i. **To review and approve payments and receipts since the last meeting.**
Councillors received the schedule of payments and receipts for June/July 2026.

Payments totalling £3,781.03 were noted and approved. These included regular operational costs such as administrative costs, web hosting, MUGA electricity charges, grass cutting bank charges. It also included the installation of the commemorative benches, and fence repairs.

Receipts totalling £574.81 were noting, consisting of £135 allotment rent, £377.42 VAT refunded and £62.39 in bank interest.

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

The latest financial reports and bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was noted that TF had reviewed and signed all the invoices. The reports and bank reconciliation were received and noted.

iii. To consider a grant application from Home-Start Blackmore Vale

It was noted that Home-Start support families with under school-age children. They act as facilitators, pointing families in the right direction of groups that can help them.

The grant request is for a contribution towards the recruitment of a volunteer to continue the support of families in the parish. The full cost of recruiting, training and mentoring each volunteer is £1,200.

Members felt that they were happy to support the initiative but would like to have a presentation from the group, allowing them the ability to ask questions. The Funding Co-Ordinator will be invited to the September meeting.

26/07-12. Highways Reports

i. To receive an update on the proposed 20mph speed limit Road Traffic Regulation

This had already been fully discussed. Members were encouraged to complete the consultation.

ii. To consider a Parish Council representative on the Community Speed Watch

TCM volunteered to take on this role.

26/07-13. Councillor Reports

I. CERP update

The draft report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. A number of additions were discussed. The Clerk will make the necessary alterations. The report will then be published online and residents asked for their comments and for volunteers to come forward. CK proposed the report is accepted. Seconded: TF Resolved: Accepted

II. National emergency briefing screening

CK asked for permission to hold a briefing screening in the village. The Parish Council will cover the cost of the hall hire.

Proposed: JM Seconded: AC Resolved: Agreed

III. To receive a report on the recent Dorset CAN AGM

A verbal report on the Dorset CAN AGM was given by AC.

26/07-14. Rights of Way Reports-

i. To receive updates on footpaths, bridleways, and access issues

It was noted that the Dorset Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan will result in greater interaction with parish councils.

ii. **Trailway update**

A letter of support had been sent. Await the outcome of the meeting on the 3rd July.

iii. **To consider the costs of a new gate on footpath S29/29 - £150**

The path is not the responsibility of the Parish Council and the landowner had been notified. The gate was found to be adequate for its purpose and the Parish Council will not cover any cost to replace it.

26/07-15. Correspondence- *To review correspondence received since the last meeting, agree any actions required, and identify content for the next Council newsletter.*

Nothing to add.

26/07-16. Date and Items for the Next Meeting- *To confirm the next meeting on **Thursday 3rd September 2026** and agree any items for inclusion on the agenda.*

- Rock Pit; Picnic benches, bike ramps
- MUGA snagging list
- Firehouse update
- Home Start present
- Village Hall car park
- Co-option of Councillor for Maiden Newton
- Flooding

26/07-17. Democratic Forum (15 minutes)- *A final opportunity for members of the public to raise issues or suggest items for consideration at future meetings. No decisions will be made during this session.*

Village Hall car park – From December to March the car park could not be used. Hall users are forced to park out in the road, preventing emergency vehicles from accessing the allotments, or railway station. Would like the situation to be reviewed.

Fire Station – CK reported that the station has a 12-month reprieve subject to funding. Several groups will be initiated in the coming months to look at possible solutions. CK requested person to act as Parish Council liaison with these groups. Agreed.

Meeting with Environment Agency - 29th July

Matt Harcourt of Dorset Wildlife Trust introduced himself and the project he is working on – the Frome Headwaters Project. It is in the very early stages of development at the moment and more information will become available in due course.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.13pm.