



Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch Group Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 3rd
September 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)

In attendance: Mrs A Crocker (Clerk/RFO), Dorset Councillor Neil Eysenck and 6 members of the public

26/09-1. Welcome and Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A new bench has been installed to replace the old bench at Black Bridge. Thanks are extended to Laurie Goff for putting it together and installing it in time for the Bank Holiday weekend.

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

26/09-2. Apologies for Absence- Cllrs Gareth Scott and Carol King.

26/09-3. Declarations of Interest or Grants of Dispensation

Cllr Fox declared an interest in item 26/09-9(viii) as Vice Chair of the Village Hall Committee. No other interests were declared.

26/09-4. 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: JM Seconded: AC Resolved: Approved.

26/09-5. Co-Option of a Councillor for Maiden Newton parish

Despite readvertising the post, no applications had been received. The post will remain vacant.

26/09-6. Clerks report of actions and updates

- The plaques for the benches have been ordered and put in place
- The public consultation in respect of the 20mph speed limit has now closed. Maiden Newton received 56 responses in total. All responses will be carefully reviewed and assessed. Dorset Council have said that, due to annual leave commitments, this process is likely to take several weeks to complete. Once completed, a further update setting out the level of support, objection and general comment will be provided, together with an indication of which proposals are able to progress to the next stage.

Chair

Date

- Some bolts were collected from the floor of the MUGA. It looks as though they may have come from one of the upright supports to the fence near the basketball hoops.
- The £30,000 currently held in a fixed term deposit account matured on the 11th August. It, together with the interest accrued of £303.48, has been reinvested for a further 12 months at an interest rate of 2.75%. This will be put on the next Finance agenda.
- The Rights of Way Officer has been informed that we will not be paying for a new gate on footpath S29/29 where it meets the A365. The existing gate is adequate and if a new one is needed, it will be the responsibility of the landowner to replace.
- The Cruxton Solar Farm appeal has been dismissed. The applicant is considering a challenge but, at this point, it seems unlikely.
- An update has been received from DIGS regarding the signage. This can be progressed once a quote for the car park surface has been received
- Rolls have been asked to quote for cutting the hedge in front of the village hall. This should be received in the next week or so and the work can then be undertaken by the end of October.
- Dorset Highways have been in touch regarding the repositioning of the Chapel Lane road sign.
- The External Audit for the year ended 31st March 2026 has now been completed.

26/09-7 Democratic Forum (15 minutes)- *An opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or comment on any local issues.*

- People's Emergency Briefing – AC reported that the screening will take place at St Mary's Church on Monday 12th October 6.45pm to pm. Posters, fliers and information leaflets will be printed to promote the event. A request was made for the Parish Council to cover the printing at a cost of £134.84.

Proposed: JE

Seconded: JM

Resolved: Approved

- A request was made for rubbish bins in the play area. It was agreed that this would not be possible as Dorset Waste Partnership would not empty them so someone else would have to. There is a bin at the entrance to the Village Hall and this could easily be used instead.
- AC attended the Patients' Participation Group (PPG) at the surgery and they had asked for a representative from the Parish Council to sit on the Group. It was noted that Cllr King is the representative.

26/09-8 Eggardon Ward Councillor's Report-

Cllr Eysenck gave a brief report on events from Dorset Council. He met with the representatives from the Environment Agency, Dorset Council Hghways, Alan Goff and the Dorset Council Flood Team. The village survey, kindly undertaken by Cllr King, has now been collated and passed to the Environment Agency. It shows there have been fifty incidents of internal flooding and over one hundred incidents of garden flooding.

Local Boundary Review – The consultation continues until the 9th November. All comments made previously have, largely, been taken on board. There is still time for individuals and

parish councils to respond if they wish. Any confirmed changes will come into effect after the 2029 elections.

26/09-9 Council Property: To receive the reports on parish assets and any actions due:

- i. **Playing field**
The finalisation of the lease continues to be chased.
 - ii. **Rock Pit Car Park**
DIGS are in the process of producing a sign. They have also requested consideration be given to the archaeological area when the car park resurfacing is considered.
The picnic bench will be brought back to the October meeting, following a request that built in metal plates should be considered.
 - iii. **MUGA and MUGA Hut**
The snagging list remains but the contractor is no longer answering emails or telephone calls.
The recent inspection went well and no issues were raised.
 - iv. **Play Area**
The annual inspection went well and no issues were raised.
Prices will be sought for an inclusion roundabout and brought back to the October meeting for consideration in the 2027/28 budget
 - v. **Allotments**
Nothing to add at this time.
 - vi. **Other Assets**
Old Fire House – Additional donations have been received but no further progress has been made on grant applications due to a very busy summer for the fire service.
 - vii. **Update on Skips Field**
The Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk met with the owner’s representatives. Consideration will be given as to whether the Parish Council wishes to buy the land in conjunction with the CLT , or by itself and, if so, how much could be spent on the purchase. On-going costs will also need to be considered. This item will be brought back to the October meeting once the CLT has held their meeting to discuss the issue.
 - viii. **Village Hall car park**
The Chair took no part in the ensuing discussion. A request had been received for the area to be tarmacked or covered in such a way that it can be used as a car park all year round. The Vice Chair read a letter that had been received from the Chair of the Village Hall Committee objecting to the suggestion and setting out the reasons for doing so. It was generally felt that there was sufficient parking in the area without the need for the few spaces the grassed area would afford. In addition, the grass area is useful for siting gazebos and seating during events.
It was proposed that the spaces in front of the village hall could be made available for disabled parking only and a sign put on the entrance directing people to park at the station car park.
- Proposed: JE Seconded: JM Approved

26/09-10 Planning Applications and Related Matters- *To review and respond to planning applications received since the last meeting*

P/FUL/2025/03832 – Kingsley Orchard, Plot 21, Harveys Close – erect detached garage with workshop and upstairs storage, and installation of solar panels (amended description)

P/FUL/2026/04688 – 1 Crockway Farm Cottages – first floor side extension over an existing lean-to structure at ground floor to form a new ensuite to the main bedroom.

Proposed that both applications are supported: JE Seconded: AC

26/09-11 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 August/September 2022. Payments totalling £5,559.19 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 insurance renewal for the coming year and external audit fees.

Receipts totalling £370.09 were noted, consisting of £36.25 allotment rent, £200 donation to the fire house and £133.84 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 confirm the annual salary increase in line with the national pay award of 3.3%

The award was noted.

iv. To acknowledge the completion of the year end accounts for the period 31st March 2026

The external auditors report had been received and no additional comments had been made.

26/09-12 Highways Reports

Nothing to report.

26/09-13 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. All residents are encouraged to complete the consultation on the Dorset Council website and are encouraged to support the trailway. A link to the consultation document will be provided on Facebook and the newsletter, as well as on the Parish Council website.

26/09-14 Correspondence- *To review correspondence received since the last meeting, agree any actions required, and identify content for the next Council newsletter.*

Nothing to add.

26/09-15 Date and Items for the Next Meeting- *To confirm the next meeting on Thursday 1st October 2026 and agree any items for inclusion on the agenda.*

- Rock Pit; Picnic benches, bike ramps
- Skips Field
- Flooding

Chair

Date

- Home Start present
- CERP update

26/09-16

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.*

Speed Watch are still seeking additional volunteers. There are now enough volunteers to warrant additional training sessions so it would be an ideal time to take on more volunteers. Anyone wishing to help should contact TCM.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm.