



Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch Group Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 1st
October 2026 at Maiden Newton Village Hall

Present:

Trena Fox (TF) Chair
Toni C-M (TCM)
Carol King (CK)

Anne Clements (AC)
James Meatyard (JM)

Also present: Mrs A Crocker (Clerk/RFO) and 6 members of the public

26/10-1. Welcome and Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The grit bins have now been checked in readiness to be filled by Dorset Council during the first two weeks of October. Most are fine but four will need topping up.

26/10-2. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Gareth Scott, Georgina Stephenson, Jeremy Edwards and Dorset Cllr Neil Eysenck.

26/10-3. Declarations of Interest or Grants of Dispensation

No interests were declared.

26/10-4. 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

26/10-5. Clerk's report of actions and updates

26/10-6. Democratic Forum - *An opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or comment on any local issues*

The representative from Home-Start Blackmore Vale was invited to address the meeting. A brief background was given of the work the group undertakes. A grant application has been made to the Parish Council to enable the group to train volunteers to work in the Maiden Newton area. The volunteers undergo 30 hours of induction training, covering safeguarding, confidentiality, and working in someone else's home to name but a few areas. Parenting experience is essential – whether first-hand or through work. A walking group has started in Maiden Newton and meets once a month. They are struggling to get volunteers in the area but people are beginning to come forward and the money is needed to ensure they are able to provide the necessary training. The level of grant will be discussed at the November meeting when more members are available.

AC raised the following issues:

1. The shop have requested a cigarette bin is positioned near the new bench. It was noted that there is a bin near the bench but people do not use that and are, therefore, unlikely to use a dedicated bin which would need to be emptied by someone. A notice will be put up on the board asking people to pick up their cigarette butts.

CHAIR:

DATE:

2. Poppies – The question of a display has been raised. The ladies organizing the display in the church would like to extend their display to the war memorial. It was agreed that poppy decorations could be added to the chains surrounding the memorial but not on the memorial itself. After discussion, it was felt that the decoration could be added to the cross as an alternative.
3. Youth Representative – AC is still showing as holding this post. This needs to be updated.
4. Anti-social behaviour – There have been a number of incidents of youths knocking on doors, the planters at the station have been damaged, the water butts tipped over. All such incidents should be reported to the PCSO – the more that are reported, the more likely there will be a police presence in the village. The contact details will be included in the newsletter and the PCSO will be invited to attend a future meeting.

26/10-7 Eggardon Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Eysenck was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a brief report:

At the Cabinet meeting on the 8th September, the Council was forecasting a net revenue overspend of £8.136m, representing 1.7% of the net budget of £466m. The principal drivers of the forecast overspend are Children's Services and Adult Social Care. DC was roughly in the same position this time last year and managed to come in on budget for the financial year. It is likely the year end figure will not look as bad as £8m overspend but it is also likely we will not be able to come in wholly on budget like last year mostly down to the continued impact of increased costs due, in part, to external/global inflationary pressures.

Planning Enforcement - Update from issues previously raised with the portfolio holder – 3 ongoing problem enforcement issues in the ward. Raised lack of ability to interface with Enforcement over individual issues. Raised wider lack of Cllr oversight of Planning Enforcement.

Local Update - Progress on the 20mph limit for the village - The traffic order to implement this has been signed off in recent days (along with several other villages). This was the final hurdle to ensure implementation - work will now commence on the practicalities such as finalising the signage and road marking designs and working with contractors to agree installation dates. Delivery requires coordination between three external contractors and DC in-house Sign Shop, which is responsible for manufacturing the signs, so careful planning will be needed to ensure the programme is delivered efficiently.

26/10-8 Council Property and Assets: To receive the reports on parish assets and any actions due:

- i. **Playing field**
The lease continues to progress with the last few amendments having been made.
- ii. **Rock Pit Car Park**
The cost of the picnic table will be considered at the budget-setting meeting.
- iii. **MUGA and MUGA hut**
The question of security will be brought back to the November meeting.
- iv. **Play Area**
Nothing to add.
- v. **Allotments**
A check of the allotments had been undertaken by the Chair and Clerk and several allotment holders were contacted as a result. The village had been offered a Christmas tree, currently growing on one of the allotments, to use as the village tree this year. It will be cut down and put in place nearer the time. Our thanks are extended to the allotment holder for the offer.
- vi. **Skips Field**
No further action will be taken until the results of the CLT's deliberations are known.

26/10-9 Planning Applications and Related Matters – To review and respond to planning applications received since the last meeting.

CHAIR:

DATE:

Proposed that the application is supported: TF

Seconded: TCM

Agreed

26/10-10 Finance

i. **To review and approve payments and receipts since the last meeting**

Councillors received the schedule of payments and receipts for October 2026. Payments totaling £2,376.41 were noted and approved. These included regular operational costs such as administrative costs, web hosting, MUGA electrical charges and bank charges. It also included the annual accounts package subscription.

Receipts totaling £118.32 were noted, all of which was bank interest.

Proposed: TF

Seconded: TCM

Approved

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 notes.

iii. **To consider a grant request for £750 as a contribution towards the grass cutting of the burial ground**

A contribution of £500 will be made, as in previous years.

Proposed: TCM

Seconded: CK

Agreed

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

The Clerk will liaise with members of the group regarding a suitable date.

v. **To agree the cost of the Remembrance Day wreath**

In the past, the wreaths have always been recycled but this is not possible this year. A new wreath will be purchased, up to a cost of £35. TF will organise recovering the wreath after a suitable amount of time has past.

Proposed: TF

Seconded: CK

Agreed

26/10-12 Highways Reports

The Community Speed Watch is up and running but more volunteers are needed.

26/10-13 Rights of Way

i. **To receive an update on footpaths, bridleways and access issues**

It was noted that many of the rural paths are not being used and, as a result, are becoming a bit overgrown. It was suggested that, perhaps, the walking group organised by the Surgery could be encouraged to use them.

26/10-14 Village Calendar

The Clerk offered the suggestion of producing a village calendar with profits going to local charities. Whilst it is too late to start organising one for 2027, it would be a good time to get residents thinking about suitable photographs for winter months in the 2028 calendar. This will be included in the newsletter, and people will be asked to forward photographs to the Clerk. A working party will then be formed in August/September 2027 to review the photographs and choose the ones for the 2028 calendar.

26/10-15 Correspondence

Any correspondence received had already been reviewed.

26/10-16 Flooding update/CERP

A copy of the emails relating to the recent meeting had been forwarded to CK. It was felt that, whilst they contained a lot of positivity, no actual actions were set out. CK will contact Cllr Eysenck.

26/10-17 Date and items for the next meeting *To confirm the next meeting on Thursday 5th November 2026 and agree any items for inclusion on the agenda.*

- *Bike ramps*
- *Flooding*
- *Anti-social behaviour*
- *2027/28 budget*
- *CLT outcome*
- *Home Start Grant*
- *MUGA Security*

26/10-18 Democratic Forum – *A final opportunity for members of the public to raise any issues or suggest items for consideration at future meetings.*

- The Clerk will contact the Vicar regarding the Remembrance Sunday service at 10.45am on the 11th November
- A request was made for the Transport page to be reprinted and put in the notice board

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.50hrs.