

Iwerne Minster Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting at the Abingdon Hall on the 13th of October 2025 at 7pm

Minutes of the Parish Council are not verbatim

Present: Cllr P Le Prevost – Chairman, Cllr K O'Connor – Vice Chairman, Cllr J Goodliffe, Cllr K Skinner, Cllr H Overton, Cllr T Brown and Cllr T Freestone
In attendance: N Phillips – Clerk, there were 2 members of the public present and Dorset Councillor Jane Somper

The Chairman asked everyone to stand in remembrance of Alec Hall.

Public Consultation: Nothing was raised.

25/42. To receive and accept apologies of absence.

There were none.

25/43. Declaration of interest and dispensations: There were none.

25/44. Approve minutes from the meeting dated 11th of August 2025.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr K O'Connor and seconded by Cllr H Overton, all Councillors present agreed that they were a true and accurate record of this meeting; the Chairman duly signed them.

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes dated 11th of August 2025 (25/44 no budgetary provision required)

- **Update on the Play Area Project**– Cllr K O'Connor reported that work is continuing regarding the proposed new Play Area but had no further updates to give.
- **Update on cost for overhead security barrier for the Parish Field** – the Clerk tabled the cost to provide an overhead security barrier. Additional ideas for installing removable bollards at the entrance of the field had been discussed at a previous meeting. After debate, it was agreed that the bollards would not be suitable for the area. It was also agreed to revisit the security of the Parish Field at a later date, due to there being only one incident of travellers trying to access the field and the Clerk confirming that the Police and Dorset Council have powers to move travellers on from private land quickly if they did get access to the field.
- **Update on LGA for development over old burial sites** – Cllr J Goodliffe reported that 81 burials have been found and there will be a follow up information session, due to take place on the 20th of November in the Church. Places will be limited, so a ticket system will be applied. It was also suggested that it could be live streamed, to open it up to more people. The Clerk had previously circulated information on the Local Government Act for development over old burial sites, it states that the Disused Burial Grounds Act 1884 (as amended), which historically prohibited buildings on disused burial grounds, though it was amended in 1981 to allow for development under certain circumstances and with safeguards. Local planning authorities also consider archaeological impact as a "material consideration" when determining planning applications, following guidance from Planning Policy Guidance notes.

25/45. To consider planning application received.

P/LBC/2025/05841 – Preston House – internal alterations – There were no objections to this application at this meeting.

Tree applications

P/TRC/2025/06056 – Home Farm – Various tree works – no objections.

Dorset Councils Local Plan consultation – information on the consultation had been circulated to Councillors and information was put on the Parish Council website for the general public to have their say. After debate it was agreed for Cllr T Freestone to produce a reply to Dorset Council, requesting that Iwerne Minster is re-designated as a small village, not a large one. **Action – Cllr Freestone**

25/46. To receive Dorset Council's Unitary Councillor Jane Somper's report.

Cllr J Somper's reported the following:

- Dorset Council has sent an invitation letter out to local Parish Councils, inviting one representative from each Parish Council to attend a traffic management discussion, at Melbury Abbas Village Hall. Either Cllr T Freestone or Cllr J Goodliffe will attend on behalf of Iwerne Minster Parish Council.
- Confirmed that all web responses on the Dorset Council Local Plan should have been into Dorset Council by midnight on the 13th of October, but due to complaints regarding accessing and using the consultation site, the date for responses has been extended to the 30th of October. Dorset Councillors had arranged meetings for Town/Parish Councillors. Dorset Council had also arranged pop in sessions for the public, which had been advertised on the Parish Council's website.
- The new booking system for the recycling centre at Shaftesbury will be up and running very soon, more details will be forwarded to Parish/Town Councils directly by Dorset Council.
- Cllr Somper had requested that some of the hedgerows on the main roads are cut back as they are blocking the directional road signs. This has been completed in Iwerne Minster.

25/47. Chairman's report – Nothing to report.**25/48. Accounts**

To ratify the payments made for August and approve the payment schedule for September 2025, listed below. Cllr P Le Prevost proposed the payments, which was seconded by Cllr H Overton, all in favour.

Payee	Detail	Category	Expense Amount	Receipt Amount
N Phillips SO	Clerks wages for August	Clerk's Wages	£ 631.48	
N Phillips	Clerks expenses for August	Clerk's Expenses	£ 73.09	
Abingdon Hall	Hall Hire	Hall Hire	£ 20.00	
Vision ICT	New email address Tom	Website	£ 6.00	
Vision ICT	Email hosting for 1 email Tom	Website	£ 26.00	
Jeff Overton re-emburse	Bench for Tower Hill repairs	Village features	£ 131.11	
Nest DD	Pension for Aug	Clerk pension	£ 92.10	
HMRC	Vat return	VAT Refund		£ 439.00
Lloyds	Service Charge	Membership Fees	£ 4.25	
HMRC DD	paye/Ni/Emp Ni/ Pension aug	PAYE	£ 221.14	
Total for Aug 25			£ 1,205.17	
N Phillips DD	Clerks wages Sep	Clerk's Wages	£ 631.48	
Mr R F Tathchell	Pump Roof - auth chairman	Village features	£ 80.00	
Dorset Council	Precept	Precept		£ 11,536.00
Lloyds DD	Service Charge	Membership Fees	£ 4.25	
Parish Magazine Printing	Invoice 13759	Newsletter	£ 89.95	
Nicola Phillips	Clerk's expenses Sep	Clerk's Expenses	£ 73.09	
Iwerne Valley Lawn ma	Grass cutting inv 43 jul/aug	Grass Cutting/hedges/trees	£ 489.90	
HMRC DD	Paye/ni/payeni/tax/pension	PAYE	£ 221.14	
Nest DD	Clerk pension	Clerk pension	£ 92.10	
Total for Sep 25			£ 1,681.91	

RESOLVED: to ratify the payments made in August for the sum of £1,205.17 and agree the payments for September 2025 for the sum of £1,681.91 (25/37 Current Account)

Cllr Le Prevost approved the Bank Reconciliation.

25/49. Officers' reports:

Governance & IT: Cllr Le Prevost reported the following: A new term of reference document has been drafted for Parish Council Working Parties; this will be circulated for approval at the next Parish Council meeting.

Emergency Planning: Cllr Overton reported the following: A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday the 15th of October 2025 to review and update the plan following the resignation of Cllr Trim.

Highways: Cllr Goodliffe reported the following:

A number of reports have been sent to DC Highways and variously actioned by them:

- **Hedges-Overgrown** – Blandford Road – Hedge outside Rose Cottage on the east side of the A350, which is overhanging thus obstructing the pavement and obscures the traffic warning sign for southbound traffic near the War Memorial. This is also a crossing point for Clayesmore School pupils. **Partly resolved – sign cleared but overhanging hedge not cut back.**
- **Footway-Weeds/Moss** – A350 – Blandford Road – Footway weeds and other detritus are obstructing the pavement between Clayesmore School and the 'New Road Corner' to Child Okeford. This pavement is used daily by those walking between Sutton Waldron and Iwerne Minster.

Also, the hedge itself still needs cutting back to allow clear passage in some places.

Partly resolved – Hedge cut back but path still needs scraping clear & sweeping (as of 8/10/25). However, the Clerk will investigate why the footway has not been cleared.

Action - Clerk

- **Road Marking (rumble strips)** – Fade/Worn – A350 near Preston Hill at the southern approach to the village – Highways have shown the current status as “Enquiry Closed”. This has not been done/actioned so agreed to report again.
- **Wessex Water** have been digging up Watery Lane at the junction with Old School Lane, it seems a mains leak was detected. Persistent water on the carriageway has been the subject of repeated reports (3 at least) to DC Highways for the past two years or more. Hopefully this will solve the problem.
- Cllr J Goodliffe will speak to the Church warden to report concerns regarding overhanging trees towards the highway and will also speak to a resident that has not yet cut their hedge back.

Action – Cllr Goodliffe

- Cllr J Goodliffe reported that the broken dog bin on Church Hill still has not been changed. The Clerk will once again contact Dorset Waste Partnership to find out what the delay is.

Action – Clerk

- It was requested that the 20MPH roundel painted signs on the road in Tower Hill be looked at, as they have become very worn. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Dorset Council Highways team to discuss this and also to request a quote for Dorset Council to come and paint the warning signs and the rumble strips.

Action - Clerk

- Cllr K O'Connor reported that she had been approached by a member of the public asking if there will be any more action on the new bus stop and its surfacing. This project has been closed by Dorset Council and the Bus Company. This is due to the contractors not being able to do their works without being abused by a local resident. If the resident that has contacted Cllr O'Connor could put their requests in writing to the Parish Council, it can be officially actioned.

Footpaths and Rights of Way:

- Cllr Skinner reported on the Public Path Diversion Order for Footpath 32 at Oyles Mill, Iwerne Courtney, so that it no longer goes past a residents dwelling.
- It was also reported that a small area along a footway near the Play Area is in poor condition. Cllr J Goodliffe agreed to look at the area in question. **Action – Cllr Goodliffe**
- Cllr H Overton asked if there was any update on a like for like replacement to the footpath sign next to the Parish Field. The Clerk has requested this of the Rangers at Dorset Council, but with no update to date. Cllr T Brown suggested that he could approach the school and ask if this could be a project for the woodwork department. Cllr Overton will send Cllr T Brown photos of the sign that needs to be made.

Recreation: Nothing further to add.

Environment and Community Resilience: Nothing to report.

Village Features: Cllr H Overton reported that the following village features have been repaired, refurbished or noted:

- The bench at Tower Hill has been repaired
- The repairs to the Pump House roof has been completed
- The foliage around the Tap House has been cleared
- The build-up of leaves and debris near the Bus Stops need permanent attention

- The notice boards have been cleared out; a fresh coat of wood stain has been applied. There is still works to be done on renewing the backing of some of the notice boards.
- The board in Post Office Road will need further repair to the cill.
- The Chalk notice board's posts are rotting away. Cllr Overton will obtain cost to have them replaced and to use metal post protectors, to help reduce the damage from strimming and rotting
- The post and rope around the Chalk need repairs and entering as a Parish Asset.

The Councillors thanked Cllr H Overton and Mr Overton for their work on the above village features.

Other Organisations/Groups:

- **Clayesmore:** Cllr T Brown reported that once the school has completed their budget timetable, he will request a meeting with them to forward suggestions from the Parish Council, which have been reported on at previous meetings. He was asked to confirm when any building would begin at the Church Path site.
- **Speed Watch:** Nothing to report.
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Cllr K O'Conner to provide information for new residents to the village of how to sign up for the Neighbourhood Watch.
- **Abingdon Hall:** Are looking for funding to decorate Abingdon Hall. The Clerk will forward a grant application form to Cllr J Goodliffe as requested.
- **Village Defibrillator:** Nothing to report
- **DAPTC:** Any information received is circulated by the Clerk.

25/50. Clerk Report: The Clerks report was covered under Dorset Councils report regarding the meeting at Melbury Abbas Village Hall.

25/51. To consider any other matters arising from recent correspondence:

- Cllr K O'Connor tabled a proposal for the Parish to have its own website, which will advertise all local organisations and local information; this will not be managed by the Parish Council. The Clerk will add this as an Agenda item for December.
- Cllr P Le Prevost also reported that he was working on an updated Village Directory for new residents.

25/52. Items for next agenda – Grant for Abingdon Hall – Proposal for grant funding towards producing a website for the Parish – Budget/precept for 2026-2027.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 8th of December 2025**
At **7.00pm**, at Abingdon Hall, Iwerne Minster

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed by the Chairman

Iwerne Minster Parish Council website <http://www.iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk>

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