

Iwerne Minster Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting at the Abingdon Hall on the 6th of July 2026 at 7pm

Minutes of the Parish Council are not verbatim

Present: Cllr P Le Prevost – Chairman, Cllr K O'Connor – Vice Chairman, Cllr H Overton,
Cllr K Skinner and Cllr T Freestone

In attendance: N Phillips – Clerk, 20 members of the public, Dorset Councillor Jane Somper

Public Consultation: The Chairman reported that he will remove standing order at agenda item 4 – to allow the public to speak to the agenda item for the Play Area and A350 update. There were no comments from the public at this time.

26/18. To receive and accept apologies of absence.

Cllr T Brown

26/19. Declaration of interest and dispensations: There were none.

26/20. Co-option for new Councillor.

The Chairman announced the current vacancy for a co-opted Councillor. No one came forward.

26/21. Approve minutes from the meeting dated 11th of May 2026.

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

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes dated 11th of May 2026 (26/21 no budgetary provision required)

At this point standing orders were removed to allow the public to speak to agenda item 3

Play Park Project update. The following matters were raised:

- A question was raised as to the cost for the new Play Park estimated at £200,000.00 and was there a precedent for spending this amount by the Parish Council. It was noted that funds were spent on the Play Park many decades ago but the equipment is now at the end of its life. It was confirmed that the Parish Council have a duty of care to ensure all play equipment is safe and up to date. The Parish Council has funds towards this project, for the sum of £12,000.00, the remaining funds will be provided by fundraising and grant applications.
- If the Play Park is relocated to the Parish Field, what, if any additional cost would this incur? Cllr O'Connor confirmed no decision had been taken on this and proposed the Parish Council now move forward on a survey for residents to seek their views on relocation of the Play Park to the Parish Field. This would include a leaflet delivered to all residents with full information on the pros and cons for this proposal including estimated costings.
- It was also agreed that more information, as the project proceeds, will be put on the Parish Council website.
- It was noted that Councillors had organised a fund-raising event to be held at the at the Talbot Inn, but the Talbot Inn subsequently cancelled.
- Concerns were raised over the condition of the existing access to the Play Area and who would be responsible for the maintenance of the track. A resident living along the track, confirmed that she has no paperwork stating that the residents living along the track are responsible for its upkeep. The Parish Council have previously asked Dorset Council to investigate this, asking their asset team to confirm whether Dorset Council are responsible or not for the track's maintenance. Dorset Councillor Somper confirmed this is an unadopted road.

- There was also concern over the potential increase in noise from the existing play area for local residents by increasing the amount of equipment and types of equipment being installed.
- A suggestion was raised that perhaps the Parish Council could just replace the equipment like for like, as and when it needs to be done. It was explained that as most of the play equipment will need to be replaced within the next few years, replacing it in stages whilst complying with current safety rules, would incur much higher costs overall and a longer timeframe of having safety fencing, stock and mess on site until completion.
- A councillor suggested obtaining estimated costs for like for like equipment. This will be looked into.
- It was suggested that the Parish Council publish on their website, the annual report from the independent safety inspector. There is not a legal requirement to do, but the Clerk stated that anyone can request copies of documents, as long as it is available for the public domain, from the Clerk.
- A resident thanked Cllr K O'Connor and Cllr H Overton for their hard work on the project to date including public consultations.
- A question of time scale for the information leaflet and questionnaire to be sent to all residents. Cllr O'Connor confirmed a new design would need to be sought and costed before this could be created. It could take approximately 2 to 3 months to reach the stage to publish the questionnaire.

To consider Village Magazine distribution. This matter is deferred to the meeting in September.

Update on Dinah's Hollow and A350 traffic management. The following was raised:

Cllr H Overton reported on the virtual meeting held on the 3rd of June, with officers from Dorset Council, Dorset Councillor and Councillors from neighbouring Parishes. The meeting notes can be seen on the Parish Council website, or a copy obtained by the Clerk. The main points raised were as follows:

- The increase of traffic, particularly lorries and concerns over the further increase in traffic the summer holiday will bring.
- Many people still driving over the 20mph.
- Mixed views on 20mph but residents reporting slower traffic has made it safer for pedestrians & crossing the road.
- Driver frustration due to slower speeds at unnecessary locations leading to overtaking and speeding
- Poor driver behaviour reported including tailgating.
- Traffic signals received mixed feedback from local residents. Many are unhappy with the temporary traffic lights, others feel they slow the traffic and help crossing safely.
- 'Rat runs' being used along the A350 corridor including Tower Hill.
- Additional measures that Dorset Council have already put in place, Extension of 20mph limits into selected side roads to declutter signage and improve visibility. Removal of pedestrian crossing near the school and reducing these temporary signals to two-way (following consultation with Clayesmore).
- Police concerns regarding enforceability due to inadequate 20mph signage impacting on Community Speedwatch.
- The Parish Council are committed to ensuring safety at the location of the traffic lights unless otherwise advised by Dorset Council.
- Dorset Council have confirmed they will carry out a review of the current temporary traffic management across the A350 corridor, taking into account all information received, including feedback raised, traffic data, talking with Police and road safety officers. They will consider potential adjustments (retain, amend or remove measures) They have been asked to respond as quickly as possible.
- A new traffic survey is currently being conducted. Members of the public voiced their comments, as follows:
- Local residents have been expressing their opinions on the need for the traffic lights through the Community WhatsApp social media platform. A petition has been organised by a group of residents, which will be forwarded to the Parish Council, for them to officially send to Dorset Council for their consideration.

The main points raised are as follows:

- Traffic signage, which is causing poor line of sight when entering the A350.
- The frustrated drivers, not keeping to the speed limit, overtaking traffic that are keeping to the speed limit. This behaviour could eventually cause a serious collision.

- With there already being a pinch point with right of way for South bound traffic, which did not cause any issues in the past, this should be sufficient now for controlling the traffic.
- Pollution, from cars that are sat in traffic, with the engines running. Residents are having to keep their windows closed and not enjoy their own gardens.
- Noise produced by frustrated drivers, honking horns and screeching tyres.
- Concern of why the Parish Council approved Dorset Councils suggestion for the temporary lights. The Parish Council confirmed that they raised concerns on the issues and possible impact on Dinas Hollow closure but had no say or resolution to support or not support the traffic lights. As these measures were implemented for safety the officers at Dorset Council make decisions as professionals in their own field. The Parish Council have no powers over Highways.
- The lights are meant to be on a sensor; the residents felt this not to be true.
- A resident expressed concern about the speeding traffic on Blandford Road and how the traffic lights supported safer crossing.
- The Chairman also confirmed some residents have shared their support for the lights where they support safer crossing particularly the elderly and vulnerable.
- Councillor Somper suggested a pedestrian controlled crossing could be suggested as an alternative.
- Do Dorset Council have a scheduled time for responding to faulty lights? Cllr J Somper reported that anyone can report faulty lights directly to Dorset Council, they will then come out and repair them.
- Has Dorset Council confirmed that they are on schedule to finish the work at Dinahs Hollow at the end of December? Cllr J Somper stated that at a meeting held, they expressed they are on track. They have not confirmed it will defiantly be completed by the end of December.
- Cllr J Somper reported that Dorset Council will now be working 7 days a week at Dinahs Hollow, as weather has hampered some of the works.
- Councillors proposed that the Parish Council now write to Dorset Council to highlight the views of residents and request a prompt completion of the review. This was agreed.
- A lot of the residents in the Parish request that the traffic lights are removed. The Clerk will wait until the petition is completed and sent to the Parish Council, before officially sending it to Dorset Council.

Standing orders were re-instated

26/22. To consider planning application received.

There were none.

Cllr K Skinner did note that the application for solar panels at the Paddocks, had not been approved until after the works had been completed. No works should take place until planning permission is approved by Dorset Council.

26/23. To receive Dorset Council's Unitary Councillor Jane Somper's report

Dorset Councillor Jane Somper has sent her report through to the Parish Council. This will be available to view on the Parish Council website, or a copy can be obtained from the Clerk.

26/24. Chairman's report – Nothing to report.

26/25. Accounts

To ratify the payments made for May 2026 and approve the payment schedule for June 2026, listed below.

Payee	Detail	Expense Amount
N Phillips SO	Wages for May	£ 631.48
HMRC 1/4 DD	Ni/Tax May	£ 221.14
Nest DD	Clerk Pension April	£ 100.00
Lloyds DD	Lloyds monthly sub	£ 4.25
Abingdon Hall	Hall Hire	£ 20.00
Parish Magazine Printing	Village news letter	£ 95.16
N Phillips	Expenses May 2026	£ 59.10
A Jenkins April	Grass cutting /March April	£ 1,175.00
Total for May		£ 2,306.13

Payee	Detail	Expense Amount	Receipt Amount
Iwerne Valley lawn	grass cutting /April/May	£ 593.90	
Iwerne Valley lawn	grass cutting Feb/march	£ 489.90	
N Phillips	Clerks wages June inc back pay	£ 631.48	
N Phillips	Clerks expenses - wage payback	£ 4.42	
Lloyds DD	Lloyds monthly sub	£ 4.25	
Nest DD	Clerk Pension May	£ 130.00	
HMRC 1/4 DD	Ni/tax/empni June	£ 594.06	
HMRC	Vat return		£ 273.21

Total of June £ **2,448.01**

RESOLVED: to ratify the payments made in May 2026 for the sum of £2306.13 and agree the payments for June 2026 for the sum of £2448.01 (26/25 Current Account).

Cllr H Overton approved the Bank Reconciliation

25/26. Officers' reports:

Officers roles had been agreed by Councillors and will be added to the website.

Governance & IT: The Parish Council Asset Register has been updated.

Emergency Planning: Cllr H Overton expressed how responsive and professional SSEN have been to residents that incurred damage due to the recent power outage, and resulting power surge incident.

Highways: Cllr T Freestone asked Cllr J Somper to arrange a meeting with the Highways officer for the area. Cllr J Somper will arrange this meeting.

The Council have requested moving the 20mph signs further up Tower Hill and the renewing of faded 20mph roundels.

Footpaths and Rights of Way: For the Clerk to chase up the request at Oyles Mill gate, as this still has not been actioned by the Rangers. It was reported that a footpath beyond Marsh Lane is so overgrown it is nearly impossible to pass. Cllr Skinner will report this.

Recreation: Cllr O'Connor formally requested that the Parish Council give permission to obtain a design and costings for a play area in the Parish Field, this was agreed by all.

Environment and Community Resilience: Cllr Skinner stated that recent power outages were addressed by 'patch repairs' SSEN should be questioned about this as it may not have been the best option.

John Goodlife has agreed to update the Resilience Plan.

Village Features: A resident has requested an update on moving the bus stop by Oakwood Drive. It was confirmed this is still outstanding by Dorset Council.

Other Organisations/Groups:

- **Clayesmore:** Nothing to report
- **Speed Watch:** It was noted that the Speed Watch team urgently need new volunteers.

- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Nothing to report
- **Abingdon Hall:** A request has been received from trustees to move the Silent Soldier to the front wall of the hall. This was approved.
- **Village Defibrillator** – Nothing to report.
- **DAPTC** – Any information received is circulated by the Clerk.

25/27. Clerk Report: A member of the public has asked for the Parish Council to support applying for a speed survey to be done on the C13 at the top of Tower Hill. This will be added to the agenda in September.

25/28. To consider any other matters arising from recent correspondence: Nothing to add.

25/29. Items for next agenda – C13 speed survey, update on A350 traffic management, Village Newsletter, councillor vacancy.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 14th of September 2026**
At **7pm**, at Abingdon Hall, Iwerne Minster

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed by the Chairman Iwerne
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