

The Orchards' and Margaret Marsh Parish Council (Group)

Minutes of the 178th meeting of Full Council Monday 8th September 2025 at 6:45pm At St Margaret's Church, Margaret Marsh, Shaftesbury, SP7 0AZ

These minutes do not constitute a true record until ratified at the next meeting of the Parish Council.
Minute item numbers run consecutively throughout the Parish Council year.

Present: Cllr C. Christensen (Chair), Cllr Tebbutt-Russell, Cllr Elliott

In attendance: B. Barker (Clerk), Cllr J Somper and one member of the public.

The meeting started at 6:45pm

29/25 Public Participation

No items were raised by members of the public present.

30/25 To receive and consider apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Woodruffe and Cllr Stokes

31/25 To receive any declarations of interest and consider any requests for special dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011

There were no declarations of interest from Members in relation to items on the Agenda.

32/25 To receive and resolve to approve the Minutes of the last meeting

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes as a true record of the 177th meeting held on Thursday, May 27th 2025. The minutes were duly signed by the Parish Council Chair

33/25 To receive a report from County Councillor: Cllr Jane Somper

Cllr Somper presented the quarterly report for the Beacon Ward and Dorset Council.

- Dorset Council (DC) Local Plan consultation, including some of the key considerations for those in the Parish and wider Beacon ward and invited the Councillors to a joint ward meeting on the Local Plan on 11 September.
- The [Local Plan \(LP\)](#) for housing, business, infrastructure, and community services, which includes a vision document (Appendix D) that identifies areas for potential development in wind, solar, and battery energy storage, which closes on 13th October
- The [Local Transport Plan \(LTP\)](#), which also closes on 13th October
- The [Minerals and Waste Plan](#) consultation 2025, which closes on 25th November.
- Care Services: the collapse of NRS Healthcare, and noting how hard local officers have worked to try to overcome the delays experienced by those whose care needs have been affected.
- DC Our Future Council: 3-yr project to transform the future operating model and reduce costs, and will include streamlining of work and roles. This will affect the way responsibility for some service provision is shared with town and parish councils. To support this, DAPTC is undertaking a DC-wide survey. The DAPTC survey for Smaller Parish Councils is available online and should be submitted by October 31st <https://www.dorset-aptc.gov.uk/news/fresh-start/smaller-parish-council-survey-dorset-council-area>

Signed Chair

34/25 To receive the Chair's report:

The PC was asked for assistance in tidying the St Thomas Churchyard and met with the local Rector from the Shaftesbury team to discuss how they could help. The church is responsible for the maintenance. PC has submitted a request to DC Highways to investigate whether anything can be done to clear the layby. Cllr Somper will look to raise this with Highways as well.

35/25 To receive the Clerk's Report on past subject matters arising from the minutes:

The Clerk confirmed that O&MM is now registered with the NALC Civility & Respect pledge and asked the chair to sign the Certificate.

36/25 To receive Parish updates:

36.a/25: East Orchard – no issue reported

36.b/25: Margaret Marsh – ideas for Marsh Pond to be considered for the 26-27 action plan

36.c/25: West Orchard – no issue reported

37/25 To discuss any Highways, Bridleways and Footpaths issues:

Nothing to report. Members of the public are encouraged to report any new faults or existing defects to Dorset Council at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement

38/25 To receive any updates on Flooding

Nothing to report. Members of the public are encouraged to report flooding to Dorset Council at DorsetCouncil.gov.uk/w/report-flooding

39/25 To comment on current Planning Applications:

Applications can be viewed at Dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land.

39.a/25: P/HOU/2025/04589: Location: Belvedere Parsons Lane Hartgrove SP7 0LA. Proposal: Erect a single-storey timber-framed garden room. No Objection

39.b/25: P/HOU/2025/04898: Location: Belvedere Parsons Lane Hartgrove SP7 0LA. Proposal: Erect a two-storey rear extension (demolish existing lean-to extension). No Objection

40/25 Review of Governance Schedule:

Annual review of staffing. See item 42.

41/25 Financial Matters

See OMM 178 Report Pack - Appendix C for supporting reports.

41.a/25: Bank reconciliation for 1st-30th April 2024 was APPROVED and SIGNED by the Chair

41.b/25: The YTD budget report (April – August 2025) was received and noted

41.c/25: It was RESOLVED to APPROVE RFO salary scale and backpay as per National Joint Council (NJC) for 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

41.d/25: It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the payments made to date.

41.e/25: Supplier invoices were countersigned, and it was RESOLVED to APPROVE all payments as per the schedule presented. Payments will be paid via bank transfer.

41.f/25: The recommendation to provide a Parish Council Laptop was AGREED.

Action: RFO to source quotes for both refurbished and new laptops, together with options for Microsoft 365 business.

41.g/25: It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the recommendations for Parish Council to join LGPS.

Action: RFO to add to Agenda for December 2025 Full Council meeting and post LGPS notice a minimum of 28 days before meeting

41.h/25: To consider any recommendations for 2026-27 budget

Action: All Cllrs to consider Aims and Actions that they would like to see addressed in the 26-27 budget.

Signed Chair

Date.....

42/25 Staffing & Confidential Matters

Staff review was summarised. It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the 2025-26 pay recommendations.

43/25 Communications:

Social media and WhatsApp options were discussed/

Action: Cllr Christensen to investigate local WhatsApp options

44/25 Training:

Cllr Christensen booked on training with DAPTC.

45/25 Correspondence:

Correspondence received regarding St Thomas' graveyard (Item 34/25). Cllr Christensen is liaising with resident.

46/25 Matters pertinent:

Cllr Tebbutt Russell asked about the Resilience planning process.

Action: Clerk to undertake research into local parish resilience plans and update Cllrs.

47/25 To note any decision/actions taken by Parish Clerk

As per "Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, Part 3, Paragraph 6-10" Record of decisions and access to documents (for reporting purposes only). None reported.

48/25 To record any items for the next meeting agenda:

Considerations for 26-27 noted.

49/25 To record the date of the next meeting: Monday, 8th December 2025

The meeting closed at 8:06 pm.

These draft minutes will be approved as a true record of the meeting when signed by the Chair.

Signed (Chair) _____

Date_____

Recorded by: Beverly Barker: Parish Clerk & RFO

Email: Parish Clerk clerk@orchardsandmargaretmarsh-pc.gov.uk

Further information:

Parish Council information is available at www.theorchardsandmargaretmarsh-pc.org.uk. Please report issues regarding highways and footpaths to Dorset Council: Dorset Council Website: [at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/)

Signed Chair

Date.....