

The Orchards' and Margaret Marsh Parish Council (Group)

Minutes of the 182nd meeting of Full Council Monday 7th September, 2026 at 6:30pm at Child Okeford Community Centre, Child Okeford, DT11 8EL

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

Present: Cllr C Christensen, Cllr G Stokes, Cllr J Elliot, Cllr P Gay

In attendance: B. Barker (Clerk) and seven members of the public.

The meeting started at 6:30 pm

25/26 Public Participation

The Chair confirmed that public participation enables residents and members of the public to ask questions, raise issues, or make brief statements to the Parish Council, with each speaker being allotted up to 3 minutes. Residents may also submit questions beforehand by emailing the Clerk. The meeting was also reminded that while the council can discuss issues, it cannot make decisions or pass resolutions on items that are not on the current agenda. No other questions were raised.

26/26 To receive and consider apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Woodruffe

27/26 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 regarding the Agenda items.
- Members confirmed that all Registers of Interest are up to date on the new Dorset Council RoI site.

28/26 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 181st meeting held on Monday, 18th May 2026. The minutes were duly signed by the Parish Council Chair

29/26 Apologies were received from County Councillor Cllr Jane Somper

30/26 To receive the Chair's Report.

The Chair reported on a recent planning briefing organised by local Ward Councillors regarding changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and the Dorset Local Plan. Members noted the increased use of delegated planning decisions, the importance of responding clearly and robustly to planning applications, and the need to monitor development proposals both within and close to the Parish. The Chair's written report is attached (Appendix 1).

31/26 To receive the Clerk's Report on past subject matters arising from the minutes:

See OMM 182 Report Pack - Appendix A for the status and outcome of previous matters.

- As per meeting 181[item14/26] Cllr Gay will be added as a UTB signatory. UTB application forms were duly signed

Action: Clerk to send paperwork to UTB and progress application

32/26 To consider adoption of Bleax Close Notice Board and estimate for repairs

- It was RESOLVED to ADOPT the Bleax Close noticeboard and add it to the Council's asset register at £0, with an appropriate replacement value for insurance purposes.

- Members agreed that Bleax Close should be the first priority for replacement, followed by Hartgrove. The preferred specification was a six-A4 landscape noticeboard in recycled plastic/man-made timber to minimise future maintenance.

Action: Cllr Stokes to obtain comparable quotations. RFO to make provision for consideration in the 2027/28 budget.

33/26 To receive Parish updates:

East Orchard:

No additional parish matters were raised.

Margaret Marsh

The Marsh Pond project was reviewed. Members considered that the current dry conditions provided an opportunity to progress the work. It was agreed that the project should be developed with interested residents and former Cllr Tebbutt-Russell kept informed. Any volunteer activity would remain subject to the previously agreed health and safety arrangements, with suitably insured contractors used for machinery or specialist work.

Action: Cllrs Elliott and Stokes to progress proposals with interested residents.

West Orchard

No additional parish matters were raised.

34/26 To discuss any Highways, Bridleways and Footpaths issues:

- Members raised concern about a willow tree and accumulated debris obstructing the watercourse near Gullivers Farm.
- Please report faults or defects to [DorsetCouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement)

Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Somper to clarify responsibility for maintaining the watercourse and whether action can be taken.

35/26 To receive any updates on Flooding

- Remedial drainage works have been undertaken at East Orchard. Members agreed that their effectiveness should be monitored during periods of heavier rainfall, particularly whether water drains away as river levels fall.
- Please report flooding or a possible cause of flooding to [DorsetCouncil.gov.uk/w/report-flooding](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/report-flooding)

36/26 To comment on current Planning Applications:

Applications can be viewed at [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land).

36.a/26: 05/06/26 P/PABA/2026/03057 Swainscombe Church Lane East Orchard SP7 OLE
Erect steel portal frame building for storage of hay & machinery.

- Prior Approval Not Required.

36.b/26: 09/06/26 P/HOU/2026/03142 Marsh Cottages Marnhull Road Margaret Marsh SP7 OAY. Erection of single-storey extension to dwelling & erection of ancillary building for home office, gym & garden store area & creation of additional parking.

- No Objection. Application Approved

36.c/26: 23/06/26 P/FUL/2026/03233 Marsh Farm Marnhull Road Margaret Marsh SP7 OAZ. Erect 2 no. dwellings; erect extension to holiday cottage to form a dwelling; redevelopment of farmyard (demolition of existing agricultural buildings).

- Under Officer Consideration

36.d/26: 07/07/26 P/NMA/2026/03686 The Old Chapel, Parsons Lane, Hartgrove, SP7 OLF. Non-material amendment. Remove smaller window on end wall and add a 2nd window to the long side wall evenly spaced to planning permission P/HOU/2025/01284 (Erect redesigned enclosed porch to the rear door).

- No Objection. Application Approved

36.e/26: 16/07/26 P/PAEW/2026/03895 Mansfield Farm High Street, SP7 OLI. Excavation and construction of an earth-lined slurry lagoon.

- Response Issued - Prior Approval Required.

Action: P/PAEW/2026/03895 Clerk to check whether further Parish Council consultation/comment is required.

36.f/26: 21/08/26 P/FUL/2026/04590 Land East of Orchard Corner. Erect 4no. stall stable block (including tack room, store and wash block); landscaping including compacted gravel path. (Remove mobile home, hardstanding and outbuilding).

- Out To Consultation. Members considered the proposed access, height and relationship with adjoining development and RESOLVED to SUPPORT the application.

Action: Cllrs to submit the Council's SUPPORT response online before 16/9/2026.

37/26 Review of Governance Schedule:

The governance schedule was reviewed. No additional actions were identified

38/26 To ratify decisions taken under the Scheme of Delegation 2025

No decisions had been taken under the Scheme of Delegation requiring ratification

39/26 Financial Matters

See OMM 182 Report Pack - Appendix C for supporting reports.

39.a/26: The Bank Reconciliation for August 2026 was APPROVED and SIGNED by the Chair alongside copies of bank statements and a summary of transactions to date, with a current bank balance of £3,664.70

39.b/26: The YTD budget and forecast were received and noted. The forecast remained broadly on budget, with an anticipated year-end variance of approximately £3

39.c/26: The LGA annual pay award has been published, giving a 3.3% raise. It was RESOLVED to APPROVE payment of the Clerk's salary and associated HMRC tax due for 1/9/26–31/12/26 by monthly payment following payroll processing.

39.d/26: It was RESOLVED to APPROVE payment of the Employer's and Employee's LGPS contributions for 1/9/26–31/12/26

39.e/26: It was noted that the current invoice was for £30 although the Council understood the applicable meeting rate to be £15. The £30 payment was approved pending clarification of the charging rate.

Action: Clerk to clarify future hire charges with Child Okeford Community Centre.

40/26 It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the following payments already made

Date	To Whom	For What	Total	VAT	Net
5/6/26	N Philips	Internal Audit	60		

41/26 It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the following payments.

Date	To Whom	For What	Total	VAT	Net
13/9/26	Hall Hire - Child Oakford	Hall Hire	30.00		
30/9/26	Service Charge	Unity Bank	7.00		
30/10/26	Service Charge	Unity Bank	7.00		
30/11/26	Service Charge	Unity Bank	7.00		
30/9/26	Beverly Barker 1/9/2026	Clerk Pay £156.63 less overpay £76.43	80.20		
1/9/26 - 31/12/26	Beverly Barker (1/10/26-31/12/26)	Clerk Net Pay £156.63 x 4	626.52		
1/9/26 - 31/12/26	LGPSPDC Pension (1/9/26-31/12/26)	Employee (11.39) Employer (43.51) = £54.90 x 4	219.60		
1/8/26	Payments to HMRC Aug 2026 £38.80	£38.80	38.80		
1/9/26 - 31/12/26	Payments to HMRC (1/9/26-31/12/26)	£39.16 x 4	156.64		
30/9/26	BB Expenses	Payment of tax to HMRC on behalf of OMM using personal credit card.	40.60		

Action: RFO to organise bank transfers for approval by two councillors

42/26 Communications:

It was agreed that Communications would no longer be included as a standing agenda item.

Action: Clerk to remove item.

43/26 Training:

Cllr Christensen to undertake further training on Planning and Building Control

44/26 Correspondence:

DAPTC invoice for annual membership was received and will be added to the next payment list.

45/26 Matters pertinent:

The Chair reported an informal update from the Churchwarden regarding St Thomas Churchyard. No action has been taken to close or transfer the churchyard and responsibility for its maintenance currently remains with the PCC. A possible future request for a contribution towards maintenance was mentioned, but the Council has not received a formal request. Members noted that any such request would need to be considered against the Council's grants policy, available powers and benefit to parish residents. The Council will await any formal approach from the PCC.

46/26 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.

47/26 To record any items for the next meeting agenda: no additional items raised.

48/26 To record the date of the next meeting: Monday 7 December 2026 at 6.30pm, at Child Okeford Community Centre subject to confirmation of councillor availability.

Action: Clerk to confirm the date by email.

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

The 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: clerk@orchardsandmargaretmarsh-pc.gov.uk

Further information:

Parish Council information is available at www.orchardsandmargaretmarsh-pc.gov.uk. Please report highways and footpath issues to Dorset Council: Dorset Council Website: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/

Appendix 1

Chair's Report – 7th September 2026

I attended a meeting, organised by our Ward Councillors, to brief Parishes on the potential impact of the new version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Key Issues:

The Dorset Local Plan has been delayed to 2029, meaning developers have greater power and it is more difficult to challenge development locations.

Planning Officers have more authority, and fewer planning applications will be referred to Planning Committees. Potentially, applications are now more likely to be approved.

Dorset's house building target is 3,247/year, but currently only achieving 1,160/year. So an additional 550 small development sites are required over Dorset, predominantly around and 'close to' small villages. Development proposals can be up to 20% of village size.

Impact on our Parish:

As we do not have any centres of population, we are unlikely to be a focus for development; however, we need to monitor adjacent Parish developments for any impact.

If we have objections to any development within the Parish, we need to be more robust and detailed in our arguments.