

# The Orchards' and Margaret Marsh Parish Council (Group)

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## Minutes of the 175<sup>th</sup> meeting of Full Council Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 6.45 p.m. at Manston Village Hall

*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 G. Stokes (Chair), Cllr I. Boid, Cllr C. Christensen, Cllr D Woodruffe

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

**Apologies:** none received

**The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and the members of the public to the meeting.**

### **28/24 Public Participation (Standing Orders suspended)**

The Chair asked if the members of the public had any issues to raise. A resident noted that the new 'Flood' warning sign has been hit by something and is now leaning over. Cllr Boid agreed to speak to DC about the sign as he knows the problem. There were no other questions.

### **29/24 Disclosures Of Members' Interests and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

### **30/24 Application for co-option to the council**

An application was received Mr Daniel Woodruffe. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Mr Woodruffe to the vacancy. Cllr Woodruffe then signed the "Acceptance of Office" and joined the meeting as a Council member for the rest of the session.

### **31/24 Minutes of the 174<sup>th</sup> meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024:**

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes of the 174<sup>th</sup> meeting as true records of it. The minutes were duly signed by the Council Chair.

### **32/24 Dorset County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Jane Somper's report for December 2024/January 2025 had been circulated ahead of the meeting (See Appendix A). This is also posted on the Parish Website.

The following aspects were discussed:

- i Flooding: Flooding continues to cause 'significant disruption to residents and road users', and Cllr Somper has raised questions with the DC Cabinet about prioritising budgets and proactively safeguarding the communities against further harm. It was noted that clearing the rivers is a challenge that can cause problems in other areas, and it involved the Environment Agency.

**Action: Clerk to organise for DC Flood warning updates to be sent to Cllr Boid.**

- ii Parish Council meeting attendance: increased evening meetings at Dorset Council may make it more difficult to attend PC meetings.

**Action: Clerk will coordinate meeting dates where possible.**

### **33/24 Chair's report**

The Chair noted the issue of flooding around the parish. No other issues were raised.

**34/24 Clerk's Report and matters arising from previous minutes**

The Clerk submitted a written report before the meeting (See Appendix 2).

- i Cllr Christensen updated the meeting that the November round of general hedge-cutting and maintenance had resolved many of the visibility issues raised. Main hedges need to be below 1.8m with a hedgerow-cutting ban from 1 March – 31 August (Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024).
- ii Cllr Boid updated the meeting regarding the Mower Lane bridle path. DC Road Department has accepted it as being theirs. They will place signs at the ends of Fishy Corner and Mower Lane to state it is 'unsuitable for vehicles' and have asked neighbours to trim their overhanging hedges. The flooding aspect has not been addressed to date, and Cllr Boid has asked for an update.
- iii Clerk's computer: Proposals presented.

**Action: Cllrs will consider the next steps as a part of the 2025-26 budget processes.**

**35/24 Parish updates:**

**35.a/24 East Orchard: Cllr Christensen**

- i Recent planning applications were reviewed – See item 39/24
- ii It was noted that DC publishes all planning applications on its planning portal and sends notifications to the PC. They also send site notices to applicants who are required to be placed on or near the site. However, in line with their Statement of Community Involvement, they no longer send out neighbour notification letters for planning applications unless required by law.

**Action: Clerk to add a planning applications page to the website.**

- iii Cllr Christensen and Cllr Stokes attended a Joint Ward meeting hosted by Cllr Somper to meet with MP Simon Hoare and Jacqui Cuff (Rural Housing Enabling Officer for Dorset) to receive a briefing on how the government housing and planning policies may affect Dorset.

**35.b/24 Margaret Marsh: Cllr Stokes**

- i Church Lane has been resurfaced. The hedges have all been trimmed, and the Pond is ok. Flooding is bad, but not worse than usual.

**35.c/24 West Orchard: Cllr Boid**

- i Cllr Boid has been reporting potholes regularly to try and get some action as the weather is causing severe deterioration of the roads.

**36/24 DAPTC AGM 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024:**

Cllr Christensen and B. Barker, the Clerk attended this. Presentations from Nick Ireland gave additional information on the local planning issues and DC's goal for building new homes. AGM voting was undertaken to approve the transfer of DAPTC to a company limited by guarantee, the appointment of executive officers, and the approval of the 30% increase in subscription charges.

**37/24 Highways:**

Potholes were the key aspect under discussion. No notifications for closures have been received from DC. No other issues were reported.

**38/24 Footpaths:**

No issues were reported.

**39/24 Planning Applications:**

Planning applications and tree preservation orders received between August and November 2024 were reviewed. Decisions and comments are available on the Dorset Council Planning Portal and summarised in the Planning Application Report (See Appendix C).

**40/24 Finance:**

The monthly bank reconciliation and YTD budget report were circulated before the meeting (See Appendix D).

**40.a/24 Bank Reconciliation:**

Bank reconciliation reviewed and signed by the Chair

**40.b/24 Payments made and payments for invoices received:**

It was **RESOLVED** to agree the payments as per the Schedule of payments. These invoices will be paid via bank transfer.

Date	To Whom	For What	Total	[VAT]	Net
10/12/24	Manston Village Hall	Hall Hire 9/12/2024	£ 18.00	£0.00	£18.00
15/12/24	DC	DC election costs	£ 59.00	£0.00	£59.00

**40.c/24 Budget Setting:**

Reports for a) YTD budget 2024-25 and b) 4Yr Summary circulated before the meeting. (See Appendix E). The initial discussion on the draft budgets for 2025-26 was undertaken in readiness for setting the annual precept for 2025-26, reviewing and exploring the individual line items.

**Action: Cllr Stokes to review role & responsibilities of Parish Wardens**

**Action: Cllr Woodruffe to develop proposals for annual or biannual parish litter picks.**

**Action: Cllrs will review the numbers and propose a 2025-26 budget and precept at least 3 weeks ahead of the DC deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup> 2025.**

**40.d/24 Asset register**

The asset register was reviewed.

**Action: Cllrs will inspect the various assets and report on condition, value, and replacement costs before completing the risk assessment, AGAR, and insurance renewal.**

**41/24 Review of Policies**

Financial regulations approved.

**Action: Clerk will update and circulate the 'Internal & Governance schedule' and prepare additional policy reviews for the February meeting.**

**42/24 Confidential items:**

No issues were raised

**43/24 Correspondence**

A summary of correspondence was circulated in advance of the meeting (See Appendix F).

- i Local Government Pay claim 2024/25. The LGA pay claim was agreed in October 2024 and will be applied retrospectively applied from 1 April 2024
- ii Recommendations from LGA. DAPTC, etc., that all councils should migrate to the .gov.uk domain. Costs have been requested from the current website hosts.

**Action: Clerk to confirm requirements for migration. Cllr Boid to explore options for websites.**

**44/24 Matters pertinent:**

Communication: It was noted that many of the discussions had considered how information is delivered to the parish electorate.

**Action: Cllr Woodruffe will investigate if local social media community groups could be used to reach out to residents. Clerk will ask web hosts for visitor numbers.**

**45/24 The Date of the next meeting was proposed as 17<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 6:45pm in Manston Village Hall.**

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair) Date \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded by: Beverly Barker: Clerk. Email: [clerk@theorchardsandmargaretmarsh-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@theorchardsandmargaretmarsh-pc.org.uk)

**Further information:**

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