

WORTH MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF WORTH MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 4th AUGUST 2026 IN THE WORTH MATRAVERS VILLAGE HALL. THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.30PM

PRESENT:

Cllr **Bugler** (Vice-Chairperson), Cllr **Burden** (Chairperson), Cllr **Hooper**, Cllr **Jeffery**, Cllr **Melville**, Cllr **Peacock** & Cllr **Vosper**

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Ella **Gardner** (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust); Cllr **Wilson** (Dorset Council), & Michelle **Harrington** (Clerk) Four Members of Public

ABSENT:

TBC

0826-42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (LGA) 1972 S85 (1))

All Councillors were present.

0826-43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS (LOCALISM ACT 2011 S33(B-E)) RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Bugler & Cllr Burden declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 0826-50a2, monthly expenditure, as approved contractors to Worth Matravers Parish Council. Cllr Peacock declared an interest in agenda item 0826-52c Application P/TRT/2026/04004, as homeowner. No further declarations were made or dispensations requested.

0826-44. PUBLIC SESSION

The meeting was adjourned

Two members of public came to explain why Purbeck Valley Farm and Land and Wave have submitted a planning application in respect of camping, noting Dorset Council have informed Land and Wave they no longer qualify for an exception and need a licence to continue to operate.

The meeting was reconvened

0826-45. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Proposed Cllr Bugler

Seconded Cllr Vosper

RESOLVED – The minutes from the full council meeting held on Tuesday 9th July 2026 were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

0826-46. NATIONAL TRUST.

This item was postponed until September

0826-47. AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE CONSERVATION

Ella Gardner from the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust attended the meeting to discuss the current condition of Worth Matravers Village Pond, options for its cleaning and maintenance, and potential ways in which the pond could be used in the future. It was noted most ponds need 40% coverage to stay healthy.

RESOLVED / ACTION: WMPC to work with the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust to maintain the pond for four years as a Nature pond. Noting the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust will fund the project for four years, in return for Worth Matravers Parish Council allowing the Trust to bring children and young adults to the pond to learn about pond management. Clerk to advertise this change in the Dubber article.

0826-48. SUSTAINABLE WORTH

A verbal update was given. See Appendix A

0826-49. DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Wilson gave a verbal update on parish matters. See Appendix B for full details.

0826-50. CLERKS REPORT

a. Finance

1. Bank Balance as of 24th July 2026

Unity £66,644.66

Redwood Bank £40,000.00

Expenditure & Income

A report was submitted before the meeting, noting the monthly expenditure of £4,831.44 and the Income at £10,817.56 this was discussed. (A copy of all expenditure and income can be found at the end of the minutes in Appendix C).

Seconded: Cllr Peacock

RESOLVED/ACTION: All payments as listed were approved with a combined total of £4,831.44 including VAT. Clerk to look into parking enforcement options, in respect of persistent campers within the car park.

Bank Reconciliation

A copy of the July '26 bank reconciliation was presented and approved for the Chairman to sign.

Parish Safety

A copy of the Worth Matravers Play Park & Harmans Cross Play Park external annual inspection was submitted before the meeting these were discussed.

Action Log.

A report was submitted before the meeting, this was discussed and noted.

Highways

A verbal update on a meeting with a Dorset Council Highways Liaison was discussed and noted. See appendix D.

ACTION: Clerk to follow up on actions discussed during the meeting:

- WMPC to check planning and mineral, in respect of quarry traffic, what types of vehicles are permitted to use the area, and how often.
- WMPC to contact the National Trust, as they own the land being quarried and investigate any governance over vehicle movements.
- WMPC to ask DC Road Safety if procedures have changed which would now allow the PC to report accidents directly to DC.
- To encourage residents to report parking issues to DC Parking Services

Clerk to contact our DC Highways Liaison to request a meeting in Harmans Cross with Cllr Peacock and Clerk to cover issues, such as recent gas works repairs, white lining and issue with Haycraft's Lane, noting the recent Wessex Water repairs have split away from the surrounding tarmac.

Actions updated since the publication of the agenda.

No further actions were discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Parish Council 2025 Survey in the Dorset Council Area

A copy of the DAPTC survey was submitted before the meeting, this was noted.

Macmillan Mighty Hike organisers request to use the overflow Car Park July 3rd 2027, under the same terms as this year.

RESOLVED/ACTION: Approval was given for the Macmillan Mighty Hike organisers to use the Worth Matravers overflow Car Park on the weekend of July 3rd 2027

No further correspondence was received after the agenda publication date.

PLANNING MATTERS

The following planning application was discussed:

Application No: P/FUL/2026/03344

Location: Purbeck Valley Farm Valley Road Harmans Cross BH20 5HU

Proposal: Change of use of land between 1st May until 30th September from agriculture to a mixed use of camping and agriculture including provision of essential facilities.

Comment: Worth Matravers Parish Council has considered the above application and wishes to confirm that it has no objection to the proposed change of use.

The site has been used in this way for a number of years, including for educational visitors staying overnight and for an annual festival organised by the landowner. The application seeks to regularise an established use rather than introduce a new or materially different use.

The Parish Council is not aware of any increase or change in the nature or scale of the use that would be detrimental to the surrounding area and therefore has no objection to the application.

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- b. Application No: P/HOU/2026/02450
Location: The Mayflower Valley Road Harmans Cross Wareham BH20 5HU
Proposal: Formation of a new access.
Comment: No comment
- c. Application No: P/TRT/2026/04004
Location: Valley View Valley Road Harmans Cross BH19 3DX
Proposal: T1 Oak - Reduce by up to 3 metres. T2 Lime - Dismantle down to ground level. T3 Twin-stem Lime - Reduce in height by 3 metres back to appropriate growth points. T4 Lime - Dismantle down to ground level.
Comment: No comment
- d. Application No: P/VOC/2026/04014
Location: 2 Bonvils Road Worth Matravers BH19 3LR
Proposal: Erect ground floor extensions and replacement of existing shed to create garden room (with variation of Condition 2 of permission P/HOU/2026/00371 to reduce the scale of the proposal)
Comment: No comment
- e. Accessing planning application information online.
A brief note on how to access planning applications online was submitted before the meeting, this was noted.

RESOLVED / ACTION: Clerk to submit planning comments to Dorset Council

0826-53. EV CHARGING – FEASIBILITY STUDY

A Dorset Council feasibility study in respect of EV Charging points in both the Worth Matravers & Harmans Cross car park were submitted before the meeting. It was noted the Clerk has been unable to contact the landowners of the Harmans Cross Car Park, so EV Charging in this car park cannot go ahead.

RESOLVED / ACTION: Clerk to complete the Grant Application Form for EV Charging points to be installed in the Worth Matravers Car Park.

0826-54. URGENT ITEMS

N.B Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that is not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 Sch 12, para 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119), however matters can still be discussed.

Next Council Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st September 2026, from 7.30pm in the Harmans Cross Village Hall.

0826-55. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

The meeting entered a confidential session, with no resolution passed as no members of public or press were present.

0826-56. CAR PARK DONATIONS

It was agreed which councillors would be responsible for overseeing car park donations during the forthcoming month.

0826-57. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

The current liaison position with the CLT was discussed..

RESOLVED / ACTION:

- The Clerk to contact the CLT and request the Clerk become the Worth Matravers Parish Council, CLT Liaison representative.
- The Clerk to compile a survey, so Worth Matravers Parish Council can understand the views of Harmans Cross residents in regard to the development.
- The Clerk to produce a leaflet, which Harmans Cross Councillors will deliver door to door, advertising the survey. Cllr Peacock offer to print the flyers.

Meeting closed at 21.44

Appendix A: Sustainable Worth

1. We continue to collect litter throughout the village as and when we see it. Litter doesn't seem to be too bad, but dogs' mess is certainly worse as might be expected in the holidays. Most local people pick up.
2. Continued Friday morning gardening sessions at the Withy Bed, Westburton Field, the Churchyard and Begbie Meadow.
3. We ran 2 well-attended showings of the 50 minute long 'People's Emergency Briefing' film in June and July in the Village Hall. We would like to recommend the film's factual and unbiased reporting on our changing climate and loss of nature, by a team of experts in fields such as National and Food Security, Economics and the NHS. Anyone can organise a free showing, whether it is to a club, church group or local Council at <https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film>
This is something that affects us all now and will do increasingly.
4. Duck Pond
We've been taking away the algae that various people have cleared from the pond.
We note that the pond is looking clearer of algae and that it is regularly used by a variety of dragonflies and damselflies, the Swallows use it for drinking, and at night it is a regular hunting place for bats.
5. Do the Council receive the Purbeck Transport Action Group minutes and if not would they like to receive them for interest?

Appendix B – Dorset Council Report

Harman's Cross Pedestrian Refuge - scheme update

Please find below a detailed position on the Harman's Cross pedestrian refuge scheme.

We have now completed further investigations into the possibility of introducing streetlighting as part of the scheme. Following discussions with our design and streetlighting colleagues, the recommendation is not to pursue a lighting solution at this location.

While we appreciate that lighting can sometimes be seen as beneficial in improving the visibility of crossing facilities, there are a number of factors which have informed this recommendation:

- There are several comparable pedestrian crossing facilities in similar locations across the network that operate safely without dedicated street lighting.
- By comparison, this section of the A351 Valley Road experiences relatively low levels of both pedestrian and vehicle movement, which reduces the justification for introducing a lighting installation.
- To achieve the necessary standards, it is likely that a broader streetlighting system would be required rather than a limited lighting intervention. This would significantly increase the overall cost of the scheme and introduce a much more urban character into what is currently a rural environment.
- Our streetlighting team has also advised that any proposal to install lighting in this location would require a separate consultation process. Given the rural nature of the area, there is a strong likelihood that objections would be raised regarding the visual impact of additional lighting infrastructure. Should those objections be upheld, the result would be abortive design and consultation costs without a deliverable outcome.

Taking all of these factors into account, the project team considers that progressing the pedestrian refuge without street lighting remains the most proportionate and deliverable solution.

Next Steps

- The scheme is currently progressing through the detailed design stage.
- Early discussions with our construction team are expected to take place in August, which should provide greater certainty around construction requirements and programme. We anticipate being able to provide a further update in late September.
- At this stage, construction is not expected to take place within the current financial year.
- When the final lining design is complete, I'll be able to start the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation process.

For ease of reference, I have attached the Preliminary Design that you have previously seen. We are now developing the detailed design elements required to progress this towards construction.

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General Updates

On 17th July, representatives from Dorset Council - including the Chief Exec and Council Leader - were joined by Parish and Town Councillors, Clerks and leaders from civic organisations in Purbeck for Dorset's very first 'Community Conversation'. Supported by DATPC, these engagement events will be rolled out across Dorset in the coming months. The purpose behind them is to explore the relationship between DC and the other organisations - good and bad - and how that relationship and community cohesion should evolve. There was great engagement from SE Purbeck and I certainly found the event encouraging. There is a follow up 'Part 2' to be held at Harmans Cross Village Hall on 11th September to which I would recommend all PCs send a representative. I attach a follow-up document from the event for those unable to attend.

Another significant announcement from Dorset Council this month was the change in approach to delivering the Dorset Local Plan. This comes as a result of changes made to the planning rules made by central government. New deadlines left the council unable to prepare a sound Local Plan under the previous system. Making the decision sooner gives Dorset the best opportunity to carry forward work already completed, including the consultation on potential sites performed last year which received 9,000 responses. Adopting the new system will result in a minor delay overall but it will align Dorset with our Wessex devolution partners and is promised to bring more transparency and be afforded more weight at an earlier stage than under the previous approach.

At the end of July Dorset Council Cabinet approved the Annual Report for 2025/26, outlining some of the key achievements in the year, especially those aligned to the Council Plan priorities.

Consultation recommendation for August is on the draft Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2026 to 2036.

The draft plan sets out how Dorset's network of footpaths, bridleways and byways could become more accessible, better connected and easier to use for recreation, active travel and everyday journeys over the next 10 years.

Feedback will help shape the final plan before it is adopted later this year.

<https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/c-e/dorset-rights-of-way-consultation/>

Lastly, a reminder that the Capital Leverage Fund is open for applications of between £1,000 and £25,000 (up to 20% of total project costs). The aim of the Capital Leverage Fund is to support community and cultural organisations to deliver capital projects which provide new and improved facilities for our communities and residents.

Appendix C – Monthly Expenditure & Income**Expenditure**

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier	Bank
03.08.2026	£88.80	£0.00	£88.80	Accounts Package (2 months)	Starboard Systems Ltd	Unity
03.08.2026	£162.56	£0.00	£162.56	Water	Water2Business	Unity
03.08.2026	£295.00	£59.00	£354.00	Speed Survey	Dorset Council	Unity
03.08.2026	£47.00	£0.00	£47.00	Data Protection Registration	Information Commissioners Office	Unity
03.08.2026	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00	Mobile Phone	Lebara	Unity
31.07.2026	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	Bank Charge	Unity Bank	Unity
03.08.2026	£588.00	£117.60	£705.60	Grounds Maintenance - Parish Wide	ITB Gardening and Tree Care Ltd	Unity
31.07.2026	£69.41	£0.00	£69.41	Pension	Nest	Unity
03.08.2026	£556.35	£0.00	£556.35	NI & Income Tax	HMRC	Unity
03.08.2026	£658.69	£0.00	£658.69	Salary	Michelle Harrington	Unity
03.08.2026	£582.61	£116.52	£699.13	Toilet Block Cleaning	JD Facilities Ltd	Unity
03.08.2026	£255.38	£49.72	£305.10	Just Park Fees	Just Park Parking Limited	Unity
03.08.2026	£368.00	£0.00	£368.00	National Non-Domestic Rate Bill	Dorset Council	Unity
23.07.2026	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Donation	Cultural Purbeck	Unity
21.07.2026	£190.00	£38.00	£228.00	Playpark Inspection	ROSPA Play Safety	Unity
21.07.2026	£64.00	£12.80	£76.80	Toilet Block Maintenance	Burden Building Services Ltd	Unity
	£4,430.40	£401.04	£4,831.44			

Income

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Customer	Bank
03.08.2026	£5,643.60	£0.00	£5,643.60	Car Park - Just Park Donations	Car Park Users (HX & WM)	Unity Trust
31.07.2026	£62.20	£0.00	£62.20	Interest	Redwood Bank	Redwood Bank
03.08.2026	£780.00	£0.00	£780.00	Car Park - Cash Donation	Worth Matravers Car Park Users	Unity Trust
31.07.2026	£211.76	£0.00	£211.76	Car Park - Cash Donation	Harmans Cross Car Park Users	Unity Trust
29.07.2026	£1,112.00	£0.00	£1,112.00	Car Park - Cash Donation	Worth Matravers Car Park Users	Unity Trust
31.07.2026	£612.00	£0.00	£612.00	Car Park - Cash Donation	Worth Matravers Car Park Users	Unity Trust
31.07.2026	£2,396.00	£0.00	£2,396.00	Car Park - Cash Donation	Worth Matravers Car Park Users	Unity Trust
	£ 10,817.56	£ -	£ 10,817.56			

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Appendix D – Worth Matravers Site meeting with DC Highways

Junctions (C35 / B3069 Junction)

- A mechanical sweep of the junction has been requested by Glenn.
- Glenn with liaise with Griff in regard to the possibility of using an Elastamat-type surface, which contains recycled tyres. It was highlighted this surface is not usually used at junctions due to skid issues, but maybe small square patches would help.
- WMPC to check planning and mineral, in respect of quarry traffic, what types of vehicles are permitted to use the area, and how often.
- WMPC to contact the National Trust, as they own the land being quarried and investigate any governance over vehicle movements.

It was noted that lorries only operate within a three-month period, meaning the annual number of lorry movements is concentrated into this shorter timeframe.

White and Yellow Line Markings

- Glenn made enquiries before the meeting, in respect of white lining and double yellow lining (DYL), as well as slow road markings and signage at the junction by the Square and Compass. During the meeting it was confirmed that this work is scheduled to be completed by the end of August, whilst crews are in Swanage working.
- WMPC requested the DYL between Old Quarry Close and the Barn be re-painted at the same time.
- WMPC requested the white lining on the top road (B3069) be replaced, as this is a much needed safety feature when it is foggy. (This area is prone to fog, even when Corfe Castle is clear).

It was noted that the provision of central white lining is not part of the code of practice. So is not automatically done. However due to the area being prone to fog Glenn has agreed to investigate.

Old Quarry / Barn Area

- WMPC raised concerns regarding the pavement and pavement area near old quarry close to the barn. The section is about 60m in length, and the road narrows to the point where only two small cars would be able to pass each other. Due to parked cars, or people walking to the Priest Way start point, vehicles end up mounting the opposite kerb.
Glenn will request the Road Safety Team inspect the area and undertake a road safety audit. They will then provide recommendations.
- The relevant contact within the Road Safety Team is expected to be either James Hussey or Patrick Carpenter.

Road Surface

WMPC noted that re-surfacing works were scheduled last year, but were postponed until this year. It is our understanding they have again be postponed, with no future date set. Glenn agreed to investigate outstanding road surface works and come back to WMPC

Kerb Stones and Drainage

WMPC raised concerns about the kerb stones near Compact Farm.

It was noted stones were intermittently laid many years ago, possibly by PDC. However instead of the kerbs rising and falling at each end they just come to a vertical stop. It was noted the gaps were left for water run-off, however a few years after installation the first of several accidents happened with a bin lorry tipping off the road, as the kerb stone was covered by overgrowth. At the time the area was cleaned and the kerb stones were revealed, however this was not maintained.

WMPC requested action be taken to this area, either fill in the gaps, make the ends rise and fall, or to place hazard warning posts. It was noted a previous DC Highways Officer agreed to install hazard warning posts.

Glenn agreed to assess the area and investigate whether markers can be installed, or if a fluted drain could be added.

Accident and Collision Reporting

WMPC to ask James Hussey (Road Safety) if procedures have changed which would now allow the PC to report accidents directly to DC. Noting it is not uncommon for there to be no accident data stored at DC, as people do not report it, however the same said people do sometimes report it to the Parish Council.

Parking

To encourage residents to report parking issues to DC Parking Services. Anyone who notices parking issues, i.e. someone parked on a DYL, is to take a photo of the vehicle, send the picture to the clerk, with the exact location details, date and time. Clerk to then forward to parking services to build a picture to then be able to request a parking warden.

Flooding and Drainage

- It was noted that Dorset Council will generally only investigate standing water where puddles cover approximately 50% of the road and the issue is considered to constitute flooding.
- It was noted a pipe beneath the carriageway near Swanworth Quarry is believed to be blocked. Glenn agreed to investigate.