



Donhead St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in The New Remembrance Hall, Charlton
on **Wednesday 7th January 2026** at 7:15pm

Present:

Cllr. Roger Brake (Chairperson)	
Cllr. Paul Dewey	Cllr. Thomas Rossiter
Cllr. Lin Walker	Cllr. Eric Adams
Cllr. Bruce Hibbert	Cllr. Ros Rogers
Cllr. John Feltham	Cllr. John Wright

In Attendance:

Cllr. Gerry Murray (Wiltshire Councillor)
Mr Simon Pritchard (The Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public in Attendance: One

Public Comments:

- A Charlton Resident who has lived in the Village for 18 years and walks on the local roads often, reported that at sometimes of the year there is reckless driving down the lanes. They expressed concern as the roads are used by children, dogs and horses. Can anything be done to try and slow down the traffic? The Chair replied that the matter was being considered as part of the meeting agenda (Item 56E)

Report from Cllr Murray, Wiltshire Council:

A copy of Cllr Murray's report had been emailed to councillors before the meeting.

- The new Local Plan was under examination by the Planning Inspector, but this has now been paused, and the Inspector has written to the Head of Planning at Wiltshire Council to explain why the inspection cannot continue. This is rather concerning as the Local Plan is an important policy document and it will now be delayed.
- The Government has proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system, do take a look and take part in the consultation.
- Shaftesbury Recycling Centre: matters are moving very slowly in terms of any quid pro quo reciprocal use. The advice is that without Wiltshire Council implementing its own system it will not be possible to have any sort of reciprocal deal with Dorset Council to allow Wiltshire Residents to use the Shaftesbury centre.
- The revamp my tank scheme seems to have stalled.
Cllr Wright report that he was on the scheme and has now been told they have run out of money.
- The current administration wanted to keep the policy of the old administration and introduce a 100% council tax premium unoccupied second homes. This was voted down at the Wiltshire Council Full Council meeting today as the former administration voted against its own policy.

19:39

Item no:	
53	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</u></p> <p><u>A. To Receive any Apologies for Absence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cllr. Phoebe Fortescue – away <p><u>B. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence:</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Feltham to accept the apology received from Cllr Fortescue, seconded by Cllr Walker and resolved unanimously.</p>
54	<p><u>Declarations of Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:</u></p> <p>None.</p>
55	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes:</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th November 2025 had been presented for adoption.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Wright to adopt the minutes, seconded by Cllr Walker and resolved unanimously.</p>
56	<p><u>TRAFFIC CALMING IN THE PARISH:</u></p> <p><u>A. A30 (Rising Sun Area) - Traffic Calming Scheme:</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Council issue number: 14-24-09 - originally raised July 2024 (The Parish Council agreed to pay the full cost of £6,284.09 if the works were completed within 6-months, this was agreed to by Wiltshire Council, a works order was issued to M-Group in May 2025.)</p> <p>Project still not completed, road painting works to be done, this was promised to have been done on the 15th of September 2025. At LHFIFG meeting in November 2025, it was reported that the painting contractor will not come to the area until they have enough painting jobs to make up a full day's work, so there is no completion date available for this project.</p> <p>Councillors noted that the agreement was that the Parish Council would pay for the full cost of the works if they were completed within 6-months. The Chair suggested that it would probably be counterproductive to push on this point as the parish council will be hoping to get funding from LHFIFG for future projects.</p> <p><u>B. A30: Speed Monitoring:</u></p> <p>Cllr Dewey talked through the latest speed statistics from the two SID's and ANPR camera on the A30 (Rising Sun Area) and the third at Birdbush.</p> <p>It seems the cameras are less effective in the dark. The good news is that residents have noticed a general drop in vehicle speeds and so they feel that the SIDs are working.</p> <p><u>C. A30 (Salisbury Road) Request for Speed Limit Assessment on 50mph zone:</u></p> <p>Wiltshire Council issue number: 14.24.16 - originally raised November 2024 (The Parish Council made a formal request to LHFIFG (Wiltshire Council) to have the 50mph zone between Charlton Lane and the border of Dorset assessed for appropriateness with a</p>

view to having the speed limit reduced. The cost of a speed limit assessment is £3,250 (LHFIG contribution £2,437.50 / Parish Council contribution £812.50)).

The Chair reported that speed survey has been completed, this was confirmed at the November 2025 LHFIG meeting. Wiltshire Council say that there is a backlog with the survey data being interpreted. Still awaiting the report from Wiltshire Council.

D. Request for 7.5t Weight Limit on Dennis Lane:

Wiltshire Council issue number: 14.25.04 - originally raised May 2025

The Chair reported that again that the survey has been completed, as confirmed at the November 2025 LHFIG meeting, but is stuck in the backlog waiting for the survey data to be interpreted.

E. Village Gateways in the Parish:

It has been agreed to ask Wiltshire Council to cost installing village gateways as you enter Charlton, trying to create a Village identity. Cllrs Rogers, Brake & Walker agreed 2 locations and considered a third on which the views of the Councillors varied. One Charlton resident (in attendance) said he would welcome such signage at the third location, but it was reported By Cllr Rogers that other residents are against it.

It was agreed to send the map to Wiltshire Council (LHFIG) to see if proposal would be supported and costed.

19:58 – the member of the public left the meeting.

F. A350 Speed Limit Assessment (with East Knoyle and Sedgehill & Semley Parish Councils): Originally raised May 2024

Appeal has been submitted to the Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Highways to override the report that says the current speed limits are appropriate on the A350 north of Shaftesbury. Awaiting a response.

G. A350 Safety Improvements at the Junction of the A350 and Wincombe Lane:

Wiltshire Council issue number 14-23-23 originally raised November 2023

(agreed to in August 2024 by LHFIG). No change since the last meeting, new sign installed in September, painting on the road is still outstanding.

57 **Planning, Tree & Licensing Applications:**

Application No:	PL/2025/09267
Application Type:	Householder planning permission
Proposal:	House renovation with erection of extension over flat roof area, windows replacement with demolition of existing garage to create a parking area to the south of the bridle path.
Site Address:	Wincombe Lodge, Wincombe Estate, Shaftesbury, SP7 9AB

It was proposed by Cllr Adams that the Parish Council has No Objection, seconded by Cllr Hibbert and resolved unanimously.

Planning Appeal:

APPELLANTS NAME: Randolph Fear

APPEAL SITE: Land to west of Grove Arms, Ludwell Hill, A30, Ludwell, SP7 9ND

PLANNING APPLICATION REF: PL/2025/02555

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Erection of two dwellings

INSPECTORATE REFERENCE: 6002441

The appeal was noted. It was confirmed that Wiltshire Council had refused the application on the grounds that the land is in a flood zone. The Parish Council had previously submitted a response of 'No Objection'.

58 **Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 16 Consultation:**

The consultation was noted. Cllr Murray reported that the regulation 16 stage is the last step before the plan is sent for inspection.

20:10 – Cllr Murray left the meeting.

59 **The Community Orchard, Ludwell:**

The Parish Clerk has been in contact with Wiltshire Council, and it has been confirmed that the Parish Council own the freehold of the Orchard.

The field that it sits in is owner by Wiltshire Council and is leased out. It is not being maintained, and this has been reported back to Wiltshire Council as access to the Orchard is difficult.

The Orchard land is also in a very poor condition and quite a lot of work would need to take place to get it back in a good condition. Quotes are being pursued.

60 **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE:**

A. Payments to be Approved:

1. S. Pritchard – Reg postage - £3.95
2. S. Pritchard – Playground sign - £50.35
3. S. Pritchard – WFHA & Travel June to Nov25 - £184.35

It was proposed by Cllr Feltham to make the payment, seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved unanimously.

B. List of Payments Made:

The list had been circulated and was received.

C. Budget Vs Spend to Date:

To latest budget information had been circulated and was received.

A question was asked as to why the 'Website & Emails' line (15) was overspent – The RFO reported at the council had agreed to commissioning a new website last year, this would have cost thousands, but the project was scaled down and the current website was refurbished, this accounted for most of the overspend, the other part was the new .gov.uk domain and associated email accounts.

A question was asked as to why the 5 'Employer NIC' line (5) had no budget against it – the RFO reported that this line has been used to record the employers NI contribution on that wasn't known about when the council set it budget last year. for the forthcoming year it been included in the Staffing line.

	<p><u>D. Parish Council's Budget & Precept 2026/27:</u></p> <p>The RFO has tabled a draft budget and a recommendation that the precept be set at £22,038.00 an increase of 5.12% on a band D household. An increase of just £2.19p per year, from £42.81p to £45.00p per annum.</p> <p>Cllr Hibbert ask where the income from the solar farm was represented. This will be added to the report, but the exact amount to be received isn't known, it is all kept separate from the council's money and isn't for the running cost of the council. The VAT to be reclaimed is not demonstrated in the budget as have historically been directed to not take it into account.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Adams to approve the budget and set the precept at £22,038.00 for the 2026/27 year, seconded by Cllr Walker and resolved unanimously.</p>
61	<p><u>Cemetery Fees Review:</u></p> <p>The Parish Clerk had circulated a report showing the Church of England fees.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Dewey that the council approve all the recommendations to the fee charges, seconded by Cllr Rogers and resolved unanimously.</p>
62	<p><u>Annual Charity Donations:</u></p> <p>A list of the organisations the council had supported last year was published with the agenda.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Wright to support all the same organisations again, with the same amount, but with the exclusion of 'Project Seagrass', seconded by Cllr Adams and resolved unanimously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Tisbus - £500 b) Wiltshire Air Ambulance - £500 c) Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust - £250 d) Wiltshire Citizens Advice - £350 e) Wiltshire Search and Rescue - £200 f) Wiltshire Ramblers Association - £250
63	<p><u>PLAYGROUNDS: Latest Inspections Reports & Updates:</u></p> <p>Nothing of high risk to report. The broken notice, rated as a medium risk, at the Remembrance Hall playground has been replaced. Will also look to replace the notices at Coronation Drive playground.</p>
64	<p><u>Members Portfolios – Verbal Reports:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Parish Council Chair's Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Remembrance Day serviced attended. o Two interviews recorded for Alfred o AGM of Memorial Fields Committee held. b) Wiltshire Council Area Board – Cllr Brake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Missed the last Area Board meeting, hope to make the next one. c) New Remembrance Hall Committee Representative – Cllr Adams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nothing to report

d) The Sports Club – Cllr Dewey

- No meeting in December. The loos have been refurbished, next project is solar panelling.

e) Memorial Fields Representative – The Chairperson & Cllr Dewey

- As reported, AGM held in December, the first one for a few years.

f) Footpaths / Rights of Way – Cllr Rogers

- A footpath in the Charlton area had been blocked, but this is being resolved by the landowner.

g) The Parish Steward – Cllr Feltham

- The Parish Stewards have been working in North Wiltshire.

h) Highway Matters / LHFIG – Cllr Hibbert

- Nothing further to report.

i) Flood Warden - Cllr Walker

- Rain on the way, although the flood warnings have just been dropped.

j) Snow Warden – Cllr Rossiter

- Nothing to report

k) National Landscape Matters – Cllr Fortescue

- Not at meeting

l) Parish Clerk's Updates:

- 25-year lease for Coronation Drive play area signed and sealed. New play equipment now on order, due to be installed mid-February, but may slip back like the Remembrance Hall install did.
- Swings removed from Coronation Drive play area ready for new equipment to be installed. Once the equipment has been installed the area will require around 5 dumpy bags of chip bark to make safe.

Meeting Closed at 20:55