

Donhead St Mary Parish Council



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in The New Remembrance Hall, Charlton on **Wednesday 4th March 2026** at 7:15pm

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

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

Members of the Public in Attendance: Eight

Public Comments:

- **Wessex Internet:** Paul Cleary, Regional Community Manager from Wessex Internet, attended to inform the council about the current project to provide full fibre network to much of the parish area. 440 properties will benefit from this year's project. This is a government funded scheme that Wessex Internet has the contract for. Hope to start work in the late spring and have it all up and running by later summer 2026. Will be hosting a drop-in session on 22nd of April, this will be advertised.
- **Green Acres** (agenda item 70):
 - A petition against the planning application was presented to the Chair; this had been signed by thirteen local residents including immediate neighbours.
 - A resident informed the council that the new development will dominate and dwarf the surrounding homes. There is not enough parking, cars are already parking on the road. Windows and balcony will overlook neighbouring properties. Loss of light, privacy and increase of noise is a worry. Sound carries and it will be intolerable in the summer. Loss of private space in gardens due to overlooking. Light to their kitchen will be blocked. Higher fencing wouldn't be welcome as it blocks the light. Strongly object to the application.
 - A second resident stated that the building could be knocked down the ground levelled to the same height as the rest of the surrounding homes. The design as it stands is not suitable for an ANOB. They object to the application.
 - A third resident stated that the house is in a prominent position and the design doesn't relate to the surrounding homes in the rest of the Village. They object to the application.
 - A fourth resident stated that the proposed roof needed to be made so that it didn't reflect the sun. The fact that the proposal overlooks so many means that the design needs looking at again. They object to the application.
 - The applicant informed the council that they have now consulted with one neighbour and because of this they have agreed to change the plan to remove the window on the side that overlooks their garden but have yet not spoken to other neighbours. The roof would

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Signed: _____ Date: _____

be galvanised but would not reflect the light. Very open to continuing the dialogue with neighbours and is very sorry if stress has been caused to any of the neighbours because of this application.

- The Chair gave a reminder as to how the planning system works. The Parish Council is just a consultee; it is Wiltshire Council who are the Planning Authority, and it is they who will make the decision on the application. The Chair thanked everyone for attending. All but one of the Residents left the meeting at this point.

Report from Cllr Murray, Wiltshire Council:

A copy of Cllr Murray's report had been emailed to councillors before the meeting and is on the parish council's website.

- The 26/27 budget has been agreed.
- Flooding: experienced in Ludwell. The nearest monitoring station is downstream in Tisbury. Notion that local parish councils could fund a monitoring station further up the Nadder, total cost £15,000. Cost could be split between Tisbury, West Tisbury, Donhead St Andrew and Donhead St Mary Parish Councils.
- The SEND debit at Wiltshire Council is being taken on by central government
- Meeting held with the cabinet member for Highways; the local highways are falling apart. There has been a historically low spend on highways maintenance by the previous administration. More money is now in place, but there is a bottleneck on the capacity to repair. For now, the Parish Stewards are putting down patching kits as it the best that can be done. Confirmed that if a pothole hasn't been reported via the MyWilts website/app then it will not be repaired. The Parish Steward will not go looking for potholes. P1 potholes are the top priority, they are the size of a dinner plate and as deep as a can of beans.
- The fly tipping on Wincombe Lane was noted. The Shaftesbury recycling centre has yet to bring in charges for Wiltshire residents, so this would seem unrelated.

Item no:	
65	<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 ○ Cllr. Bruce Hibbert - holiday <p><u>B. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence:</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Feltham to accept the apologies received from Cllrs: Fortescue & Hibbert, seconded by Cllr Rogers and resolved unanimously.</p>
66	<p><u>Declarations of Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations:</u></p> <p>Cllr Walker declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 70 Green Acres, as an immediate neighbour.</p>
67	<p><u>Adoption of Minutes:</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th January 2026 had been presented for adoption.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Adams to adopt the minutes of Wednesday 7th January 2026, seconded by Cllr Rogers and resolved unanimously.</p>

TRAFFIC CALMING IN THE PARISH:**A. A30 (Rising Sun Area) - Traffic Calming Scheme:**

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.)

Project still not completed, road painting works to be done, this was promised to have been done on the 15th of September 2025. At LHFIG 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.

The chair noted that the last meeting of LHFIG had been due to take place on the 18th February but this had been cancelled, so no update on the finishing of the scheme is available. The new date for the LHFIG meeting is the 11th March and the Highways Officer will be pressed for answers then.

B. A30: Speed Monitoring:

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.

It seems the ANPR camera is less effective in the dark but now getting more data now the mornings are becoming lighter. Have an issue with the software in the SIDs the Lower Combe data has been downloaded, but not the other two. Have taken advice and hope to resolve.

C. A30 (Salisbury Road) Request for Speed Limit Assessment on 50mph zone:

Wiltshire Council issue number: 14.24.16 - originally raised November 2024

(The Parish Council made a formal request to LHFIG (Wiltshire Council) to have the 50mph zone between Charlton Lane and the border of Dorset assessed for appropriateness with a 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 speed survey has now been received by the parish council. It recommends a reduction along a third of the are surveyed, but not the full stretch. Part of the reason given is the lack of housing, but there are areas in the current 40mph zone that have less housing so the approach seems inconsistent.

It was agreed that the Chair will attend the next LHFIG meeting and seek to have the whole length of road reduced to 40mph

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

Wiltshire Council issue number: 14.25.04 - originally raised May 2025

No update due to cancelled LHFIG meeting

E. Village Gateways in the Parish:

It has been agreed to ask Wiltshire Council to cost installing three village gateways as you enter Charlton, to create a Village identity.
No update due to cancelled LHFIG 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. Still 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. An update will be asked for at the next LHFIG meeting

69 **Storm Chandra – Incidents of Flooding this Winter:**

Cllr Walker (Flood Warden) reported that Storm Chandra caused significant flooding to seven properties in lower Ludwell at the end of January. The flooding started in the very early morning and none of the contact number she had been given worked, so not able to get any help. Eventually the fire service was called as there was a threat to life due to the advance age of one of the residents in the homes that were flooding. Two people managed to open the sluice gates below the bridge and the water went down within an hour.

The Grove Arms were amazing, hosing flooded residents and giving out sandwiches, despite them suffering for flooding themselves. The bridge and its water capacity needs to be looked at but have been told by Wiltshire Council Highways that it could be months before it is.

Have attended a meeting of the St Andrew's Flood group, very useful for information sharing. It is apparent that the flooding was caused by the volume of water as both parishes flooded at the same time.

- A few members raised concern over the clearance of banks of the stream, as there is more overgrowth than there has been in previous decades, this is the responsibility of the landowner.
- Notion that a flood survey could be commissioned. It was agreed that the EA should take the lead on this and make recommendations.
- The early warning monitoring box is to be pursued, in conjunction with Tisbury, West Tisbury and Donhead St Andrew Parish Councils.
- One resident had purchased sandbags to protect their and neighbouring properties for any further feuding.

It was proposed by Cllr Feltham that the Parish Council offer the resident £150 towards the cost of the sandbags, seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved: 5 in favour; 3 abstentions.

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Planning, Tree & Licensing Applications:

Application No:	PL/2025/09697
Application Type:	Full planning permission
Proposal:	Erection of a dwelling
Site Address:	Birdbush Park, Ludwell, SP7 9HH

It was agreed to return a response of No Objection.

20:40 – Cllr Walker left the room

Application No:	PL/2026/00663
Application Type:	Householder planning permission
Proposal:	Remove existing Dormer Bungalow Roof (containing ensuite Bedroom and storage) and Create a full first floor comprising 2 ensuite Bedrooms and Living Room and balcony over existing single story rear room
Site Address:	Green Acres, Charlton, Shaftesbury, SP7 0EN

It was agreed to return a response of No Objection providing the issues with overlooking and privacy can be resolved.

20:57 – Cllr Walker returned to the room

Application No:	PL/2026/00724
Application Type:	Householder planning permission
Proposal:	Part two, and part one storey front extension
Site Address:	Quarley, Donhead St Mary, Shaftesbury, SP7 9DL

It was agreed to return a response of No Objection.

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Parish Council's Defibrillators:

The scheme that south-western ambulance provides where they lease two defibs (St Mary Village Hall & Ludwell Stores) to the Parish Council is closing on 12th April 2026. The Parish Clerk reported that the replacement pads are around £70 per pair they need to be replaced every time they are used or expire. A new battery would be around £100; this would last 3 to 5 years.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would adopt both the current defibs from south-western ambulance and manage them itself.

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4-Villages Fete - Defib Training:

Cllr Rogers reported that the fete had hoped to have a stall offering defib training, but the training takes 2 hours and so isn't the sort of training you can offer at a fete stall. The next idea is to have some large posters made up to show where the defibs are in the parish, to raise awareness and to also show how to work a defib.

It was proposed by Cllr Rogers that the Parish Council set a budget of up to £250 for this project, seconded by Cllr Walker and resolved unanimously.

73	<p><u>The Community Orchard, Ludwell:</u> The council received comments from the volunteer who has been managing the Orchard and from a contractor who had been to see the Orchard and had costed up making improvements. General feel that the quote provided was probably more than was required. Cllrs Rogers and Brake will site visit to determine what work is required. The Parish Clerk requested a written job spec to allow accurate tendering.</p>
74	<p>PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE:</p> <p>A. <u>Payments to be Approved:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. S. Pritchard – Play Area Signs (x3) - £38.92 2. S. Pritchard – Clean It Up! Signs (x8) - £58.92 3. S. Pritchard – WFHA & Travel Dec25 to Jan26 - £57.85 <p>It was proposed by Cllr Adams to make the payment, seconded by Cllr Feltham and resolved unanimously.</p> <p>B. <u>List of Payments Made:</u> The list had been circulated and was received.</p> <p>C. <u>Budget Vs Spend to Date:</u> To latest budget information had been circulated and was received. A question was asked as to why the Coronation Drive contract had already cost money this year but hasn't been cut. It was explained that the total cost of the contract is paid monthly.</p>
75	<p><u>Parish Council Internal Audit 25/26:</u> The council reviewed the effectiveness of the audit. The Parish Clerk has obtained a quote from a local accounting firm to carry out the audit – the current Internal Auditor charged £70 last year. The benefits of having a constant approach were noted. It was agreed that Mrs Nicola Phillips be re-appointed to carry out the Internal Audit.</p>
76	<p><u>Request for Support for Shaftesbury Lido:</u> Letter received from Shaftesbury Town Council requesting financial support for the Lido for this coming session. It was proposed by Cllr Rogers to grant £250, seconded by Cllr Feltham and resolved unanimously.</p>
77	<p><u>PLAYGROUNDS: Latest Inspections Reports & Updates:</u> Nothing of high risk to report. The broken notice, rated as a medium risk, at Coronation Drive has been removed. One other medium risk due to three missing caps on multiplay unit at Charton Hall play area, seems to be disproportionate risk rating. Will take some photos and see if it can be worked who the manufacturer is and if they sell spare caps.</p>
78	<p><u>Members Portfolios – Verbal Reports:</u></p> <p>a) Parish Council Chair's Updates:</p>

- b) Wiltshire Council Area Board – Cllr Brake**
 - Reduction of one police officer across the area.
 - Fire station closures consultation underway.
- c) New Remembrance Hall Committee Representative – Cllr Adams**
 - Nothing to report
- d) The Sports Club – Cllr Dewey**
 - Missed the last meeting
- e) Memorial Fields Representative – The Chairperson & Cllr Dewey**
 - Nothing to report
- f) Footpaths / Rights of Way – Cllr Rogers**
 - Nothing to report
- g) The Parish Steward – Cllr Feltham**
 - Covered earlier in the meeting
- h) Highway Matters / LHFIG – Cllr Hibbert**
 - Not at meeting.
- i) Flood Warden - Cllr Walker**
 - Covered earlier in the meeting
- j) Snow Warden – Cllr Rossiter**
 - Nothing to report
- k) National Landscape Matters – Cllr Fortescue**
 - Not at meeting.
 - Annual seminar was attended by Cllrs: Fortescue & Brake.
- l) Parish Clerk's Updates:**
 - Coronation Drive new play equipment now installed. The fenced off area now requires many dumpy bags of chip bark to make safe. This is being attended to next week.
 - Wiltshire Council's Planning Town and Parish Council Forum is on 10th March 2026 – the Parish Clerk will try and attend.

Meeting Closed at 21:30