

Dilton Marsh Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 16th July 2026 at the Memorial Hall, Dilton Marsh at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr J Jones (Chair), Cllr Ness, Cllr Ghani, Cllr Williams, Cllr Gibbs, Cllr Dopheide and Cllr R Jones.

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk) and Wiltshire Councillor Mike Phillips.

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern: None.

3524	Apologies for absence Cllr Morland was absent.
3525	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Participate Cllr Gibbs declared an interest in planning decision PL/2026/02423 as the homeowner.
3526	Minutes of Council Meetings The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th June 2026 were approved for accuracy with one amendment and adopted (<i>proposed Cllr Dopheide, seconded Cllr Gibbs</i>).
3527	Wiltshire Council Report Wiltshire Councillor Mike Phillips reported the following: • It was reported that the next Full Council meeting would take place the following week and was expected to have a relatively light agenda. • The Cabinet meeting held on 15 July had considered the disposal of assets relating to the multi-storey car park in Trowbridge (as referred to in previous minutes). As funding for the maintenance of the asset had already been approved within the Council's budget, the matter had not needed to be referred to Full Council. Concern was expressed regarding the decision to transfer the asset with financial support attached. It was reported that a petition had been launched seeking a review of the decision by central government. • Members were informed that significant changes to the planning system would come into effect from October. Under the new arrangements, the majority of planning applications would be determined by planning officers rather than planning committees. It was also noted that, from 1 August, parish councils would lose the ability to request that planning applications be "called in" for committee determination. Wiltshire Council would need to revise its Constitution to reflect the new arrangements. Members were referred to guidance circulated by the Clerk. Cllr Phillips advised that the Parish Council should consider its future strategy and communications regarding planning applications, ensuring that any objections submitted were based on relevant material planning considerations. It was noted that although the Wiltshire Core Strategy policies were technically out of date, they remained material planning considerations and could still be relied upon when submitting planning objections where appropriate. • The Government's target of delivering 1.5 million new homes nationally was discussed. It was explained that the planning reforms were intended to make it easier for developers to obtain planning permission and build homes. Wiltshire was expected to accommodate approximately 40,000–50,000 additional homes, which would result in significant population growth and increased traffic. Concern was expressed that while larger strategic developments generally included supporting infrastructure, smaller developments on the edges of villages often did not. The cumulative impact of these smaller developments was highlighted as a particular concern.

	- Members noted that Wiltshire Council had issued a "Call for Sites" requesting the identification of land suitable for future development. It was recognised that the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan remained an important planning document, providing additional protection for the village and enabling the parish to receive a higher proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. - An update was received on the revised process for introducing 20mph speed limits. It was reported that the previous requirement for Metro count surveys and multiple stages of approval through LHFIG had been simplified. Parish Councils could now submit requests directly to the Area Highways Engineer, supported by appropriate evidence and reasons, making the process considerably more straightforward. - It was reported that Wiltshire Council remained committed to introducing a pre-booking system for Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). Members asked whether fly-tipping levels would be monitored following implementation, and it was confirmed that monitoring would continue. Further information would be shared. - Members were informed of the importance of safe battery disposal. It was agreed that an article would be prepared for inclusion in the Church Magazine to raise public awareness.						
3528	Planning Applications and Decisions a) To resolve the Council's comments on applications received and not previously responded to as listed below: None. b) To agree the comments to be sent to Wiltshire Council in respect of any planning applications or appeals received after 10th July 2026 (if any): None. c) Members noted the below listed planning decisions: <table><tr><td>PL/2026/02423</td><td>4 Silver Street, Dilton Marsh, Westbury, BA13 4DQ</td><td>Proposed Single Storey Rear Extensions</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Approve with conditions</td></tr></table> d) Highways Act 1980 - proposed diversion of Bridleway Westbury 30 – Members considered the proposed diversion (information previously circulated) and there were no objections.	PL/2026/02423	4 Silver Street, Dilton Marsh, Westbury, BA13 4DQ	Proposed Single Storey Rear Extensions			Approve with conditions
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3529	Finance a) Council payments due as below listed was approved with the exception of the payments for Vision ICT which would be reviewed when discussing alternative website and email hosting (proposed Cllr Ness, seconded Cllr Dopheide). b) Members received and noted the Bank Reconciliation Statements April - June 2026 (previously circulated). It was confirmed that the signatories were in the process of closing the Lloyds Bank accounts. c) Members received and approved the list of Earmarked Reserves June 2026 (previously circulated) with one amendment to create a designated code for the Playing Field Project (proposed Cllr J Jones, seconded Cllr Dopheide). d) Members received and noted the Budget Report as at end of June 2026 (previously circulated). e) Members approved the award of a grant of £250 to the Dilton Marsh Community Group in support of the Dilton Festival (previously circulated) (proposed Cllr Dopheide, seconded Cllr J Jones). <table><tr><td>HMRC</td><td>PAYE/NI June 2026</td><td>322.76</td></tr><tr><td>Wiltshire Pension Fund</td><td>Pension contributions June 2026</td><td>219.79</td></tr></table>	HMRC	PAYE/NI June 2026	322.76	Wiltshire Pension Fund	Pension contributions June 2026	219.79
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3530	Highways and LHFIG The Chair reported the following: a) She had met with Kate Davey, the Highways Engineer, to discuss the parking issues at the end of Shepherds Mead. No immediate parking issues were observed during the visit. The matter was discussed in light of the new LHFIG arrangements, which now consist of only three meetings per year and revised criteria for substantive funding bids. The parking issues would be kept under review. The new arrangements could affect how any the future of the build-out outside Fairfield College was considered. It was agreed to monitor the situation for the time being, with Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding remaining a possible option to fund any required works. b) The Chair and the Highways Engineer had discussed introducing a speed limit in Park Road. It was noted that installing double yellow lines would likely displace parking elsewhere within the village and would be difficult to enforce. Parking on yellow lines should be reported to the Parking Enforcement Team, who can investigate, issue penalty notices where appropriate, or speak to motorists. Evidence should be provided when reporting issues. Instances of illegal or dangerous parking should be reported to the police via 101. Given the number of requests for additional yellow lines across the village, members discussed whether a village-wide 20mph limit would be a more effective approach. It was suggested that an LHFIG proposal could be developed to introduce a 20mph limit on the main road and appropriate side roads. The importance of continued public education was also highlighted. Residents needed to be informed how to report parking and speeding issues and recognise that the Parish Council was not responsible for enforcement. It was agreed to continue sharing information through Facebook posts and other communication channels. The Chair referred to Speed Indicator Device (SID) data, noting that previous results showed a reduction in vehicle speeds. Data from the newer SID units has not yet been downloaded but would be reviewed over the coming months. c) Concerns had been raised regarding a van and truck parking on the kerb near the pub. A meeting had been held with the local PCSO, during which video evidence and vehicle registration numbers were provided. The Inspector had agreed to write to the registered keepers of the vehicles. Members were advised that if the vehicles were seen parked illegally again, photographs should be taken and reported to build up a body of evidence. It was noted that there was little benefit in installing yellow lines where parking is already prohibited by law. d) The next LHFIG meeting was expected to take place in October.																																	

	e) SID data from Tower Hill had not yet been received. Kate Davey had been asked to forward the information. f) It was confirmed that the Community Speed Watch group used the laser speed gun for two weeks each month in Dilton Marsh, sharing with Chapmanslade. Three Parish Councillors currently volunteered with the scheme, together with a further three or four community volunteers, although attendance had been inconsistent. It was noted that recruiting volunteers had been challenging, particularly following a small number of unpleasant incidents involving threats towards volunteers.
3531	Playing Field Working Group Members had received a report from the Working Group (notes of meetings previously circulated) and the following decisions were resolved: a) The container due to be replaced would be advertised for sale at a cost of £450 (proposed Cllr J Jones, seconded Cllr R Jones). b) The mower sale would be negotiated with the interested party, taking into account further works which had been identified during the recent service, with the Parish Council offering to share these costs with the potential purchaser; the price would therefore be reduced from £3,600 to £3,300 (proposed Cllr R Jones, seconded Cllr Ness). c) The hiring of a skip to support the clear out of the redundant container was authorised at a cost of £310 plus vat for a 30 day hire (proposed Cllr R Jones, seconded Cllr Dopheide). d) The quote from the Tree Surgeon to carry out works along Alan Powell Lane in the amount of £480 plus vat was approved (proposed Cllr J Jones, seconded Cllr Dopheide). Members also noted the following: a) That the grounds contractor would carry out the line marking at a cost of £20 per visit. b) That four quotes had been obtained for a new container and the working group had narrowed these down to two preferred providers ranging in price from £21,360 to £29,766; both prices included vat, delivery and removal of the old unit. The working group would now explore the two options further. It was noted that a decision was awaited from WC as to whether planning permission would be required. c) That the working group would require assistance to clear out the old container once the skip had been delivered and dates were set of 18th and 20th August 2026.
3532	Parish Council Projects and Updates (copy of current report circulated) Members received and noted the brought forward project list as circulated, noted available updates and considered decisions required on the below items: a) Handyman scheme - Members considered the costed proposals and report circulated by the Clerk, noting the detail of the two quotations received. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain required documentation from the second contractor. In the meantime, the works to clear brambles and overgrowth along the back of the High St was approved, with Ideal Grounds Maintenance being appointed at a cost of £320.00, to be funded from the Green and Wellbeing EMR (proposed Cllr J Jones, seconded Cllr Dopheide). The appointment of a handyman would be further considered in September when the half year financial position was available. b) Website and email hosting – Members received updates on plans to identify options for a change in providers. Members considered options for both email hosting and a new website. Following debate, it was resolved to migrate the Councillor emails to Microshade at a cost of £882.60 + vat (funds allocated at the June meeting) (proposed Cllr Gibbs, seconded Cllr Ness). Following discussion of alternative website providers,

	it was agreed that the Clerk would circulate some recently obtained quotes for other parishes and these would be considered in September. c) Digital Wiltshire - Project Gigabit Voucher Scheme - Update July 2026 – Cllr Dopheide had circulated a report, which was noted. There were 20 affected properties in Dilton Marsh and investigations were ongoing with other internet providers to see if connectivity was possible. d) LEVI Wiltshire Project – to review and consider the Rural Package proposal – Cllr Dopheide had circulated a report, which was noted. Members were asked to provide him with feedback as to locations for the project, so that he could submit a response to WC by the end of July. e) Flower Boxes – The Chair reported that the box at the Mane Way end of the village was falling into disrepair and was also difficult to keep watered due to its location. Members considered relocating the box however, it was decided to look at alternative boxes as a first step and costed options would be presented to the September meeting. f) Council Projects were reviewed and the following noted: a. The opening event for the Orchard was scheduled for 2-4 pm on Sunday 16th August 2026. Refreshments would be provided. A budget of £70 was set from the Green and Wellbeing EMR (proposed Cllr J Jones, seconded Cllr Dopheide). b. The Clerk was asked to make contact with the Tree Warden to see whether he still wished to continue in the role. c. The line relating to the Skills Matrix would be deleted. d. The organisers of the recent Dilton Fest would be invited to attend the September meeting to give a report and consider feedback, as well as forward planning for 2027. e. Cllr Gibbs was making progress with the arrangements for the 90th anniversary celebration of Dilton Halt and had several interested parties who would be able to provide displays and information. Progress with GWR was on hold, and would be picked up following its nationalisation in December 2026. g) Councillor Reports were received as listed: a. Cllr R Jones reported that he had met with the PCSO and information had been obtained regarding recent car break ins within the parish. Advice had been provided regarding keeping property safe and had been shared on Facebook. He reported that trees at 2a High St had not yet been cut back. b. Cllr Gibbs reported on a recent spate of noisy cars and motorbikes travelling through the village, which had raised concerns. c. Cllr J Jones reported that she was unable to attend the forthcoming Flood Warden meeting. Information would be sent to Cllr Dopheide who would see if he was able to attend. She also reported that she had attended a training session on recruiting and retaining councillors and asked members to think about what the Parish Council had achieved, what they were personally proud of and what the Council stood for, with a view to a recruitment drive in September. Members were asked to ensure they copied her in on email correspondence so that she was kept up to date.
3533	Correspondence (previously circulated) a) Wiltshire Council re: Notification of Variation of Wiltshire Council's Enhance Partnership Plan and Scheme – Noted

	b) Wiltshire Council re: Winter Preparation 2026/27 – PEAS Application – Noted, Cllr R Jones would complete the necessary returns to Wiltshire Council.
3534	Date of next meeting Thursday 17 th September 2026 <i>The Council would recess in August unless urgent business dictated otherwise.</i>

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.45 pm.