

The Parish of Dilton Marsh

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

Present: Alison Irving, Angie Gibbs, Jenny Jones, Penny Williams, Dave Leigh, Graham Dopheide, Charles Ness, PSCO Alice Moore and 14 members of the public.

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk).

1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council – Cllr Irving, the retiring Chair of the PC, welcomed those present to the meeting.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2024 were approved for accuracy and adopted (proposed Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Dopheide).
3. The retiring Chairman of the Parish Council reported the following:
 - The Council had had a mixed year, with lots of challenges. There had been two particularly challenging planning applications – at land south of Clivey and land to the rear of 117 High Street. The latter had been awarded permission to proceed with the development at a planning appeal, and the Parish Council had pursued its objection as far as it was able. It was reported that the Council had sought a legal opinion as to whether it had the grounds to challenge the decision reached at the appeal hearing however, the opinion had been that there was no real chance of success. It was expected that WC's refusal of permission for land south of Clivey would also result in an appeal hearing.
 - Much work had been done on traffic issues in the village and the CSW team was thanked for its strenuous efforts. A second Speed Indicator Device had been purchased by the Parish Council and was awaiting installation.
 - Attention was drawn to the great number of organisations and groups in the village and the exceptional work undertaken by volunteers, which made Dilton Marsh such a vibrant, welcoming and busy community.
 - It was reported that, following the recent election, the Council had had 7 members elected to 13 seats. More councillors were therefore required and it was pointed out that, without a full complement of members, the work carried out by the PC would be somewhat limited due to lack of resources.
 - The political landscape of Wiltshire Council had changed following the recent election, and it was not clear yet the impact this would have.
 - The retiring Chairman wished the Parish Council well, hoping it would continue to go from strength to strength and wishing members well.
4. The Parish Clerk tabled the Statement on the Annual Accounts of the Parish Council for FY 2024-2025 as copied below:

Balances 1 st April 2024	£84,100
Precept	£32,810
Other income	£13,869
Staffing costs	£17,328

Other payments	£24,012
Balances 31 st March 2025	£89,439

5. The newly elected Wiltshire Council Councillor, Cllr Mike Phillips, had sent apologies for absence due to a prior commitment.

6. Reports from local organisations:

- Kathy Hutt provided a report on behalf of the Memorial Hall Committee, reporting that members had carried out, and were carrying out, a number of improvements to the building, which would make it more economic to run. Hire fees had been increased a little however, the charges were still competitive. The Hall continued to be busy throughout the week with weekends primarily busy with private hires. The Committee had received a lot of positive support and now had 4 trustees, although more were sought. Several good fundraising events had been held and more were in planning stages. Residents were encouraged to get involved and support the Hall. Cllr Irving thanked the Hall committee for its efforts and drew attention to how lucky the village was to have some a good village hall, so efficiently run.
- Sonja Harris provided a report on behalf of the Holy Trinity Church, reporting that the Churchwarden had now retired and two replacements appointed, of which she was one. The new wardens were busy learning the ropes. There had been no vicar in place since October and a profile for the new vicar was currently being worked up. It was likely to be late summer/early autumn before recruitment was progressed.
- Sonja Harris provided a report on behalf of the Gardening Club, reporting that the annual fundraising plant sale was taking place on Saturday 24th May in the Memorial Hall. Residents were encouraged to attend and support the event.
- Garth Brocksopp thanked the Parish Council for its financial support of the Parish Magazine, which continued to be such an asset for the village. He reported that the renewal of subscriptions process was currently underway with the fees being collected.
- PCSO Alice Moore provided a crime report for 2024-2025 as listed:
 - There had been a decrease in crime reports from 58 during 2024-2024 to 51 in 2024-25.
 - Of these 4 had been classified with burglaries; 1 house burglary with the others relating to a shed, garage and stored caravan.
 - There had been 5 reports of criminal damage, but none of arson.
 - There had been a decrease in reports of anti-social behaviour, with 4 reports during the current year as opposed to 7 in the previous year. It was not clear whether this was as a result of a decrease in local reporting and residents were encouraged to report all and any incidents via 101 or the website. This allowed a picture to be developed and would enable the police to allocate the correct resources to the village.
 - There had also been a decrease in road related offences, one vehicle had been seized due to lack of insurance. The policing team were grateful to the CSW team and the civil enforcement officers (who had powers of prosecution) continued to attend when able.
 - The mobile police unit was now operational and a visit had been carried out to Dilton Marsh with the unit parked at Fairfield College. There had also been a previous visit using the car park at the front of the Memorial Hall however, the unit had been damaged at the time and the officers had attended in a police car. It was noted that wider promotion of the visits would be useful and information would be

shared with the PC so that it could be promoted on the website and village Facebook page.

- Jenny Jones asked for an update on the reports of e-scooters in the parish. PCSO Moore reported that one user had been identified and advice was being sought as to whether the e-scooter could now be seized. Information on the illegality of using the e-scooters had been published in local primary and secondary schools – it was noted that the scooters classed as vehicles and therefore users needed to hold a driving license and insurance. The scooters would also require road tax to be lawfully on the highway however, this was not available. PCSO Moore referred to the difficulty of officers pursuing and stopping e-scooter users, given the lack of safety equipment worn and the hazards presented by a police car ‘chasing’ an e-scooter with an unprotected ‘driver’. Residents were encouraged to continue to report incidents and PCSO Moore would continue to liaise with and update Cllr Jones as matters progressed.

7. Other matters raised by those present: None.

At the close of the meeting the Parish Council presented Cllr Alison Irving, who was standing down from the Council, with a gift and flowers in recognition and thanks for her long and dedicated service to the Parish Council and the parish. This was echoed by members of the public and Cllr Irving applauded for the tremendous work she had done on behalf of the village.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.00 pm.