



Clerk David Green  
Email: Clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

## Fontmell Magna Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Fontmell Magna Village Hall  
6.30pm

In attendance: Cllr Hannah Lister (Chair), Cllr Katie Cooper, Cllr Steven Drew, Cllr Jeremy Long, Cllr Sara Powell, Cllr Christine Scott, Clerk David Green and 17 members of the public

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Jane Somper

### **2. Declaration of interests**

There were no declarations of interests received.

### **3. Approve the minutes of the PC meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were unanimously approved.

### **4. Unitary Councillor Report**

Cllr Somper has advised she has received a number of reports of issues concerning the Dinah's Hollow closure and was working through these. It should be noted though that all reports of issues concerning the closure and impact of the diversions should be emailed directly to the Dorset Council Dinah's Hollow project team – email address: [dinahs.follow@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:dinahs.follow@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

### **5. Collyers Brook update**

The Chair noted that Barbara Robbins has provided a very comprehensive summary concerning the procedure costs for the wall re-build; it was clear that this process appeared to be extremely complex, with the cost of professional services and building work remaining unknown.

The Chair noted that the PC had agreed to fund the known building costs in 2024 which amounted to some £ 2,600 plus VAT and had paid a deposit towards this work. This has now been refunded by the builder. The PC remains prepared to provide some funding towards the project and will review this when final costs are known.

Barbara Robbins advised that it appears that the project should in fact be granted an exemption under 'rule 8' of the Asset Inflation Management System, providing that like-for-like replacement of the wall is carried out, even if using new materials. A 'pro bono' offer of technical drawings and a survey from SSP Consulting Ltd has been accepted and now a new builder needs to be appointed. An update concerning progress will be provided to the next PC meeting.



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## 6. Public Session

A large pothole on Gupples Lane had been previously reported; it appears that no action had been taken to repair this. The Chair agreed to follow up.

Cllr Long noted that there was an apparent increased danger to pedestrians following the traffic diversion; additional signage along West Street may be helpful. The Chair advised that all issues should be reported directly to the Dinah's Hollow Team. Further action by the Police to tackle speeding in the new limit was requested; the Chair noted that the Police had been very helpful in supporting the speed limit reduction and had recently conducted a speed monitoring exercise.

## 7. Highway

### Dinah's Hollow closure/C13 diversionary measures

Many issues, concerning the signage concerning the positioning of speed limit changes have been raised; it is clear that the diversionary measures have been poorly implemented and managed.

### 20 Mph speed limit application

The Chair noted that full scheme will be considered by Dorset Council in February, it should be noted there are 20 other applications under consideration. The view was expressed that there had been some 'push back' by Dorset Council concerning the 20-mph limit when this was first discussed.

## 8. Planning Review

Cllr Drew updated the meeting in relation to applications per the separate report.

These planning applications were unanimously approved:

P/FUL/2025/06713	26 Orchard Close	Sever plot and erect 1 no. dwelling
P/VOC/2025/07498	St Andrews Farm East Woodbridge Lane Bedchester SP7 0BF	Demolish boiler room and chimney. Erect single storey extension (with variation to Condition No. 2 of Planning Permission No. P/HOU/2023/05053 to amend the approved plans).
P/FUL/2025/07377	Grove Farm Hannahs Hill Fontmell Magna SP7 0AT	Change of use and conversion of barn to form a dwelling with associated site works
P/HOU/2025/07615	Mayfield House Bleax Close East Orchard	Erect single storey rear extension, relocate front door and erect porch over (Demolish Gazed Garden Room)



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Cllr Drew summarised progress concerning the Local Plan consultation:

- Site Options Consultation is currently being assessed
- Publication Consultation is expected in August 2026
- Final Submissions are expected in December 2026
- There is a meeting 03/02/2026 to provide updates and opportunity for questions and there will be a further meeting in June 2026

If residents wish to ask any questions these should be submitted to the Clerk.

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the new Planning Policy.

## 9. Finances

Retrospective Payments approved:

Date	To whom	Description	Amount
04-Nov-2025	Liam Doran Landworx	Grass Cutting	£ 100.00
11-Nov-2025	Cllr S Drew	Reimburse Adobe cost	£ 156.89
14-Nov-2025	DM Payroll Service	Payroll costs	£ 72.00
18-Nov-2025	Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£ 4.25
18-Nov-2025	David Green	Exps Aug-Nov - mileage	£ 33.75
28-Nov-2025	David Green	Nov 2025 pay	£ 331.60
01-Dec-2025	Liam Doran Landworx	Grass Cutting	£ 50.00
16-Dec-2025	Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£ 4.25
29-Dec-2025	David Green	Dec 2025 pay	£ 331.60

The Clerk confirmed the bank balances at 31 December 2025:

Current AC	£2,283.29
Deposit AC	£13,613.69
TOTAL	£15,896.98

## 10. Precept proposal 2026/2027

The Clerk proposed setting a precept of £ **16,089** for 2026/2027. Following the tax base revision the impact of this on Band D Council Tax remains modest; this would increase by £6.79 from £ 34.67 to £ 41.47.

The Council considered whether or not a more substantial increase in precept, to £21,000, should be considered to create a reserve to meet possible Traffic Regulation Order costs. It was agreed though that an increase of over £20 in Council Tax would be excessive.



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The Parish Council unanimously agreed to set a precept of £ 16,089 for 2026/2027.

#### **11. Footpath issues**

Cllr Scott delivered a footpath update on behalf of Gill Darwell. A bridleway signpost near Sunken Cottage has been replaced.

#### **12. Brooklands Wood**

Cllr Cooper noted that paths were in an improved condition with some coppicing work having taken place. The Village Hall has an interest in ensuring that the wood is well maintained.

#### **13. Any Other Business**

The Clerk noted that Dorset Council had not responded to the Chair's request for an update concerning the issues affecting Bedchester Allotments reported late last year.

The Clerk has been contacted by a representative of the allotment holders who advised that the allotment holders would prefer to self-manage their plots. The Clerk had advised that the Parish Council would be unlikely to consider taking ownership of the allotments under present circumstances. This issue will be kept under review.

#### **14. Next meeting date**

This will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.11.

**David Green**  
Clerk