Fontmell Magna Parish Council

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

Fontmell Magna Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 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**

   None.

2. **Declaration of interests**

   There were no declarations of interests received.

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

   The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2026 were unanimously approved.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes of 14th July 2026**

   Work on the lime tree at Bedchester has now been completed; a resident has subsequently thanked the Parish Council for arranging this.

   The Chair thanked Cllr Powell for creating the survey relating to the use of Youth Shelter. This has been circulated to all on the mailing list.

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5. **Unitary Councillor Report**

   Cllr Somper had provided a written report which was taken as read, and made some additional comments:

   Waste services
   Shaftesbury deport has been the worst performing depot in the county with numerous reports of missed collections. Vehicles requiring repair were being sent to Weymouth or Dorchester. These problems have now been resolved but residents are encouraged to still report missed collections.

   Local Plan and planning processes update meeting
   An insightful meeting to discuss the implications of the new Local Plan, arranged by Cllr Jespersen, was held on 5th September in Pimperne.

   'Community conversations'
   These have been held between Dorset Council and towns & parishes, grouped in area 'clusters'; it would appear that these events are focussed on how services currently provided by Dorset Council can be devolved, although there is no clear information in relation to how this will be funded.

6. Collyers Brook update

Barbara Robbins provided an update in relation to the Collyers Brook project.

- Several cost quotes have been received. The lowest of these being around £12,300, although this does not include the cost of a permit which is certainly required. This and other costs including a planning fee, bring the total estimated costs to between £16,000 and £17,000.

- Villagers are prepared to make some donations, although there would still be a shortfall of £2000-£3000. A resident offered to make good any remaining deficit. The PC thanked the resident for this kind offer.

- Barbara Robbins will not be able to submit the permit application herself because she does not have any riparian responsibilities for the land but offered to assist the PC in making an application.

The Chair noted that the Parish Council had previously agreed to provide a grant of £5,000. It was pointed out that this constituted some 31% of the precept. The Parish Council unanimously voted to confirm that this is the maximum it is prepared to contribute.

The Chair enquired if the PC agreed to commission the work. whether or not this would confer any on-going maintenance liability falling on the PC. It was suggested that because the PC already arranges for the mowing of the land, it already has such a responsibility. These issues will be looked into.

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Post script: the Parish Council has subsequently received legal advice concerning the Collyers Brook project, as a consequence of this it has become apparent that the potential risks to the Parish Council from managing the project are unacceptable. The PC is therefore not prepared to commission a permit or planning application. The Parish Council has been advised that it has no deemed responsibility for the Brook as a consequence of the mowing arrangements.

7. Public Session

There were no public questions.

8. **Highways**

Dinah's Hollow closure/C13 diversionary measures/20 mph limits

- Peter Mole provided an update:
- Minor roads are still very busy especially Mill Street
- The A350 is in parts dangerous
- Speedwatch reports the highest level of non-compliance with the temporary 20 mph limit, including some abusive drivers

- Speed surveys along 20 mph sections have been carried out but results have not yet been published - these are expected in mid-September
- Police enforcement measures have resumed

Cllr Somper noted that a decision will be made in September, based on the survey data, whether or not to make the 20 mph limit permanent. It is understood that the traffic lights will be kept in Iwerne Minster.

A resident noted that there are still issues in Mill Street with poorly positioned signage, and problems with HGV's till using the route.

The Chair noted that the scheme only has 3 months to run and is on schedule.

9. Planning Review

Cllr Drew presented the planning report.

New Application P/RES/2026/04292 -Blandfords Farm West Street Fontmell Magna SP7 0PF - Erect 9 custom and self-build dwellings

The application provides the detail to an originally agreed outline application, this site is within the Neighbourhood Plan and the PC would not appear to have any objections.

A resident noted that there may be issues concerning the exit onto West Street, but Cllr Drew pointed out that there were wide splays taking this into account.

Local Plan Update:

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Councillor Drew noted the delay to the completion of the new Local Plan of some 30 months. It should be noted that previously submitted comments will be taken into account

Cllr Somper noted that an additional 550 new sites will be required in Dorset. These are likely to be small sites on the edge of villages. The absence of a 5-year housing supply means that many speculative developments should be anticipated.

Planning committees are being largely sidelined; the overwhelming majority of applications will be decided by officers. Parish Council objections will need to be very well drafted and robust, making reference to the newly published National Planning Policy Framework.

In relation to tree applications received, Cllr Long advised that the silver birch at Orchard Close is dead and should be removed.

10. Finances

Retrospective Payments approved:

Date	To whom	Description	Amount

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01/07/2026	Liam Dorran	Grass cutting	£	100.00
06/07/2026	Intuit	Mailchimp	£	11.76
10/07/2026	DM Payroll Services	Payroll admin	£	79.20
20/07/2026	Lloyds	Service charge	£	4.25
23/07/2026	HMRC	Q1PAYE 026/2027	£	241.20
28/07/2026	David Green	May 2026 pay	£	331.60
03/08/2026	Liam Dorran	Grass cutting	£	75.00
05/08/2026	Intuit	Mailchimp	£	11.69
10/08/2026	FMVH	Hall booking	£	50.00
12/08/2026	ICO	Data Protect fee	£	47.00
18/08/2026	VISION ICT	Email charges	£	144.00
18/08/2026	Lloyds	Service charge	£	4.25
25/08/2026	Hawes Arborists	Bedchester Tree	£	960.00
28/08/2026	David Green	August 2026 pay	£	331.60

The Clerk confirmed the bank balances at 31st August 2026 :

Current AC	£ 2,629.10
Deposit AC	£11,700.11
TOTAL	£14,329.21

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11. Footpath issues

Cllr Scott on behalf of Gil Darwell delivered an update:

There is a manure heap in the middle of the field west of the Spring Meadows development which is a matter of concern, although most walkers will navigate around the field.

Cllr Scott advised that there will be a litter pick at the end of October and thanked Sue Keen, Jamie Saunders and Phil(?) for their assistance in clearing the path by the Churchyard, the operation took only an hour.

12. AOB

The Chair advised that the PC had received a request from the PCC for grant towards St Andrews churchyard maintenance. The PC unanimously agreed to grant the £400 requested.

The Chair announced that she will be standing down as a Councillor and Chairman in May 2027. If anyone wishes to offer their services as a Councillor or Chair, they should make this known.

13. Next meeting date

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This will be held on Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35 pm

David Green, Parish Clerk

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