

**Minutes of the meeting of Minterne Magna Parish Council held on Wednesday May 13th 2026
held at Minterne House, Minterne Magna, by invitation of Lord Digby at 7.45 pm
following the Annual Parish meeting.**

Present:, Lord Digby, Chairman, Mr. P. Goodfellow, Mrs. R. Cassidy, Mr. C. Saunders, Mr. P. Stanzl, Mr. G. Stevenson, Mr. S. Tite and the Clerk, Mr. P. Horsington. Two members of the public also attended.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs. J. Haynes, Dorset Councillor and PCSO Sarah Pilcher.

2. Election of Officers

On the proposition of Mrs. Cassidy, seconded by Mr. Saunders, Lord Digby was unanimously elected Chairman. Lord Digby signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

On the proposition of Mrs. Cassidy, seconded by Mr. Stanzle. Mr. Goodfellow was unanimously elected vice- Chairman.

On the proposition of Mr. Goodfellow, seconded by Mr. Stevenson the following Officers were elected -

Finance	Lord Digby
Highways	Mr. Stanzle & Mr. Tite
Rights of Way	Mrs. Cassidy
Internal Auditor	The Hon. Mrs. Z. Percy

It was noted that all members report on Flooding & Tree matters.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday January 21st 2026, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. Open Session - Police & Community Matters & Dorset Councillor's report

In the absence of PCSO Sarah Pilcher, her reports, which are received monthly & circulated were noted.

In the absence of Mrs. Haynes, her monthly reports and updated information were noted.

6. To receive & approve Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

Lord Digby read & signed the completed Annual Governance Statement.

7. Financial matters

The Council noted that the account balances were £9,644.51p at March 31st 2026 and £11,339.7p at April 30th 2026 having received £1,700 being half of the precept.

Payments made

£199.76p Vision ICT Ltd, £620.80p Clerk's expenses & £480.59 Clear Councils Insurance.

These payments were approved.

Lord Digby presented the Budget & Accounts for 2026 / 2027, for the year ending March 31st 2026, which was circulated to members and following discussion, on the proposition of Mr. Goodfellow, seconded by Mrs. Cassidy were formally adopted,. These showed a balance carried forward of £9,644.51p.

The Council noted that the Internal Auditor had inspected and signed the relevant Audit Statement, with no issues being raised, for report.

Lord Digby read & signed the Accounting Statement for 2025/26, of which the Annual Governance Exemption Statement return, is to be sent to the External Auditors BDO, LLP Southampton, with a copy of the Notice of Public Rights to inspect the Accounts, being published on May 13th with the dates for public inspection being from June 3rd to July 14th 2026. This Notice & the others required will be put onto the Council's Website.

It was noted that Councils with less than £25K expenditure are exempt from a full audit.

Members discussed the option of opening a Lloyds Bank Savings account, however after discussion, it was agreed that this could present more problems with little return.

Members discussed Online banking as an option, but agreed that the system should remain as it is at present, giving better accountability for members with cheques.

8. Planning matters

The Council noted that potential planning for the Potting Shed, Middlemarsh had not gone ahead.

The Council noted that there was no decision on planning application WD/D/19/002556 for Lord Digby, at the building known as Manor Farm Barn, Sandy Lane, Minterne Magna for the conversion and alteration to 1 No. dwelling to include removal of lean to extension & erect single storey extension – amended plans.

The Council noted that there was nothing on the Dorset Council's planning website reference application P/CLP/D2022/07954 Notification of written appeal APP/D1265/X/25?3368452 for use of land for siting of 40 no. caravans for human habitation, at Lyons Gate Caravan Park, DT2 7AZ .

The Council noted the response from the Dorset Planning, which stated that there had been no infringement of the planning decision, regarding application P/FUL/2025/05680 on Land at Dogbury Hill to retain replacement agricultural building and hard surfaced track. However the Council felt that it had a detrimental impact on the landscape, and there were now other concerns reference to other works, CCTV, stone circle and firepit put in place in an adjacent area. Apparently Dorset Planning were not concerned.

9. Rights of Way

Mrs. Cassidy stated that the blocked Right of Way in Minterne has been resolved.

10. Highway issues

Mr. Stanzl reported that the SID is working well.

It was noted that all data to date from the SID, has been circulated, and is on the Council's website. It was noted that there had been speed recorded between 90 MPH & 100 MPH. Mr. Stanzl was asked what were the average speeds recorded over the past year, for entering & leaving Middlemarsh. Mr. Stanzl stated that he will supply this information to members.

11. Flooding issues

There were no issues reported.

12. Correspondence

The Council noted two road closures, closure of Kennels Lane, Middlemarsh & Old Sherborne Road. Correspondence from the Dorset Council included consultation on Community Emergency Response Plans, Forum on Town & Parish Planning including updates on the Local Plan & an invitation from the Dorset Climate Action Network to a meeting on November 14th, These were noted. A letter, reference a request for Metal Detecting on land within the Parish was read & noted.

13. Items for report, or for the agenda of the next meeting

The letter from the Churchwarden of St. Andrew's read & discussed at the previous Annual Parish meeting is to be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

14. To confirm the dates of the next year's meetings

After discussion, the following dates for the meeting to be held in 2026 /27 were agreed, these being September 16th , November 18th , January 20th and May 19th all at Minterne House at 7.30pm.

There being no further business; the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Signed.

Date.

