

Minutes of the meeting of Minterne Magna Parish Council held on Wednesday September 16th 2026 held at Minterne House at 7.30pm.

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

1. Apologies

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on May 13th 2026 were signed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Open Session – Police & Community Matters & Dorset Councillor's report

PCSO Pilcher, was thanked in her absence for her monthly reports, which have been received and are circulated to members.

In the absence of Mrs. Haynes, the Council thanked Mrs. Haynes for her updates and noted that the regular reports, are circulated to members.

Mr. C. Rayner, Churchwarden explained to the Parish Council the list of issues / repairs needed to maintain the fabric of St. Andrew's Church, Minterne and asked the Council to consider in principle, giving a donation to the PCC towards some repair works. Mr. Rayner highlighted some features that require attention, being the Church Clock, Church door, guttering & downpipes and some coping stone repairs.

Mr. Goodfellow informed the meeting that Mr. Stevenson had stated that he is totally opposed in principle, to any donation to the Church from the Council. After some discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Rayner provides a list of priorities, with potential costs to be presented to the next meeting.

Mr. Rayner raised an issue with the newly resurfaced A.352 in Minterne, stating that there were three different surface layers adjacent to the Churchyard wall. This is having an impact on the drains in that area. He queried which area beyond the carriageway was Dorset Council's responsibility and where did private ownership begin. Mr. Tite stated that he understood the Highways were responsible for a one metre strip beyond the edge of the actual carriageway.

Mr. & Mrs. Hart from Lyons Gate, highlighted the need for Lyons Gate to have a Defibrillator following a recent incident. Mr. Tite highlighted the British Heart Foundation as a source of information. Discussion took place, with members agreeing that as there is only one in the whole Parish at Minterne House, one situated at Lyons Gate would be helpful. It would have to be agreed where the best position would be, with an electricity supply available. It was felt that the existing Bus shelter could be suitable. Mr. S. Marfell, who informed the meeting that he has experience in these devices, strongly recommended that Lyons Gate should have a Defibrillator. The members unanimously agreed to authorise Mr. Tite to assist Mr. & Mrs. Hart, acting on behalf of the Parish Council, with the help of the Chairman & Clerk as necessary to progress this project. It was agreed to bring costs and any formal agreements to the Council for approval once known.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their input to the meeting.

5. Financial matters

The Chairman reported that the account balances on April 30th 2026 were £11,339.78p & at August 17th 2026 were £10,841.17p, with £1,700 half precept due by the end of September.

Payments made

£480.59p Clear Insurance & monthly charges £4.25p on average.

The Council noted that the Audit return received by BDO LLP External auditors had been approved and signed off, with no fees being required.

6. Planning matters

Lord Digby reported that the 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 had been granted.

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. It appears that there is no decision to date

The Council considered application P/FUL/2026/02264 on land east of Pit Plantation, Cerne Abbas to erect agricultural barn, vehicular access, chicken enclosure & security posts/columns. After discussion, it was agreed that this application was thought not to be within the Parish, and no comments were made.

The Council considered application P/FUL/2026/04906 at Blackberry Farm, Hartley Street, Hermitage for the erection of a greenhouse and agreed to note this application.

Application P/VOC/2026/05214 at Lyons Hill Bungalow for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a new dwelling (with variation of condition 2 of planning permission P/FUL/2025/06536 to amend approved plans) was noted.

7. Rights of Way

Mrs. Cassidy stated that there were no issues to report.

8. Highway issues

Mr. Stanzl gave members the latest SID figures for the beginning of August to the beginning of September, which showed an average of 43% of speed violations, with highest speed recorded of 114 mph.

Mr. Goodfellow informed the meeting that there are two waste bins on the side of the A.352 in Middlemarsh, one of which is fenced in. There appears to be an issue between neighbours over this, in that area. The query raised was, are Dorset Highway aware and Safety could be an issue and was there any permission required or asked for. It was agreed that the Parish Council should not become embroiled in any neighbours' dispute.

Mr. Goodfellow reported that there was some fencing erected in Kennels Lane, Middlemarsh just within the Parish before Glanvilles Wooton, this he felt was too close to the carriageway, being a potential safety hazard. It was agreed to highlight this issue to the Dorset Highways.

Mrs. Cassidy reported that the drains on the A.352 in Minterne village are blocked, and stated that these will be reported for action.

9. Flooding issues

Due to the very hot dry summer, there were no flooding issues raised at the meeting.

10. Other correspondence

Correspondence received and noted, included - Register of Interest changes – addresses to be no longer published in the public domain, Air Ambulance week from September 7th, Climate & Nature Action Group meetings, Highway closures, Ironman event held on September 13th & Dorset Local Plan Scoping Consultation 2026 held from September 21st – October 26th 2026.

11. Items for report or for the agenda of the next meeting

It was noted that the Defibrillator request and further information reference St. Andrew's Church repairs will be on the January agenda.

12. To agree & confirm the date of the next meeting

The Council considered the date of the next meeting and discussed whether to hold the meeting scheduled for November 18th 2026. After discussion, it was agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday January 20th 2027, at 7.30pm, at which the Precept and the donations will be considered and agreed.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed:

Date: