

## UPPER MARSHWOOD VALE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: John Vanderwolfe FILCM Chartered MCIPD

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### Minutes of a Council Meeting held at Bettiscombe Village Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025, commencing at 7pm

**Present:** Cllr's E Rowe (Chairman), A Cameron (Vice-Chairman), S Forsey, F Bailey, J Piper, C Rabbetts, D Wyatt and B Lumsden.

**In attendance:** The Clerk, Mr J Vanderwolfe, Cllr S Christopher (Dorset Council) and two members of the public.

047	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies had been received from Cllr's J Gillingham and E Blackburn
048	<b>Declarations of Interest under the Upper Marshwood Vale Code of Conduct</b>  Cllr E Rowe declared a personal interest in the grant application by Bettiscombe Church as he is on the PCC.
049	<b>Minutes</b>  The minutes of the meeting held on the 19 <sup>th</sup> September, having been previously circulated, were adopted as a true record. <i>Noted that the meeting scheduled for November had been cancelled due to snow.</i>
050	<b>Matters Arising</b>  The clerk reported that there had been an objection to the siting of the litter bin in Stoke Abbot, therefore a new location was required.
051	<b>Accounts for Payment and Financial Update.</b>  Resolve to agree the following payments: S Lee Garden Services £864, HMRC PAYE £224.40, Vat File £7.19, Dorset Council (Speed Indicator) 3372, James Briggs (website) £264.98, HMRC PAYE £253.60, Dorset Council (Election charges) £1340.68.

	<p>Cllr J Piper confirmed payments and bank reconciliations</p> <p>Financial Assets as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 £30,073.67</p>
<b>052</b>	<p><b>Precept</b></p> <p>The clerk had provided a draft budget sheet for the financial year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. Members discussed this document and resolved to adopt it. The budget would be £13,190 with a precept demand of £13,100. The D rate would be £36.07, which, due to a slight increase in contributions, would result in a decrease of 81p a year on the D rate.</p>
<b>053</b>	<p><b>Democratic Period</b></p> <p>A member of the public stated that he was impressed with the local plan. He spoke about having some Shepard's huts on his property. He also stated that he would be willing to volunteer with carpentry work in the village if required.</p>
<b>054</b>	<p><b>Dorset Council Report</b></p> <p>Cllr Christopher stated that further discussions will take place as part of the devolution plans from the Government. There are several officer vacancies at the council; but the idea is to have less people in the future. Concerns were expressed about the large amount of surface water on highways when there are downpours of rain. The council could be liable if this situation causes accidents. It is likely that there will need to be a great more houses built in Dorset, with concerns that because there is little room left in the large towns, this may impact on the smaller communities.</p>
<b>055</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>P/FUL/2024/07501 Ashlands, Marshwood: Erection of dwelling and associated works, including change of use of land to extend residential curtilage. Support.</p> <p>P/CLE/2024/06940 Pilsdon Dairy Farm: Silage Store. Certificate of Lawfulness . Noted.</p> <p>P/HOU/2024/06682 lilac Cottage B3165: Single story rear and side extension. Demolish rear conservatory and side extension. Support</p>
<b>056</b>	<p><b>Highway Matters</b></p> <p>Concerns about how long traffic lights will be in place on road from Hunters Lodge to Crewkerne B3165. Cllr Christopher informed the meeting that there will need to be a road closure and that Devon County Council need to be involved for diversion purposes.</p>

<b>057</b>	<b>Stoke Abbott Defibrillator</b>  This is now to be maintained by the Stoke Abbott Village Hall Committee whilst the pub is closed.
<b>058</b>	<b>Finger Posts</b>  It was agreed that some quotations would be investigated for the next meeting
<b>059</b>	<b>St Stephens Church, Bettiscombe</b>  It was agreed to provide a grant of £300 towards grass cutting in this churchyard.
<b>060</b>	<b>Closing of Meeting</b>  The meeting was closed by the chairman at 8.05pm
<b>061</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>  Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Signature of Chairman** -----

**Date** -----