



Clerk Katie Cooper  
Email: Clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

## Fontmell Magna Parish Council Meeting

**Minutes of meeting**  
**Held on Tuesday 1 July 2025**  
**Fontmell Magna Village Hall**  
**6.30pm**

In attendance: Cllr Hannah Lister (Chair), Cllr Steven Drew, Cllr Christine Scott, Cllr Sara Powell, Cllr Jane Somper (Ward Councillor)

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Tony Bailey

**2. Declaration of interests** – no declarations of interests received

**3. Approve the minutes of the PC meeting held on the 20 May 2025** – the minutes were unanimously approved

**4. Consider any matters arising from the May 2025 minutes**

**4.1 Nominate and vote for Vice Chairman** - Cllr Lister proposed Cllr Drew to be Vice Chairman. This was unanimously approved

**4.2 Ward Report** – Cllr Somper – See separate document

**4.3 Planning update** – Cllr Drew – see separate document. Of note, the application for conversion of the **barn at Marshmoor** has been withdrawn but a separate application has been received to retain the farm track which provides access to the barn from a different direction. This could potentially form stage 1 of a two stage application at a later date. Questions from parishioners regarding length of the track. The application has been submitted with a scale drawing.

**St Andrews Farm Barn** – there is an appeal in on this application which had been refused. Likely to take several more weeks to reach a decision on this. PC and DC have not changed their stance so the this will be reviewed against already submitted comments.

**4.4 Finance update** – Clerk – see separate document

**4.5 Update on defibrillator phone box upgrade** – Cllr Scott – this is up and running but better signage is required. **Cllr Scott to investigate further.**

**4.6 Collyer's Brook** – Cllr Scott – The work is due to start on 14.7. 25. Barbara Robbins has asked that Liam Doran (grounds maintenance) is instructed to trim the edge of the brook ready for this work to start. The Clerk will check whether this can be done. Subsequent to the meeting Liam has confirmed that the edges have been left deliberately long to allow the bank to recover as per Environment Agency advice. Clerk to speak to contractors about the need for strimming and if so how much and where.



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Update: Clerk has spoken to contractors. They confirm that the bank did not need strimming, but in the meantime someone has strimmed the edges anyway. This was not done by our approved contractor (Liam Doran) and it is unclear who has done this.

**4.7 20mph limit** – Cllr Lister - This is ongoing – no further news yet

**4.8 Manhole issues** – Cllr Drew

Cllr Drew confirmed that the issue on Crown Hill is not a manhole cover but what looks like water coming up from below the road. Wessex Water have finally accepted it has been reported and are investigating. Await their response. On further discussion with parishioners it seems there is something similar happening on Mill Street as of the last couple of weeks. Cllr Bailey to make further enquiries and will report back when he has further information.

**4.9 Footpaths** – Gill Darwall – see separate report.

Cllr Lister will speak to Graham Stanley about electric fencing blocking a footpath and parishioners receiving an electric shock when trying to open it using the proper insulated handle. The Parish Council understand the need for livestock to be protected, but also understands that public footpaths should remain accessible to the public.

**4.10 Spring Meadow Landscaping**

Cllr Somper confirmed that an enforcement notice has been served. Residents of Spring Meadow raised concerns that they are being asked to give money to the management company but they don't know what the money is going to cover. The communication from the management company is very poor. They will keep the PC posted on developments

**5. To nominate and approve new Clerk, David Green** – David Green will take over as Parish Clerk on 1 August 2025. David Green is a fully qualified and very experienced clerk. He will work fewer hours for slightly more money than the previous clerk. Cllr Lister thanked Katie Cooper (outgoing clerk) for her work over the last 14 months. Cllr Somper added that the new local plan could bring challenges ahead and that a clerk with David's experience, training and knowledge could be invaluable.

**6. Any other business**

**6.1 School drop off zone:** there is an issue with the drop off zone at the school. The bigger buses cannot make the turn easily. Dorset Council approved the plans put forward for the turning circle by Pennyfarthing Homes. The school were given £10k to help pay for the upkeep of the turning circle but that has had to be given to the diocese. Dorset Council are in charge of sending buses out for school transport. Sometimes the buses are bigger than other times. It is the bigger buses that



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struggle. Cllr Lister and Cllr Somper will take advice on this and see if a resolution can be found. In the meantime, the bigger buses are using West Street again.

### **6.2 Neighbourhood Plan support to be withdrawn:**

Cllr Drew explained that financial support in the form of grants for Neighbourhood Plans is going to be withdrawn. For Fontmell Magna the timing has worked out well as ours has just been approved, but for others this is very bad news and for our next review this will impact on Fontmell Magna too. Cllr Drew asked the parishioners present along with the councillors if they would like him to take this forward and write to MP etc. All those present were in favour of this.

### **6.3 Blandford's Farm application.**

This has been approved but so far no detailed submission has been sent. There is a time limit on this so at some point we are expecting this to be submitted.

### **6.4 Community Emergency Response Plan:**

Cllr Powell will look into the Community Emergency Response plan which is currently out of date. This will be discussed with the Village Hall too as when this was first produced in 2022 it was in conjunction with the Village Hall.

**Date of next meeting:** 16 September 2025 – items for the agenda to the Parish Clerk by 1 September 2025