Manston and Hammoon Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

**Held on Monday 18th August 2025 at 6:30 pm in St Nicholas Church, Manston**

**Present: Councillors -**

J. Hussey (Chair), P. Easter (PE), A Frampton (AF), D. Honeybun (DH), A. Yarwood (AY), M Harris, (MH), Woods (MW)

**In attendance:**

Cllr Jane Somper, Dorset Council, David Green (Parish Clerk)

**Chair’s Welcome**

Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

**25.24 Public Discussion Period (30 mins)**

There were no public questions.

**25.25 To receive and accept apologies for absence**

None.

**25.26 Declarations of pecuniary and other interests in relation to the agenda**

None were declared.

**25.27. To agree the minutes of previous meeting on 19th May 2025 are a true and accurate record**

These were unanimously **AGREED.**

**25.28 Issues arising from the last meeting/Chair & Clerks report**

It was noted that the Village Hall is officially out of use for the foreseeable future due to the wall cracking issue. The PC understands that from the Trustees that this is now the subject of legal action.

The PC agreed to seek alternative venue for future meetings, possibly in Child Okeford, the Church deemed likely to be too cold in the winter.

Noteworthy correspondence received:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **From** | **Subject** |
| 19/05/2025 | Dorset Council | Dorset Local Plan – Parish and Town Council Event |
| 02/06/2025 | Cllr Jane Somper | Invitation to Participate in Housing Allocation Policy |
| 18/06/2025 | Laura Foulkes | Bonfires Hammoon |
| 21/06/2025 | Mark Swire | Green container in field |
| 26/06/2025 | DAPTC | Withdrawal of Funding Support for Neighbourhood Plans |
| 15/07/2025 | Dorset Council | Dorset Local Plan – Parish and Town Council Engagement Even |
| 19/07/2025 | Sturminster Newton Town Council | What's Happening in Stur - Town Newsletter August & September |
| 24/07/2025 | DAPTC | Action Briefing - Parish Council Survey |

**Dorset Local Plan** - discussed with Cllr Somper below.

**Parish Council Survey** – the Clerk noted that smaller Councils are now being consulted concerning the future relationship with Dorset Council that they would like to have – survey topics included local Democracy, services, working relations with Dorset Council, local Planning, and future prospects.

It was agreed that communication with Dorset Council was on the whole extremely poor, and much of their published information was overly complex & unintelligible. There was a perception that delegating services to individual towns & parishes would be very divisive, resulting in the inconsistency of standards and would probably lead to increased local precepts.

The Clerk will make an appropriate response on behalf of the PC.

**25.29 To receive report from Dorset Council**

Cllr Somper has submitted a written report and provided several updates:

**Dorset Local Plan** – has now been published and does not have any impact on Manston & Hammoon Parish, but will have consequences in terms of additional dwellings for Child Okeford (105 dwellings) and Fontmell Magna (105 dwellings), and elsewhere in Dorset. Cllr Somper will be holding local briefings to discuss the Local Plan further and there will be drop in events in Blandford, Shaftesbury & Gillingham.

For further information:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan>

**Dorset Council Finances** – these are under investigating following a substantive loss in relation to some contracts. Cllr Somper considered there to be a loss of trust in Dorset Council as a consequence of the situation.

**Housing Allocation Policy** – there are planned changes to criteria for being added to the housing register which currently stands at around 5,000 – these include a reduced time resident in the county, from 3 years to 2. A concern was raised as to how this would impact those currently on the register. It was agreed that the process is very opaque.

**Neighbourhood Planning funding –** it was noted that funding for Neighbourhood Plans has been withdrawn and this will impact any new plans being considered.

**25.30 To receive a finance report and to agree action in response to proposals and payment approvals:**

1. Retrospective payments approved:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Supplier** | **Description** | **Amount** |
| 01/05/2025 | Alfie Burt | mowing | £ 130.00 |
| 20/05/2025 | DAPTC | Annual subscription | £ 130.00 |
| 20/05/2025 | Zurich Insurance | Annual insurance renewal | £ 692.49 |
| 20/05/2025 | J P Consultants | Internal audit | £ 150.00 |
| 21/05/2025 | Dorset & Somerset Air Amb | Donation | £ 100.00 |
| 30/05/2025 | David Green | May 2025 pay | £ 156.96 |
| 31/05/2025 | Unity Bank | Service fee | £ 6.00 |
| 04/06/2025 | Alfie Burt | mowing | £ 130.00 |
| 04/06/2205 | ROSPA | Play Area Inspection | £ 96.00 |
| 30/06/2025 | David Green | June 2025 pay | £ 156.96 |
| 30/06/2025 | Unity Bank | Service fee | £ 6.00 |
| 04/07/2025 | Alfie Burt | mowing | £ 130.00 |
| 17/07/2025 | HMRC | Q1 PAYE 2025/2026 | £ 110.20 |
| 28/07/2025 | David Green | July 2025 pay | £ 156.96 |
| 31/07/2025 | Unity Bank | Service fee | £ 6.00 |
| 11/08/2025 | Alfie Burt | mowing | £ 130.00 |

**25.31 To receive an update on Hammoon Bridge & Flooding gates liability issued**

Cllr Woods advised that there has not been any further communication from Dorset Council concerning the proposed protocol agreement; this will be followed up by Cllr Woods with Cllr Somper.

* 1. **Hammoon Noticeboard replacement progress**

The PC has only received one quote for a bespoke notice board, the cost being around £1,000, which is comparable to other general PC noticeboards from specialist suppliers. There has not been any further interest in community funding for a board.

Cllr Harris proposed that the PC ask Hammoon Church to use one of the Church porch notice boards as an alternative. This was unanimously agreed**.**

**25.33 Hammoon telephone box museum project progress**

There has no confirmation from Dorset Council that a grant has been awarded. The Clark has attempted to contact the Dorset Councillor responsibility for grant funding seeking clarification but has not received a reply. If there is no news by September it will be assumed that a grant has not been given. There is though local support for the idea.

* 1. **Report on any highway issues in both villages (to include traffic and speeding)**

Dorset Council have not lowered the flood board signage as requested. This will be followed up.

Mower Lane Bridleway – the question of who is responsible for the maintenance of this will be followed up by the Clerk.

* 1. **To comment on any planning applications**

The Clerk noted that:

* **P/VOC/2024/05370 - The Old Stables East Farm East Farm Lane** - Objection comments were lodged in respect of planning application however the appeal has not been decided

• **P/FUL/2025/00382 -Fitelstones Lower Road Manston DT10 1EX** – noted as approved despite PC objection to the shipping container.

The Chair noted that that approval for this application was contingent of there being livestock kept in an adjoining field.

**25.36. Confidential Matters (public and press to leave the meeting)**

No items to discuss.

**25.37. Items for the next meeting**

* PC budget for 2026-2027
* Village Hall update

**25.38. Date of next meeting(s)**

Monday, 24th November 2025 at 6.30pm

There being no further business to be transacted the meeting closed at 19:40 hours.