

Parish Council of Langton Matravers

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF LANGTON MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2026 IN THE VILLAGE HALL. THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.00PM

PRESENT:

Cllr **Pearson**, Cllr **Golob**, Cllr **Christie**, Cllr **Kwantes**, Cllr **Jones**, Cllr **Sinclair**, Cllr **Sutton** and Cllr **Watson**.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Two members of the public & Cllr **Wilson (from 7.10 p.m.)** & Emma **Evans** (Clerk).

ABSENT:

Cllr **Knight** & Cllr **Jones**, Tom **Clarke**.

It was noted this meeting is being recorded. All recordings will be deleted once the draft minutes are typed.

0226-158. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr W Knight, Cllr L Jones and Tom Clarke (National Trust).

0226-159. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations were made on this occasion. NB this does not preclude any later declarations. None.

0226-160. NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

In the absence of a representative from the National Trust, a report received prior to the meeting was shared by the Clerk.

Durnford Drove:

The National Trust have been in communications with the Vice-Chairman, working together to secure a meeting with BT, now scheduled for Monday 16th February 2026.

It has been clarified that the cable becomes overhead for the area outside Langton House, so HPB should be able to maintain their section of the ditch freely already.

In the meantime, NT rangers have managed to manually re-clear the upper ditch alongside the cable. It takes significant man hours, and the clearance is limited by the cable and the road. The NT aims to continue to push for a plan which involves moving the cable, to enable access to maintain this more easily with machinery and to create sufficient capacity to better cope with future rainfall.

The Estate management team have not discovered any evidence of being asked for, or having given consent for the cable to be laid in the ditch, and have been told that Openreach do not have any records of this either. It is the opinion of the National Trust that approval would not have been granted as this is having a negative impact on drainage infrastructure.

NFM:

Public walks took place in January via Planet Purbeck, which were well attended.

The NFM features have been observed holding water throughout the winter storms. Fixed point photography and anecdotal footage have helped to inform the NT on the effectiveness of these structures. Re-seeding is scheduled for the spring, to green up the scrapes.

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Adding more NFM features would further support the downstream infrastructure. A number of additional potential NFM opportunities have been identified around Spyway. These will be explored further in terms of design and feasibility should future funding become available.

Members noted that the alleviation measures had been successful but due to the excessive rainfall, once full they overflow. There continued to be flooding incidents at footpath between Durnford Drove and the Hyde. It was hoped that the meeting scheduled for 16th February would help to resolve the issues.

In addition, it was noted that the Spyway Orchard highway entrance needs to be properly completed to ensure water drains away effectively.

It was noted that following the meeting on 16th February contact could be made with Dorset Highways to discuss this.

0226-161. DORSET COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Wilson provided a report which included:

Flooding and Flood Resilience

It was noted that there had been significant flooding issues countywide in recent weeks. It was acknowledged that, given the flooding experienced locally in December, further preparatory work should have been implemented ahead of the recent events.

Dorset Council recognised the need for more proactive flood mitigation measures and greater clarity regarding roles and responsibilities, particularly in relation to land ownership and maintenance obligations. It was noted that a clear framework must be in place to ensure preparedness, especially given the highly localised impacts of flooding.

Reference was made to the Flooding Resilience Partnership, and it was reported that a proposal to rejoin the partnership would be presented to Cabinet next month.

It was further noted that Dorset Highways would receive £5 million in additional funding for highway repairs.

The Chairman advised that flooding would be raised at the forthcoming South East Purbeck Parishes meeting to encourage joint working and consistent messaging.

It was noted that blocked drains should be reported, as this is a shared responsibility. Once reported, it is the responsibility of Dorset Council to arrange clearance. Funding has also been allocated for ditch clearance.

It was reported that a recent Council meeting had included a one-hour discussion on flooding matters.

Budget

It was reported that the budget had been signed off at the Council meeting on Tuesday. This includes a 4.99% increase in Council Tax.

A query was raised as to whether a large electronic sign could be installed on the approach to Purbeck to provide information regarding incidents such as fires, flooding, or ferry closures.

It was noted that social media provides effective real-time communication.

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There was also discussion regarding the potential installation of a sign at Ulwell to inform those approaching from the Swanage end when the ferry is closed.

0226-162. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters were raised.

0226-163. MATTERS ARISING FROM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters were raised.

0226-164. PLANNING, LICENSING MATTERS AND CONSULTATIONS

Planning Committee:

1. [P/FUL/2025/04406](#) Location: The Old Malthouse School High Street Langton Matravers BH19 3HB. Description: Erection of 15 dwellings together with the provision of a central green, sports space, community land, associated parking and infrastructure

This application will be considered by **Eastern Planning Committee on 18th February 2026**. The meeting will be held at: The Allendale Centre, Hanham Road, Wimborne, BH21 1AS

Cllr Wilson would speak remotely at the meeting and intended to object on transport grounds.

The Vice-Chairman advised that the Parish Council's objection had primarily related to highway concerns. Both the Parish Council and the Dorset Councillor had noted the need for a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).

Members noted that Dorset Highways had issued comments on 23rd December, advising that as the road widens at the relevant point, there were no substantive grounds for objection. However, recommendations included additional signage, larger yellow box markings, and extended 'no waiting' restrictions in the vicinity of the school.

Speedwatch data was referenced, indicating that approximately 10–20% of vehicles recorded were exceeding the speed limit, despite the presence of the Speedwatch group. The possibility of introducing traffic calming measures, such as speed humps, was mentioned.

It was further noted that if Planning Committee meetings were held more locally, for example at Westport House, greater attendance by local residents might be achieved.

ACTION: The Clerk to register Cllr J. Sinclair to speak at the Eastern Area Planning Committee meeting (Cllr P. Golob has already been registered).

Information only:

2. [P/TRC/2026/00554](#) Location: Durnford House, 64 High Street, Langton Matravers BH19 3HB Proposal: T1 Holm Oak - Reduce the crown by approximately 3 metres, retaining the tree's natural form and overall shape.
3. [P/TRC/2026/00674](#) Location: 11 and 12 North Street, Langton Matravers BH19 3HL Proposal: T1 Sycamore (located 12 North Street) - Fell to ground level. T2 Sycamore (located 12 North Street) - Fell to ground level. T3 Spruce (located 11 North Street) - Fell to ground level. T4 Ash (located 11 North Street) - Remove deadwood. T5 Ash (located 11 North Street) - Re-pollard back to previous pollard points. T6 Sycamore (located 11 North Street) - Remove deadwood. (*Comments deadline 26th February 2026*).

It was noted that the Sycamore trees were in the wrong place and it was not anticipated that there would be significant damage to wildlife. The Ash tree was undergoing pruning not felling.

4. [P/TRT/2026/00749](#) Location: 85 High Street, Langton Matravers BH19 3HA Proposal: Beech – Fell. (*Comments deadline 2nd March 2026*).

It was noted that the roots were causing significant damage to paving and were lifting shed door. No further comments on the tree applications.

0226-165. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Golob and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: - That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th January 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed.

0226-166. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters raised.

0226-167. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk had provided a report which included:

a) Finance & Audit

Bank Accounts

Unity Current T1 Bank balance as at 31st January 2026: £ 33,304.17

Unity Instant Access Bank balance as at 31st January 2026: £ 72,475.41

Lloyds – The Clerk holds the necessary form for authorisation to be added to the account in order to proceed with account closure. Following a telephone discussion with Lloyds, the bank advised that an in-branch meeting may not be required.

The Precept form had been submitted to Dorset Council.

b) Administration

Allotment invoices – One account was outstanding – a letter had been sent.

c) Projects & Actions Update

Ongoing projects/actions:

HSE enquiry – Further to the lack of response regarding the Construction Phase Plan (CPP) requested from Harbourview Construction Co. the Health & Safety Executive has advised that it will not take the matter forward, as the Council is not the client under CDM 2015 regulations, and has recommended that the issue be raised with the relevant Planning, Highway or Environmental Health authority instead. – **To discuss further action.**

Further to discussion it was noted that Cllr Sinclair will raise concerns in his capacity as a resident. Consideration was given to writing to Lloyd Hatton MP regarding the response from the HSE and the continued issues.

Improvements to Dorset Council's Enforcement Team was noted.

Speed reduction from WM junction to 20 mph zone – Dorset Council has acknowledged the Council's enquiry and advised that a site visit will be undertaken to assess the current signage, road markings and visibility in the area. Further feedback will be provided

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following this assessment. The Clerk has forwarded relevant information from the Community Land Trust to Dorset Council for their consideration.

It was suggested that due to the number of houses in this area it may not pass the requirements to be lowered, however as residents in this section had lobbied Members, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Sinclair and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-** That Dorset Highways be contacted to investigate the possibility of extending the current 20 mph limit at the lower end of the village to the junction with the A351 (Coombe).

Allotment fencing – The contractor has installed approximately 90 new fence posts and erected new wire fencing alongside the hedges near the picnic benches. A small section of trench backfilling remains incomplete due to ground conditions. Access to the site is currently difficult because of wet weather. The contractor estimates that approximately three days of work remain and anticipates completion within the next couple of weeks. An interim invoice has been requested for the works completed to date.

It was noted that the Contractors had confirmed that they would scrape the area getting in and out of field as this had suffered damage by accessing the field in wet weather.

Parish Assembly – To note the Clerk will commence the advertisement of the date and will contact prospective speakers/displayers.

d) Correspondence & Consultations

Key letters/emails received from residents, unitary council, or other bodies:

BT Openreach – Cllr Golob is liaising with the relevant parties to arrange a meeting to help resolve the issue.

Durnford Drove flooding enquiry – An enquiry was received from prospective purchasers regarding flooding concerns. Cllr Christie had contacted them to provide an update on the current position.

Cemetery – Two interments have taken place since the last meeting.

Cemetery – The Clerk will meet a prospective purchaser of a cremation plot on 24th February.

Grant forms – Three applications received and to be considered under agenda item 0226-169.

Flooding – Update provided by a resident after the storms on the 26th and 27th January – the Clerk has asked the Council to be included in further updates.

SID Post – Proposed location near the Parish Office - post installation and fitting of solar panel has taken place.

e) Training & Support

Clerks' Conference – Friday 6th February – the Clerk will provide an update at the meeting. The Clerk had requested approval to undertake the finance course FILCA at a cost of £120.00.

It was proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Golob and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

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That the Clerk undertakes the FiLCA course.

f) Dates & Calendar

Dorset Council events -

Tuesday 3rd February: in-person forum at the Corn Exchange, Dorchester 10am-12.30pm; and virtual forum (to cover the same updates) 2.30pm-4.30pm – Vice Chairman and Clerk attending – Slides circulated to Councillors.

Tuesday 16 June: in-person forum (venue to be confirmed), 10am-12.30pm; and virtual forum (to cover the same updates) 2.30pm-4.30pm

October: further forum to be held during October, date and details to be confirmed.

SE Purbeck Parishes – 13th February 2026 at Corfe Castle VH – Chairman and Clerk will provide an update to the next meeting.

Sandbanks Ferry events in March drop in event at Grand Hotel 11th March 4-8pm and Sandbank Yacht club 12th March 4-8 p.m.

Cook and Connect group starting 26th February 10 - 12 but arrive at 9.30a.m. Cooking sessions for beginner and improvers and an opportunity to chat to others.

0226-168. FINANCIAL MATTERS

To discuss financial matters plus any recommendation and agree a way forward. To discuss financial matters plus any recommendation and agree a way forward.

- a. Bank balance. Unity Current T1 Bank balance as at 31st January 2026: £ 33,304.17.
- b. Unity Instant Access Bank Balance as at 31st January 2026: £ 72,475.41.
- c. Monthly income and expenditure
To approve the monthly expenditure and note the income. Noted

It was proposed by Councillor Christie, seconded by Councillor Watson and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:- That the payments as listed on the schedule be approved.

0226-169. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members noted that the Council had allocated £2,000 in the 2025/26 budget for grants an allocation of £2,100 is included in the 2026/27 budget.

Summary of Applications

Organisation	Amount Requested	Previous Grant Awards	Brief Purpose Summary
The Dubber	£250	£250 (2022), £250 (2025)	Support for production and distribution of the monthly community newsletter serving Langton, Worth Matravers, Kingston and Harmans Cross; helps cover running costs beyond advertising income and ensures continued community updates, including Council news.
Citizens Advice Service	£450	£400 (2025)	Contribution to core service costs supporting Langton residents with welfare benefits, debt, housing and cost-

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Organisation	Amount Requested	Previous Grant Awards	Brief Purpose Summary
Purbeck Film Festival	£250	£200 (2025)	of-living advice; volunteer recruitment and training; specialist advice projects and local outreach, including new self-help access points. Support towards festival overheads to sustain a volunteer-led community film festival that attracts visitors, supports local village halls, offers concessionary access and contributes to the local economy outside peak tourist season.

Total funding requested: **£950**

Financial Implications

If all applications are approved in full, the total of £950 would be met from the Council's grants budget allocation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider the applications and determine the level of grant funding to be awarded.

It was reported that The Dubber makes space available within its publication for the Council to communicate updates to residents regarding Council matters. The CAB operated an advice bus, and the Purbeck Film Festival encouraged use of the Village Hall and was considered an important cultural asset to the area.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Christie and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-** That the grant applications as listed above, totalling £950.00 be approved.

Cllr Sutton provided an overview of the CAB services and the benefit to the area.

0226-170. ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2026

It was noted that the Clerk would liaise with the Chairman and Cllr Sutton. It was suggested that a raffle draw could form part of the evening. Suggested invitees included Dorset Wildlife Trust, National Trust, particularly for an update regarding the flood alleviation scheme, Planet Purbeck, particularly regarding Dark Skies, The Dubber representative, Love Langton Litter, Dorset Council, the local PCSO, Scouts and the school. An update would be provided to future meetings.

0226-171. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on attendance at an event 18th December at Harmans Cross Village Hall hosted by Lloyd Hatton MP. The event attracted approximately 35 people, which were then split into groups with members of the MP's team. Various topics were raised, which included a pedestrian crossing in Harmans Cross, bus route provision, Dark Skies, ANOB, Clean water, Climate emergency, Swanage Ambulance Car and the Wareham Arm project. The Chairman raised the issue of the increased costs faced by

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pub landlords as an issue affecting not only Langton Matravers but many rural areas. It was reported that Lloyd Hatton had lobbied to get discount off business rates for landlords. The Chairman noted that the event had provided a useful forum to hear about issues affecting other areas.

0226-172. ALLOTMENT FENCING WORKS - UPDATE

As reported under agenda item 0226-1467, it was noted that the Contractors had confirmed that they would scrape the area getting in and out of field. An update would be provided once the works had been completed.

0226-173. PORTFOLIO HOLDER / LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Portfolio holders / lead councillors were invited to give a verbal update within their area:

- a. Ways & Means (including finance, HR, legal & governance) – Nothing to report.
- b. Planning & Housing – Nothing to report.
- c. Highways and Transport – As contained within a recent PTAG report, £3.2 million had been allocated to Dorset. The Dorset Councillor advised that investment in Saturday services was being explored. A Rural Community Bus scheme was also referenced, and it was noted that the parish could volunteer to participate in a trial. Consideration was also given to the timing of the last bus services, particularly in relation to enabling attendance at events.
- d. Parish Amenities (including Cemetery, allotments, playground and woodland trail) - Nothing to report.
- e. Parish infrastructure (including street lighting, toilets, bus shelter, parish office and utilities – It was reported that Wessex Water had advised customers to check their tap water for any discolouration or murkiness and to report any concerns where necessary.
- f. Quarries / Agriculture – Nothing to report.
- g. Community & Communications (including surgery, school liaison & grant application) - Nothing to report.
- h. Environment and Tourism – Nothing to report.
- i. Emergency Planning - Nothing to report.

0226-174. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting:

Date: Thursday 12th March 2026

Location: Langton Matravers Village Hall

Time: 19:00

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Sign:

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