**St Mary Parish Council**

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Parish Council which will take place at The Brewery Hall in Hall & Woodhouse Visitor Centre, Bournemouth Road, Blandford St Mary**

**Minutes are not verbatim**

**on Wednesday the 1st of October 2025 at 7pm**

**Present:** **Cllr M Albery** – **Chairman**, Cllr J Dallison – Vice Chairman, Cllr M Dallison, Cllr I Mackay, Cllr Coats and Cllr N Russell

**In attendance:** Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk). There were 5 members of the public present

**Public Consultation- the following matters were raised:**

* Concerns were raised over the red lines being placed along Dorchester Hill– the Clerk confirmed that Dorset Council have stated the new footpath that will be going around the triangle of land at the bottom of Dorchester Hill will be extended up the road, so that it is adjacent to the other footpath on the other side of the road. There will also be another pinch point on the road to help slow traffic down.
* Concerns had been raised over the position of the memorial bench in the recreation field – the Clerk has a report to give later in the agenda.
* Concerns were raised over the frontage of the new hairdresser in Blandford. It was noted that Blandford Town Council have acknowledged these concerns and are dealing with the relevant departments at Dorset Council.
* To remind residents to have their say on Dorset Council’s proposed local plan, details can be found using the following link

[**https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan**](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan)

**44/25. To receive and accept apologies of absence, Declaration of interest and Dispensations.**

Dorset Councillor Barrie Cooper sent his apologies. The Clerk, Nicola Phillips declared a personal interest under Village Hall regarding tendering for building the village hall. To ensure that the Tenders are dealt with in an open way, the tenders will be sealed and opened in an open meeting by the Chairman.

**45/25. Co-option for new Councillor**

There were none.

**46/25. Approve minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd of September 2025**

The Minutes of meeting held on the 3rd of September 2025 were proposed by Cllr N Russell and seconded by Cllr M Dallison, that they are an accurate and true record of the meeting, all that read the minutes were in favour. The Chairman duly signed them.

**RESOLVED**: to approve the minutes dated the 3rd of September 2025 (no budgetary allocation required)

**Items agreed to be discussed from the last meeting and matters arising:**

**Update – Village Hall –** Letters have been sent out to four businesses to see if they are interested in tendering for the build of the village hall. Three have come back confirming they are interested in tendering to date. Two banners have now been produced and will be displayed on the fencing once erected around the site. Cllr Albery proposed instructing a company to erect the fencing, for the sum of £965.00. This was agreed by all Councillors.

Going forward the Parish Council will be working on asking for volunteers within the village who would be interested in creating a committee to take over the day-to-day running of the village hall. Cllr Coats expressed his interest in helping with a village hall committee with the support of the other Councillors and Clerk.

Items that will now be investigated by the Clerk or Councillors:

* Where will the contractors be able to park off site
* Soil test information
* Confirming the position of 0 vat on new build
* To set up an additional account with the bank for Village Hall.

**Consider – proposal from Blanford Town Council possibility of a pump track adjacent to the skate park in the Stour Meadows –** the Parish Council support the proposal from Blandford Town Council regarding the pump track, but would it like to ensure that the existing gravel area that is used for parking is kept.

**Discuss – the memorial park bench position in the recreation area –** the Clerk visited the site on where the memorial bench is positioned and confirmed that it is on the Parish Council land and could not see that it affects the privacy of the resident’s house, as they have a very large fence around their garden. The Clerk confirmed that she had not received a written complaint.

**Other matters arising from Councillor’s officers’ roles**

**Play Area –** Cllr M Dallison requested that the Clerk obtains a quote for the wooden edging around the play area be replaced.

**Environment** - Cllr J Dallison reported that Dorset Council rangers have confirmed that they will supply trees for Stour Park. Cllr J Dallison also reported that he has personally raised concerns over the 50MPH speed limit on Dorchester Road coming into the Parish. Cllr J Dallison will forward his concerns on to Dorset Councillor B Cooper for his support.

Cllr Mackay reported that he is continuing to work on producing a non-designated list of items for Blandford + group.

**Allotments –** Cllr Coats reported that the Allotment Association have appointed a new Chairman and secretary. It was also noted that there are three vacant plots. The Allotment Association are also investigating items that can be purchased using the 106 funds that have been allocated to the Association. Cllr Coats also confirmed that the small play items on the Mcarthy Stone development are being replaced with more suitable equipment.

Cllr Coats asked for the Clerk to report that some of the footpath from the blue bridge at the Stours, has warn away and is causing a large drop which could be dangerous to those using the footpath.

Another matter raised was a proposal for some kind of emergency plan for the Parish. The Clerk will obtain information for the Councillors to consider.

**47/25.Planning
P/VOC/2025/05097** - Erection of a village hall – amended plans for sighting the hall – Duly Noted

The Parish Council have also received notification from Dorset Council Planning team on a consultation for the Pre School.

**48/25. Finance**

**Payments for September 2025, the Bank Reconciliation-** The Clerk circulated the payment schedules and bank reconciliation for September 2025. Cllr M Dallison proposed that the invoices on the payment schedule for September for the sum of £3888.33 to be paid, Cllr J Dallison seconded and all members in favour and the payment schedule was duly signed by the Chairman.



**RESOLVED:** To pay the invoices listed for September 2025 as above (48/25–C/A)

The bank reconciliation was tabled and agreed.

**49/25. Received report from Dorset Councillor B Cooper**

No report

**50/25. Chairmans’ report**

Happy to report that the Village Hall project is progressing well.

**51/25. Items for the next agenda and date of the next meeting.**

**Co-option – Village Hall - Budget - SID**

Signed…………………………………………………………………………………………

Website address <http://www.blandfordstmary-pc.org.uk>. Should you wish to contact any Councillor please only use this address.Clerk@blandfordstmary-pc.gov.uk.

**Date of next meeting** The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th of November 2025, there being no further business the meeting closed at 20.10