



Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 8th of December 2025 at 7pm at Blandford Hall, Martin.

	<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Apologies</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Councillor S. Greenwood	√		
Councillor S. Hooper	√		
Councillor J. Richards	√		
Councillor B. Batten			√
Councillor E. Horley	√		
Councillor T. Horrell			
VACANT			

Also, IN ATTENDANCE: Melissa Hildreth – Clerk and 2 members of the public

25-146 - Apologies for Absence- To receive and record. ***The Council accepted the apology made by Cllr B Batten.***

25-147- Councillors' Declarations of Interest - Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011. ***None declared.***

25-148- Open Public Forum- The public is invited to speak on matters relevant to the meeting. ***A member of the public spoke in support of the planning application for the Annex at the Old Rectory.***

25-149- Minutes of Previous Meeting- To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 27th of October 2025, having been circulated to members, be signed as a correct record. ***Minutes of the 27th of October meeting signed by Chairman as a correct record.***

25-150- Declaration of Acceptance - MPC welcomes Tom Horrell to the Council. He has signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and is to turn in his Register of Interests form. ***Cllr Tom Horrell having signed his Declaration of Acceptance prior to the meeting of 8th December submitted his Register of Interest form. This was witnessed by the clerk and will be sent on to NFDC.***

25-151- Matters Arising- *All items have been actioned or will be reported on later in the meeting with the exception of the following from 27 OCT 25: 25-103 – Complaints about the road crossing at Martin Drove End and the A354 – Hampshire Highways have said they will send a team out to see what can be done to improve this junction. 25-136- Asian Hornets-* John Butler is still seeking groups to sponsor the setup of an Asian Hornet monitoring group. Martin Community Association was not able to help and an answer from Salisbury Bee Keeping Association is being waited upon. ***Another talk will be presented in Blandford Hall on 15 December on Asian Hornets.***

25-152-Guest Speaker- Royal British Legion in the Western downlands villages. Speaker Mike Richardson. ***Mike Richardson gave a very informative talk regarding the scope and breath of the RBL, its importance to the Armed Forces community and how their own parishioners are involved. £127 million is spent on charitable activities per year and this money is from the Poppy Appeal. The Damerham and Western Downland Branch raises funds for the RBL Hampshire County Welfare Fund some £1067 this year. These funds come from activities other than the Poppy Appeal. There are about 133 Armed Forces members in our community and all are encouraged to join the RBL, although any person can join the RBL and will be made very welcome. There are pub socials, group visits and opportunities for camaraderie and friendship. To join go to ww.britishlegion.org.uk and click Western Downlands for local group.***

25-153 - Budget – To discuss and decide on the 2026-2027 budget. Cllr Greenwood proposes to accept the budget and Cllr Horley seconds. ***Martin Parish Council resolves to accept the spending budget of £13140.49 for the 26-27 tax year and to accept the precept of £11725 for the 26-27 tax year. This means that the Band D rate will be £59.70 for the year.***

25-154- Affordable Housing – To receive an update on the affordable housing project. *The group was given the options to view An amount of time was allotted to ask Nat King Smith questions regarding all the different options. Questions were asked regarding how these homes would be allocated. Allocation team will come to future meeting to explain. Ground water and topographical surveys have been completed and utilities are being looked into. A pre-planning application will be put in around FEB and will take 5-6 weeks for approval. At that point builders will be tendered. Looking to complete homes by 2028. An open evening for the village will be conducted in the future.*

25-155- Design Code-To discuss and decide on how to complete the requirements for the District-Wide Design Code and Settlement Character Studies. *Decided to divide the village into 3 areas. Tidpit & East Martin hamlets, historic village area and new village area (Townsend). Each area to be covered by two councillors, Cllrs Greenwood and Batten for new area, Cllrs Hooper and Horrell for hamlets and Cllrs Horley and Richards for historic middle. Will meet informally in January to see about progress. Will bring completed forms to next meeting on 12th January.*

25-156- New signs Sillens Lane and A354 side of village- To discuss the response from Hampshire Highways concerning Sillens Lane and to discuss and decide about a new sign coming into Martin Village. *Clerk awaiting quotations for sign on the A 354 side of the village. Will discuss further at next meeting. Hampshire Highways have stated that they will look into placing a warning sign for pedestrians on Sillens Lane. Clerk to follow up if Hampshire Highways will add the sign and when.*

25-157- Councillor Vacancy – To discuss the open position on the Council. *Councillors suggested coming up with three names a piece and then coordinating with one another to ask the most likely candidates.*

25-158- Update on Tree Survey works-To hear an update on the costs of tree survey work. *Cllr Hooper to ask Mark Hooper for quotations. There is a potential that they could be done voluntarily.*

25-159 – Complaint - Regarding the 501 Footpath by Longbarrow farm. To discuss and decide what steps the Council should take. *The Council decided to alert Hampshire Highways as they control rights of way and will be able to act if the pathway has been illegally blocked.*

25-160- Employee appraisal- To set a date and time and member of committee for there to be an employee appraisal. *Clerk to coordinate will Cllr Greenwood and Cllr Horley before the 16th of January.*

25-161-Planning applications-

25-161.1 - 25/11026 Full Planning Permission

ANNEXE, THE OLD RECTORY, EAST MARTIN ROAD, EAST MARTIN SP6 3LJ

Dormer window to roof of existing annexe *Council recommends PAR 3 Approval*

To ratify the following tree works applications: *Both items ratified by the Council*

25-161.2 - CONS/25/0624

Willow x 1 Reduce

Thatchers Folly, Sycamore Green, Martin, Fordingbridge, SP6 3LG

The reply to Tree Teams from the Council was that there were no objections

25-161.3 - CONS/25/0622

Proposed Works: Yew - Reduce

Martin Shop, Martin Road, Martin, Fordingbridge, SP6 3LD

The reply to Tree Teams from the Council was that there were no objections, although we hoped that the arborist would be encouraged to reduce the tree in an aesthetically pleasing way rather than just chopping the top down.

25-162-Assertion 10- To report on Assertion 10 training. *Clerk explained that Martin Parish Council meets most of the requirements. There are just a few policies that need to be added before the end of the financial year.*



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25-163-Local Government Reorganisation- To discuss and decide how the Council will give it's answer to the consultation due by 11 January 2026. *The Council looked over the questions with the clerk and decided the preferred plan was option 1. Clerk to answer the questions on behalf of the Council using the discussion that took place during the meeting.*

25-164-Financial Matters-

25-164.1- To receive Clerk's General Report. *Balance as of 8 December - £11571.28*

25-164.2- To agree to pay the following invoices: *All expenses approved.*

- Blandford Hall -Dec £24.00 **Additional cost for Blandford Hall meetings OCT -£8**

25-164.3- To ratify the following payments from the bank account: *Item ratified*

- Bank Service Charge- £4.25

25-164.4- To ratify the following payments from the Equals Card: *Item ratified*

- MS365-OCT, NOV, DEC- £9.72x3=£29.16 **Lebara- NOV & DEC - £10.00 WHUK-OCT £14.29**

25-165-Minor Matters and Items for the Next Agenda -Councillors to report minor matters and items for future agendas.

- 11 January Litter Pick from The Hart to A354. Meet at 9am.

-Chalk White Trust seeking more Trustees with financial background and of younger age. Guest speaker at next meeting.

- Quotation for hedge in community orchard. Complaint received regarding its height by the homes.

-Hedging along footpath 501 requires cutting back.

Date of Next Meeting is 12 January 2025

Melissa Hildreth Clerk - Martin Parish Council