

**Minutes of the meeting of the Upper Deverills Parish Council
held at Upper Deverills Village Hall
on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 6.00pm**

Present:

Councillors: Jamie Fagan (Chair), Andy Hardwick (Cllr), Angie Beloe (Cllr), Louise Stratton (Cllr).

Five members of the public were present.

25/26. To accept apologies for absence

None.

26/26. To discuss dispensations

None.

27/26. To record declarations of interest

None.

28/26. To discuss exclusion of the Press and Public

No reasons were given to exclude the press and public.

29/26. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 14th January 2026

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair. They were proposed by Cllr LS and seconded by Cllr AB.

Matter Arising.

Item 21/26, the Chair asked if Cllr AH had submitted a written document for the Parish News. Cllr AH will check and do so if this has not already been done. AH

30/26. To hear reports from Visitors

None present.

31/26. To hear the Chair's announcements.

None.

32/26. To hear the Clerk's report including any matters dealt with under Parish Clerk's delegated powers LGA 1972 s101

None.

33/26. To approve the items of expenditure listed in the period February 2026 and note receipt of any income LGA 1972 s150(5)

Bank Reconciliation – opening balance as per bank statement 12th January £11,547.70

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Closing balance as per bank statement 11th March 2026 £10,330.41.

Set out below are the transactions that occurred in this period.

No income.

Date	Description	Debit	Credit
12 Jan 26	Litter Pickers x 6	£120.00	
12 Jan 26	Parish Magazine Grant 25/26	£375.00	
26 Jan 26	L Napper Dec/Jan 26	£710.19	
31 Jan 26	Service Charge	£6.00	
28 Feb 26	Service Charge	£6.00	

Approved: Proposed by Cllr JF and seconded by Cllr LS.

34/26. Planning

- Kingsdown Farm - The Clerk had asked Wiltshire Council for an extension of time in order to consider this application at this meeting but had not received a reply. Correspondence has been received from WC to explain that the application has now been called in by the Western Area Planning Committee. The Chair asked all the Cllrs for their thoughts on this application. Given the views of Councillors, the Chair proposed that the Parish Council should submit a comment to the Planning Committee. This will state that the Parish Council supports the comment made by Cranborne Chase National Landscapes. The Parish Council will wish to reiterate their comments. **Chair**

- 46b Kingston Deverill – The Parish Council has been informed that it appears that a shed has been added to this property which appears to be a breach of one of the conditions of a planning consent. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the residents at 46b Kingston Deverill to make them aware that this has been raised and to give them an opportunity to respond. **Chair**

35/26 Clerk Resignation/Recruitment

The Chair on behalf of the PC thanked the Clerk for her services over the last 4 years. The Clerks employment is due to end 31/03/2026. The PC are taking steps to advertise and recruit the new Clerk.

36/26. Co-Option

This item was removed from the agenda.

37/26. Risk Register

Cllr AH has been through the Risk Register and will continue to do so, including revising and looking at the current policies the Parish Council have in place. To return this item to the next meeting. **AH**

38/26. Internal Audit

Auditing Solutions have carried out internal audits in the past. They have ceased to operate. Correspondence has been received from a new organisation that has taken on this role. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for internal audit services. It was agreed that if the cost is similar to previous years, then in principle the Clerk is to instruct the new internal auditor to carry out the work. **Clerk**

39/26. IT Policy

AH to update with the amendments he suggested and publish the policy on the website. **AH**

40/26. River name

The Parish Council do not believe that there is sufficient support among local residents for a name change of the river and therefore, after careful consideration will not be taking this matter forward.

41/26. Flooding – Popes Bridge & Green House

No further action.

42/26. Mere Fire Station Closure

This item was discussed and it was agreed to publish the communication on the Upper Deverills website and also in the Parish News. The Chair will ask Mrs Richardson to post on Facebook. The Chair asked for clarification on what the actual proposals are, in order to inform to then enable how the PC comments. Cllr AB agreed to take on this task in order to inform the PC. Cllr AH will send some details to the Parish News and will put the flyer onto all the notice boards. **AB/AH/JF**

43/26. Wessex Internet

A public meeting is booked for next Tuesday 17th March at 6pm to be held at the village hall.

44/26. Verges

Covered in item 49/26

45/26. Potholes

Cllr AH reported that the stretch of road from Kingston Deverill to Longbridge has had the potholes fixed.

46/26. Co-Option

Duplication of item.

47/26. To hear updates and agree actions with regards to Rights of Way

No update.

48/26. To hear updates on the Parish Steward and agree any actions

The Parish Steward has not visited since mid December due to being on winter duties. They should return in late March/April.

49/26. To hear updates and agree any actions with regards to Highways

Correspondence has been received from a resident with regards to the verge issue at Smoke Alley. It is a blind bend that when the vegetation grows is hazardous. A suggestion by the resident to move the metal post may help rectify this problem.

It was agreed by all Cllrs as this is a road a safety issue that has been brought to the PC's attention the Chair will write to Pertwood Farm making them aware of the situation and ask for their consideration of moving the fence line.

Separately, the Chair made all aware that a site meeting is now scheduled for 17 March with Wiltshire Council's Local highways and footways group. The aim is to inform the group about a request for a sign to be placed near Kingston Deverill church to state that the road is 'unsuitable for heavy vehicles'.

49/26. Mobile Phones/Communications update

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Wiltshire Council have launched something called 'Digital Wiltshire'. Cllr AH has written to Cllr Newbury asking for details.

Cllr AH reported that there was a planned power cut recently. During this power cut it was apparent that the mobile phone signal from the mast in Monkton Deverill stopped working. Cllr AH is progressing this with Vodafone to see if there is battery back up in place. **AH**

50/26. To agree any items for Newsletter, Notice Boards and Parish Council website

Date of next meeting including meeting of the Parish at 6pm followed by PC meeting at 7pm – Website and Parish News

Closure of Mere Fire Station – Website, Parish News and boards

IT Policy - Website

51/26. Additional items for next meeting's agenda

Progress against the Parish Plan

Risk Register

52/26. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 13th May 7pm for Parish Council Annual Meeting

Meeting of the Parish 6pm

Abbreviations:

LGA 1972: Local Government Act 1972

Signed (Chair)

Date