

SUTTON WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 1st October 2025 - held at The Village Hall.

MINUTES

Present: Chair: David Smith **PC Councillors:** John Ellis, Iain McNeil, Sandy Millard & Mike Asher. **Dorset Councillor:** Jane Somper (absent) **Clerk:** Sam Smith
Residents: Jane McNeil, Gill Samways, Walter Steward

1/10/01 Apologies for absence: Cllr Jane Somper. Residents - Dick Hood, Roger & Clare Snowdon, Ian Pinder & Martin Jelbert

1/10/02 Declarations of Interest: None

1/10/03 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on the 14th of May 2025 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

1/10/04 Matters Arising:

a. Napiers Way road junction Dorset Council have recently conducted a review into the PCs recent request to reduce or remove the island at Napiers Way/Church Lane. DC injury collision records date back to 1998, and they have no record of any injury collisions anywhere close to this location, therefore they will not be looking to carry out any changes to this island at present.

1/10/05 Correspondence/other Parish matters:

a. Report from Dorset Councillor Jane Somper reported as follows – the PC meeting tonight is clashing with Melbury Abbas & Cann where I have invited the Cabinet member for planning to attend, so the parish council and residents are able to ask questions and request clarity on the many houses identified (Dorset Local Plan draft) for them within their parish. Clearly there is no development here in Sutton Waldron, but we sit in between Iwerne Minster (categorised as a large village although no development has been allocated) and Fontmell Magna where you will have seen that 105 additional units have been added on the plan for them. I held a joint ward meeting earlier in September (Cllr Smith attended) where a presentation was given and discussions undergone. It was well attended with helpful and insightful questions. The very important point to consider is the 'flexible settlement' approach, which basically means village boundaries go, leaving room for development where it has previously been protected. I urge the parish council to respond to the consultation and to pay particular attention to this point with an eye on 'rural creep'. **Cllr Jane.Somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk**

The Dorset Local Plan Consultation is open for comments until the 13th October 2025. The final plan will identify where housing is to be built over the next 17 years. The draft plan highlights potential land/sites for development. There are more sites in plan than needed as there will naturally be a 50% will drop off. The PC will submit a response to the consultation, highlighting the issues with rural creep and infrastructure problems. Cllr DS will liaise with Jane Somper & the other PC Cllrs to form a response.

b. Inspection of The Spinney, Bus Shelter & Telephone Box In accordance with the Risk Management Policy the Chairman confirmed the Spinney, the Bus Shelter and the Telephone Box had been inspected. The Spinney has been tidied up by Mike Peat recently. Malcolm has spoken to Jane McNeil in passing and suggested that he would like to install 2 hanging baskets and a wildflower raised bed at the bus shelter. The PC would prefer baskets fixed to the walls rather than hanging for safety issues. Otherwise, all PC Cllrs agree that they supported the proposal.

c. Community Speed Watch Gill Samways reported as follows – North Dorset Police are hosting a speed awareness day on the 13th of October 2025. The Police will be attending Speed Watch sessions in North Dorset on this day. If you are caught speeding by the SpeedWatch team and the Police are in attendance you will receive a fine/or be prosecuted.

d. Parish Council email address The Clerk has been informed that from the 2026 audit (April) the PC will need to have .gov email address. The Clerk has contacted our current email provider (Vision ICT) and they have not been very helpful. DAPTC have a contact who will provide a free email service to small PCs. The Clerk will investigate this further, and report back on progress at the December PC meeting.

1/10/06 Planning Applications:

14 Church Lane DT11 8PA – P/TRC/2025/03435 & 03443 tree works – **approved** by Dorset Council.

P/LBC/2025/05072 re pointing of front elevation & external & internal alterations – **waiting** for approval/refusal by Dorset Council planning.

P/LBC/2025/04247 & P/HOU/2025/04246 installation – air source heat pump, hot water cylinder, under floor heating and radiators – **approved** by Dorset Council planning.

P/HOU/2025/02881 erect single storey extension & convert garage to annexe – **approved** by Dorset Council planning.

4 Napiers Way DT11 8PE – P/TRC/2025/03443 tree works – **permission** from Dorset Council not required.

1/10/07 Finance:

a. Bills to be paid It was agreed that the following should be paid:

S Smith £116.30	(June 2025 salary & expenses)
S Smith £129.79	(July 2025 salary & expenses)
S Smith £116.30	(August 2025 salary & expenses)
S Smith £116.30	(September 2025 salary & expenses)
Lloyds Bank £4.25 x 4	(monthly bank charges)
Mike Peat £330	(Spinney maintenance)
DAPTC £130	(annual membership subs)
Vision ICT £185.26	(PC annual website/email)

Received in the PC bank account – Dorset Council precept payment **£1,500** (50%)

The reconciled bank and cash balance as of 1st October 2025 was **£5,571.95**

A copy of the latest PC bank statement was given to the Chairman.

The Clerk has opened a savings account connected to the main PC account; this gains a small amount of interest.

b. Local Government Services pay agreement 2025 (Clerk) NJC has agreed the new pay scales for 2025/26 (Clerk) to be back dated to April 2025. It was agreed by all PC Cllrs to increase the Clerks pay as recommend and back date the pay rise.

1/10/08 AOB/open forum: Cllr Millard reported that DC Highways have undertaken some very ad hoc filling of village potholes recently, but other large holes have not been touched. Cllr Asher reported that DC Highways had recently been seen in The Street marking yellow outlines on the road. Is the road to be re surfaced again? Cllr Jane Somper is asking for PC Cllrs to identify trees along the A350 that they think need to be inspected safety wise. Cllr Asher enquired if the PC have in the past looked into a 20mph speed limit for the village? What is the procedure and is this something the village might be supportive of? The Clerk will forward some information on to Cllrs Smith & Asher for reading.

1/10/09 Reports:

a. Church The recent Owen Jones weekend was very successful. All the work at the church is now completed we are just waiting for the scaffolding to come down.

b. Village Hall Jane McNeil reported that the gutter has been replaced along the back of the hall, hopefully there will now be no more leaks. The fingerpost roundell has been mounted above the hall door. Jane is resigning from the hall committee at their AGM in October 2025. She has been on the committee for 22 years.

c. Footpaths The style on the far side of the brook on the footpath leading to the Farrington Road is still waiting to be modified.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be on the 3rd December 2025 @ 7.30pm.

Sutton Waldron Village Hall. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Signed by the Chairman **Date.....**