

# **SUTTON WALDRON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 - held at The Village Hall.**

## **MINUTES**

**Present: Chair:** David Smith **PC Councillors:** John Ellis, Sandy Millard & Mike Asher.

**Dorset Councillor:** Jane Somper (absent) **Clerk:** Sam Smith

**Residents:** Jane McNeil, Roger Snowden, Christl Pearson & Amanda Ellis.

**03/12/01 Apologies for absence:** Cllr Jane Somper. PC Cllr Iain McNeil.

**Residents** Dick Hood, Martin Jelbert & Gill Samways.

**03/12/02 Declarations of Interest:** None

**03/12/03 Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st October 2025 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

**03/12/04 Matters Arising:**

**a. Parish Council email address (.gov):** The Clerk has been informed that from the 2026 audit (April 2026) the PC will need to have .gov email address. The Clerk has contacted a company that is offering free set up for small PCs. We qualify for the service, but as demand is high, we are on a waiting list for email set up.

**b. 20mph speed limit in the village:** Cllr MA has completed some research into a possible 20 mph limit for the village. In the meantime, could the temporary 20mph limit on the A350 (Dinahs Hollow works) be extended through Sutton Waldron village? Cllr DS will contact Jane Somper and ask, the village might be used for short cuts due to the planned traffic restrictions. A temporary reduction in the speed limit could get people thinking, would residents want to apply for a permanent 20mph through the village? Community support is key to any application along with collision history, traffic flow, average speeds, number of cyclist & pedestrians etc.

**03/12/05 Correspondence/other Parish matters:**

**a. Report from Dorset Councillor:** Jane Somper was absent from the meeting but sent a report as follows – Dinah Hollow closure – this will commence on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 for approx a 12 month duration. There will be multiple traffic restrictions, lights and one-way systems. This is all to allow for the slope stabilisation works in Dinahs Hollow to take place. The first 3-4 months of the closure will be for bats and dormice conservation & re homing. The road will be closed at Compton Abbas Airfield coming from the Blandford direction. Access will be permitted for residents and emergency vehicles only. Speed restrictions will include a temporary 20mph limit along the A350 at Iwerne Minster, Sutton Waldron, Fontmell Magna and Compton Abbas with 30mph at Stepleton Bends. There will be 3 way traffic lights at Clayesmore School. Jane successfully advocated on behalf of the village against a diversion route down Sutton Hill on to the A350 heading north that would be completely unsuitable and officers have agreed. There will no doubt be disruption, and we will need to let the routes settle in before suggesting any adjustments. **CllrJane.Somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk**

**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.

**c. Community Speed Watch:** Gill Samways was absent from the meeting. The Clerk suggested that with the new 20mph speed restriction planned on the A350 the SpeedWatch team might want to check that their authority to check traffic speed still applies.

**03/12/06 Planning Applications: P/LBC/2025/07107** Proposal: removal of cement render from internal walls and re-rendering with lime mortar. Location: 14 Church Lane DT11 8PA

**P/PABA/2025/06112** Proposal: form agricultural hardstanding surface. Location: Vale Farm Peggs Lane To The Street DT11 8PG

**PC NO OBJECTIONS** to both applications.

The PCs response to the recent Dorset Local Plan consultation has been submitted since the last PC meeting in October.

**03/12/07 Finance:**

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

S Smith **£159.29** (Oct 2025 salary & expenses)

S Smith **£141.05** (Nov 2025 salary & expenses)

HMRC **£56.70** (Clerks PAYE)

Lloyds Bank **£4.25** x 2 (monthly bank charges)

The reconciled bank and cash balance as of December 2025 was **£5,210.92**

**b. Budget/precept 2026/27:** The Clerk issued a draft budget/precept document to PC Cllrs. Our expenditure for this year is very close to our budget set. We should finish the year end with a balance in the bank of more less where we started in April 2025. The precept has been **£3,000** for the past 3 years. Is it now time to raise the precept to cover rising costs? A 10% increase was suggested; therefore the 2026 precept was agreed at **£3,300**. This will mean a rise of **£3.58** per Band D property for the year.

**03/12/08 A.O.B Open forum:** The Clerk had some hard copies of a Dorset Council 'Age Friendly' survey for anyone over 50yrs to complete.

**03/12/09 Reports:**

**a. Church:** The scaffolding has come down from the tower & the rendering is now finished. New lights have been installed with a grant covering the costs. There will be an article on the church in Country Life in spring 2026. The carol service this year will be on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**b. Village Hall:** Jane McNeil has stepped down after 22 years as Chairperson. A big thank you was said to her from the PC on behalf of the village. A new Chairperson has yet to be elected but the new committee is up and running. Recently a film night and quiz night have been held. Jingle & Mingle will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> December in the hall.

**c. Footpaths:** Everything is wet but ok. The stile on the far side of the brook on the footpath leading to the Farringdon Road is still waiting to be modified.

**Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be on the **11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 @ 7.30pm**.

Sutton Waldron Village Hall. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

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