

Melbury Osmond Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting Tuesday, 09 September 2025, 7.30pm at Melbury Osmond Village Hall

09.09.01 Parish councillors present; Richard Paley (chairman), Robert Ward (temp. clerk), Martin Smith, Pete Coverdale
Two parishioners
Dorset Cllr Kippax

09.09.02 The draft minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2025 were approved.

09.09.03 Open meeting

JS noted that the plaque for the oak tree planted on the playing field by Charlotte Townshend has become dislodged and requires replacing. The PC has agreed to take this forward.

The road edges are collapsing along certain parts of the highway, due to erosion and the movement of heavy agricultural vehicles. Blocked drains are also adding to the deterioration of the highway, especially when there is heavy rainfall.

It was agreed that the clearance of leaf debris from drains and gulleys is essential to enhance the water drainage, but that a request to Dorset Council to carry the clearance should be delayed until the end of Autumn when leaf drop is completed.

Dorset Cllr Kippax introduced the Local Plan for Dorset, covering many topics including new housing projects (as part of 53,000 new homes that central government are proposing for Dorset). Specific to this area are three possible locations for development with the Yetminster Ward. The developing Local Plan is now available and out for consultation online by the general public until 13th October 2025. There will also be an opportunity for public consultation with Dorset County officials regarding the Local Plan. This is timetabled to be held at the Dorchester Corn Exchange on Thursday, 11th September 2025 (2pm-7pm).

09.09.04 Matters to be discussed

- Footpaths update: The Meads footpath requires further clearing to allow better access. Hedges need to be cut back by various owners. The disposal of old cuttings needs to be addressed to ensure that they do not constitute a hazard to those parishioners walking across the Meads. MS will liaise with the various interested parties about this.
- Highways update: The raised lump in the main highway through the village has not yet been fixed by Dorset Highways, although they have been notified of the issue for some time. RP will contact them about it again to ascertain a timescale for the work to be done.
- Play area update: PC has contacted gardener Dave Woollacott re any outstanding payments and he will report back to MOPC once an itemised bill has been provided.

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09.09.05 Finance update

- Current financial statement; MOPC has £7,240.00 in its Lloyds account. £3,000 will be made over to the MO Village Hall committee as a contribution to the centenary fund.
RW proposed that two new benches were purchased to be set near boules court, along with a score board, to encourage greater use of this facility.
PC suggested that more play equipment could be purchased for the play-ground, targeting older children (climbing logs or a fitness trail etc)

09.09.06 Planning applications

- P/HOU/2025/03752 - Bridge Cottage chimney – no objections
- P/FUL/2025/03699 – Melbury Dairy House – covered clamp – no objections

09.09.07 Correspondence: none

09.09.08 AOB:

The council unanimously agreed that the Council Insurance premium (£710.60) should be paid with immediate effect.

RP asked Cllr Kippax whether he was aware if there are any villages in his ward or wider Dorset that have public charging points for electric cars installed and if there were any lessons or experiences that could be shared. Cllr Kippax will investigate and report back to MOPC.

RP noted that the request to MOPC for such a charging station has been forwarded to the village hall committee chair as previously agreed.

09.09.09 To clarify decisions

RP to pay the council insurance

PC to research new playground equipment

MS to liaise with residents of the Meads to encourage hedgerow cut back.

The jubilee tree on the playing field will also be attended to.

RW to pay money for Village Hall renovations to the MOVH committee.

09.09.10 Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 11th November 2025 at 7.30

Meeting ended at 8.30 pm