

**THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
TARRANT GUNVILLE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 5 AUGUST 2025**

Present: Councillors Charlie Regnart (Chair), Jim Farquharson, Jim Shephard, Heather Sandison, Shirley Bragg and Guy Nicholson

In attendance: Tony Langdown, Rights of Way Officer; John Holloway, Parish Clerk

Members of the public: No members of the public present.

25/26. Welcome and opening remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25/27. Apologies for absence

Councillor Paul Wentworth; Dermot Cusack, Flood Warden.

25/28. To agree the minutes of the quarterly meeting held on Tuesday 6 May 2025

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

25/29. Matters arising from these minutes

Shirley Bragg was congratulated for her work on the Coronation pathways and graphics relating to them.

25/30. Reports from appointed representatives and committees

Rights of Way

Tony reported a huge variation in upkeep of paths by landowner. It was acknowledged that long brambles were dangerous to walkers, but the aim was for passable paths only with the caveat that cutting between February and August had legal connotations i.e. it was NOT permissible. Cross field paths could be kept clear during this period and that it was not permissible to plough boundary paths. There is increasing pressure on the Rangers and consequently they are less likely to be available in the future. A consensus was that a cosmetic approach to some of the parish rights of way would be a laudable aim.

Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch

Neighbourhood Watch – Jan Robinson was not present, so the Chair reported that there had been two break-ins to outbuildings and the police had conducted door to door enquiries.

Community Speedwatch – No recent speedwatch activity. It was re-iterated that Jan Robinson was keen to relinquish the role and therefore a replacement would be sought.

Flood Warden

Dermot Cusack was absent; the recent prolonged dry spell meant there were no pressing issues to discuss. However, upkeep of the watercourse will be discussed under item 8.

Village Hall Committee Representative

Cllr Wentworth was absent, but it was reported that the village hall committee had successfully achieved Hallmark levels 1 and 2.

25/31. Planning matters

No applications received during the last inter-meeting period.

25/32. Village Maintenance

The Chair spoke to this item. Although the watercourse is currently dry it was noted that since the clean by Jim Bullpit's house it had become very overgrown. The Chair plans to arrange a 2-day clearance with a mini-excavator and is looking for assistance which was promised from some of those present. Not all riparian owners were onboard with measures on their properties for various reasons – it was therefore planning to clear in David Morrow's property. Also, it was noted the area opposite Marlborough Farm and past Janet's house needs cleaning.

25/33. Squires Playing Field

Despite sterling efforts by the Squire's Field team, it was poor usage of the amenity was noted. The parish council spends a large proportion of its fund on the "field" and an increased usage would be desirable. Options discussed were a conversion of the tennis court to dual use as a "pickleball" court also. A sign post directing users to the "field" was suggested as was a fund-raising event.

25/34. Correspondence received

No correspondence received.

25/35. Any other business

Dog fouling has been increasing on the path to Harbin's Farm and on the Squires Field. The Chair will arrange notification to villagers, noting that it is possibly caused by owners from without the villages.

Village Green status was discussed, and a proposal was suggested to add this to the website if possible when / if achieved.

Lucas Trust – ongoing.

Noted that holes were being dug in the park to create a spillway to the pond. It was agreed to urgently contact Dorset Council whether planning processes had been followed. It was very concerning that the spillway may be in concrete.

25/36. Items from members of the public

None.

25/37. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 4 November 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed