

Background Report November 2025

Reports from:

b. The Parish Clerk – I will be attending the SLCC Bootcamp on 19th November, and Branch meeting on 21st November.

c. The Council's representative to the Southern Area Board – next meeting Thursday 20th November at Whiteparish VH. Updates on Rights of Way maintenance and the Youth Provision project.

80.25 Finance

d. To note the October 2025.2026 Budget Monitoring form – I still cannot reconcile the accounts on the new software, as there is an issue with the online card access from Lloyds, which has now raised a technical issue ticket. I am awaiting further advice. I have provided the information using the old Excel software

e. To consider a draft budget for 2026/2027 – very much a draft budget to be discussed, and at the time of writing, I don't have the Council Tax Base figure for 2026/2027 to be able to calculate the Band D figure. The final figure to be submitted to Wiltshire Council by 16th January 2026

f. To consider quotes for two replacement benches in recycled plastic
Glasdon bench - £585.00 plus VAT. Free delivery



Broxap bench - £683.00 plus delivery plus VAT



NBB Recycled Furniture – bench - £580.00 plus VAT. Free delivery



- g. *To receive an update concerning Parish Online, mapping software for assets etc* – I have taken out an annual subscription for £75.00 for mapping software, so that we can mark FPC assets. Plus, the drains gullies etc
- h. *To consider a quote for a solar power Speed Indicator Device from the existing supplier* - £2990 including delivery plus VAT.
- i. *To agree the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC Practitioners Conference 2026 in the sum of £247.00*

81.25 Governance

- a. To consider amendments to the adopted IT policy – see attached
- b. To adopt a draft Cyber Security policy – see attached
- c. To note an update concerning the External Auditors report for 2024/2025 – the IA reports that the EA will not change its view, and so last years figures will need to be reinstated on the 2025/26 AGAR

82.25 New Issues raised for consideration and action as necessary

None noted

83.25 Highway/Parish Steward/Footpath matters.

d. To note any updates, particularly from the most recent Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group, October 2025:

i. Signing & lining improvements at the junction of the A30 London Road and Old Malthouse Lane (in conjunction with Pitton & Farley Parish Council) – LHFIFG contribution confirmed at Area Board in September. Traffic Officer will submit this to M Group in November for programming, which will be actioned hopefully before the end of March 2026, depending on the weather.

ii. Dunstable Crossroads safety improvements - Following a draft proposal and a discussion with a member of the substantive bid panel it is deemed unlikely to succeed when looking at full amendment schemes based on the nature of the collisions, a cost to benefit ratio and an uncertainty over land requirements. Cost heading towards £1m. The Traffic Officer has worked on a cheaper scheme (£16.7k) which includes enhanced signing and lining and coloured tarmac across the junction area.

iii. Dropped kerb at Firs Road/A30 junction – to be allocated to the traffic engineering team to progress once confirmation has been received. **Should this be queried, there are several WC signs already in the location, why are they worried about the legal ownership of the verge now?**

iv. Amendments to the B.O.A.T. designation – Traffic Officer awaiting meetings with ROW team to discuss and provide FPC with a cost/timeframe for the application. **Should this be closed? It will be a long and costly process and will be challenged vigorously by other user groups.**

v. A30 London Road/Firs Road junction speed reduction project – M Group instructed, with a 10-to-12-week lead time, work should be done by the end of January 2026, allowing for weather.

85.25 To review and note other ongoing matters or decide on further action. As appropriate

- a. Possibility of the FPC buying the woodland at the northwestern end of Firs Road from the Christie-Miller Estate – nothing to report.