



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
11 NOVEMBER 2024
BLACKDOWN VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr. Rick Dyke (Chairman), Cllr. Chris Beck, Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Stephen Curtis, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Philip Dixon, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Garry Miller, Cllr. Sonia Raymond, Cllr. Nathalie Roberts, Cllr. Kevin Webb, Cllr. Yvonne White.

ATTENDANCE: Councillor Simon Christopher (Dorset Council), Helen Cudmore (Clerk).

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by Councillor Dyke. Councillor Dyke welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. Councillor Dyke welcomed Councillor Webb who was attending his first meeting. There was one member of the public present. A minute's silence was observed to remember those who had served and lost their lives in war.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Beer and from PCSO Bishop and unanimously approved by the Parish Council.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS, DISPENSATIONS AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS UPDATES

a. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors and employees on matters to be considered at the Meeting.

Councillor Beck stated that as a member of the Drimpton Village Hall Committee he had an interest in Agenda Item 6b. Councillor Frampton stated that he had an interest in Agenda Item 8b. The Clerk informed that this Agenda Item was not going to be discussed at the meeting.

b. To receive requests for dispensations.

The Clerk reported that she had received a dispensation request in relation to Agenda Item 7c from all Councillors present at the meeting.

c. To grant any requests for dispensation.

All dispensations were granted.

d. To receive any updates to the Register of Interests from Councillors.

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 October 2024 were confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor Dyke.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Dyke stated that since the last meeting the Government had delivered its first budget and stated that it was even more severe than was expected, impacting particularly on the farming community. Councillor Dyke thanked Councillor Frampton for promptly organising a meeting at Comrades Hall and getting representatives from the NFU and the new MP to attend. Councillor Dyke stated that whilst there are no immediate solutions, the meeting shared some knowledge on the issues and hopefully word will spread that there's no need for panic.

Councillor Dyke reported that he had attended a recent Parochial Church Council meeting during which it was clarified that noise complaints about the bells were not limited to a single household but involved multiple residents. Meetings are ongoing with Canon Baldwin and the affected parishioners to resolve the issue. Councillor Dyke stated that he will provide updates as progress is made.

The Parish Council discussed the upcoming DAPTC AGM, where a proposal to transition to a company limited by guarantee will be voted on. Councillor Roberts will represent the Parish Council and vote on behalf of the Parish Council to support the proposal.

Councillor Frampton stated that on behalf of the Cricket Club he wished to thank everyone who helped with the Fireworks event and reported that £1500 had been raised which will be equally split between the community pub to support the purchase of kitchen equipment and also the Cricket Club. Councillor Frampton stated that he also wished to thank the Chairman for his involvement with the Remembrance Service and the Clerk for helping to organise and highlighted two poignant moments, when the two minute's silence was about to commence, two cyclists dismounted their bikes and stood with their heads bowed, holding traffic behind them as did a car coming in the opposite direction and the laying of a wreath by a parishioner in memory of her husband. Councillor Frampton stated that it is so important to have a central place for the village to display their tributes and a place for reflection.

Councillor Dyke referred to an email which had been sent to the Parish Council and subsequently circulated by the Clerk relating to an issue that occurred in Drimpton where hunt saboteurs filmed a fox being killed and then disposed of. Councillor Dyke stated that he had received correspondence from a local representative of the Seavington Hunt and read aloud the response. The response stated that the event which had been filmed was a genuine unfortunate accident, the fox had not been hunted and as it all happened so quickly there was nothing that could be done to stop the hounds. The communication stated that the

governing body, the British Hound Sports Association had suspended the Hunt from all hunting activities whilst they investigate the incident and that the Hunt had submitted detailed information for the suspension to be lifted. The communication stated that the Hunt has detailed video evidence of the trail aim undertaken that day and that they will be attending a meeting with the regulatory authority on Wednesday, where it is hoped that the current suspension will be lifted. The communication also stated that it was understood that the video taken by the hunt saboteurs had also been sent to the Police Rural Crime Unit and that they are undertaking their own investigation.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher reported that a meeting to discuss the proposed footpath to link the village of Broadwindsor and the Cricket Club had been scheduled for Thursday 14 November at 10.00 am and stated that the Parish Council would be welcome to attend. Councillor Christopher asked for any questions. Councillor Frampton commented that he very much welcomed the resurfacing work being carried out by Dorset Council between Broadwindsor and Drimpton and Broadwindsor and Horn Park but stated that this had been a missed opportunity. Councillor Frampton stated that whilst the tarmac lorries were travelling backwards and forwards and the road closed, the path could have been constructed and that a joined up approach is always talked about, this would have been a great opportunity to demonstrate that. Councillor Christopher stated that last week he had a meeting with Jonathan Mair, the Chief Lawyer for Dorset Council and one of the two issues that he raised was about the state of the roads in the Marshwood Vale ward and asked that Dorset Council review all of the road surfaces and all safety aspects for the ward. Councillor Christopher stated that Jonathan Mair did understand the issues as Dorset Council would be in a very difficult place in front of a coroner's court if it hadn't looked after safety aspects, for example that could be in relation to the footpath. Councillor Christopher stated that he still contends that road surfaces in this particular area aren't as good as they are in other parts of Dorset and that he hoped that he will get the chance to see the Portfolio Holder for Highways later in the week.

Councillor Dyke asked if there were any planning updates. Councillor Christopher stated that there are no concrete answers in respect to the outcome of a future Dorset Local Plan and that when it comes forward, there will be a lot of focus on houses, but it should also take into account employment. Councillor Christopher stated that there's been lots of discussion about increased defence expenditure and that Councillors may have heard in the last week, that a Dorset company now has a contract worth approximately £120 million to educate German helicopter pilots at Portland, which is brilliant for employment in Dorset. Councillor Christopher stated that more good quality employment is needed in Dorset. Councillor Christopher stated that there has been much angst and depression about employment generally because of what has happened in the budget and negative news about hospitality. Councillor Christopher stated that the budget had been particularly negative on the farming

industry and that he had received lots of telephone calls. Councillor Miller asked if there had been any updates about the street lighting in Broadwindsor. Councillor Christopher stated that perhaps the Parish Council may wish to encourage Mr. Mainstone to meet in Broadwindsor to highlight these concerns. Councillor Dyke stated that he suspected that this would happen once the policy review had been completed which was likely to take a couple of months. Councillor Christopher stated that the Leader of Dorset Council has made it his mission to visit every town council but hasn't made the commitment to visit every parish council so perhaps Broadwindsor Group Parish Council may wish to invite him to one of their meetings. Councillor Christopher stated that there is a lot of angst within the county of Dorset that all Cabinet Members, apart from one, are from South Dorset.

b. Report from Dorset Police

The Clerk read aloud the report from PCSO Bishop which had been circulated, there were no questions.

There were no comments from the member of the public.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Dorset Police, Community Speedwatch in Broadwindsor

Councillor Dyke stated that there used to be a community speedwatch team in Broadwindsor but that it is now not operational. Councillor Dyke stated that Dorset Police had made contact as a parishioner had raised an interest with them to restart it and had asked if the equipment was still held by the Parish Council. Councillor Dyke stated that he had no objection to that but questioned how many people would be needed to effectively run it and stated that the Parish Council would have to have some sort of involvement.

Councillor Frampton stated that data from the speed indicator devices could be downloaded to identify the best places to target. The Clerk stated that the speed indicator devices do provide some data which can be extracted but that she had been informed by the team at Dorset Council that the data is not useful and that the speed indicators are in place to encourage compliance with the speed limit. The Clerk stated that if data is required, the team at Dorset Council can carry out a survey for the Parish Council but there would be a cost implication. The Clerk stated that data has never been downloaded so perhaps it should be and then reviewed.

Councillor Dixon asked if the kit could be used on a more informal basis. The Clerk stated that there are specific rules which must be followed by a speedwatch team and Dorset Police would have to be involved to provide training and identify the sites to be monitored. Members of the public or Council cannot go out independently with the kit. Councillor Frampton asked whether this means that we do not know if we have a speeding problem, other than people's anecdotes of experiences. Councillor Dyke stated that he suspected vehicles speed through all routes into the village and whether one is any worse than another, he was not sure as he believed that it was a common problem. Councillor Frampton stated that regular visual Police presence would solve the problem of speeding. Councillor Harris

stated that there is a speedwatch team in Drimpton which operates from one location and stated that the team do not meet that regularly and although speeds captured are higher than they should be, there hasn't been any cause to report anyone. Councillor Harris stated that the team act as a deterrent, vehicles slow down then they see that the team is out, but stated that it is a momentary deterrent. Councillor Harris stated that you can't just set up in any location, therefore it may not be possible to capture data from the areas you believe to be the places where vehicles speed. Councillor Harris stated that occasionally the team have a visit from the Police. It was agreed to feedback to Dorset Police that in principle the Parish Council was supportive of restarting a community speedwatch team, but it would be dependent upon how much support could be rallied.

b. Village Voices, Request for Grant

Councillor Beck left the meeting room for the duration of this Agenda Item. A grant request of £250.00 had been submitted to the Parish Council to support the Village Voices newsletter, currently funded by Drimpton Village Hall. The Council unanimously agreed to support this grant, acknowledging the newsletter's value to the community.

c. Comrades Hall, Request for Grant

The Parish Council considered a grant request for £500.00 to support the ongoing car parking improvements at Comrades Hall. The grant was approved, and it was stated that solutions to alleviate the wider parking challenges in the village should be explored.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive the Finance Report

Councillor Dyke referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 October 2024 was £47,353.04. The Clerk stated that she had included all ring-fenced funds within the spreadsheet. There were no questions.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Beck and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the Finance Report.

b. To receive and approve the Internal Audit Report 2024

Councillor Dyke thanked the Clerk and stated that it was an excellent report.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Miller and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the Internal Audit Report 2024.

c. Budget and Precept Planning 2025/2026

The Clerk reported that each January the Parish Council submits a Precept request to Dorset Council, which is the amount of money it requires to fund its projects and activities for the forthcoming year and stated that the money comes directly from the Council Tax. The Clerk stated that for this financial year the Precept was set at £32,659.29 and that in some years, the Parish Council has increased its request and other years it has retained it at the same level as the year before. The Clerk stated that she will prepare a draft budget and circulate it before

the next meeting. The Clerk asked Councillors whether there will be any new projects coming forward or new areas of expenditure that she should include in the draft budget. The Clerk reported that in December Dorset Council will publish the tax base which is the total number of Band D equivalent properties in a local council's area after adjusting for discounts, exemptions, and other reductions. The Clerk stated if you divide the Precept by its tax base you can determine the charge for each Band D property and therefore the financial impact on parishioners will not be known until the tax base is published. The Clerk stated that reasons for increasing the Precept may include inflation or a budget deficit or the Parish Council may wish to freeze the Precept due to the cost of living crisis and stated that it is important to be open and transparent when setting the Precept. Councillor Dyke stated that his own personal view was that in the current climate, the Parish Council should be doing all it can to avoid any increases. Councillor Frampton stated that the Parish Council should continue to support its village halls but look also to tighten its belt.

d. To approve payment of £84.00 for HMRC (NI)

e. To approve payment of £54.00 for Comrades Hall (Hall Hire)

f. To approve payment of £148.84 for Small Engine Services (Mower Service)

g. To approve payment of £299.00 for Scribe Accounts (Accounts Software)

h. To approve Direct Debit of £35.00 per month for Scribe Accounts (Accounts Software)

i. To approve payment of £76.72 for the Clerk (Expenses November 2024)

j. To approve payment of £1,241.00 for London Hearts (Defibrillator and Cabinet)

k. To note payment of £69.99 for Clerk (Printer)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Dixon and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments d to k.

I. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Projects

Councillor Dyke thanked the Clerk for her report and asked how often does the Parish Council receive CIL monies, stating that he appreciated that the last few years may not have been a good sample. The Clerk stated that perhaps in ten years, the Parish Council may have received approximately six CIL payments and stated that if planning regulations are loosened, it may mean that the Council receives many more going forward. Councillor Dyke asked if the Neighbourhood Plan needs to be reviewed in order to keep the 25% level. The Clerk stated in planning terms, it needs to be reviewed in order to avoid challenges from developers but in terms of the CIL she did not know but agreed to find out and report back. Councillor Harris asked if there were CIL monies in the pot which needed spending before the five year limit is up. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council received two CIL payments, £2,327.68 was received in 2022, from which it had been agreed to purchase a defibrillator for Seaborough and in 2023 £2,880 had been received due to the development at the Broadwindsor Craft and Design Centre. Councillor Harris stated that there is about £3000 to spend on a project, the Clerk stated that there is a general description on the types of eligible activity and there should be community support for any project funded. Councillor Beck suggested outdoor gym equipment at Drimpton Village Hall as a possible project idea. The Clerk stated that the Parish

Council can apply for grants in its own right and use the CIL as match funding. Councillor Dyke suggested that this be given further thought and added to the December agenda.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/FUL/2024/05726, Birdsmoorgate Farm, Birdsmoorgate, Marshwood, DT6 5QG

Councillor Miller stated that he and Councillor Frampton had attended the site visit and that the application is seeking approval for a slurry lagoon to store animal waste, something which is a legal requirement. Councillor Miller stated that he could not see any reason for the Parish Council to not support this.

P/OUT/2024/06046, Manor Farm, Common Water Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QR

Councillor Miller stated that he and Councillor Roberts had attended the site visit and that the applicant was in attendance that night. Councillor Miller stated that the proposal was seeking outline planning permission for the construction of two dwellings. Councillor Miller stated that after completing the site visit, the proposal seemed very reasonable and that he could not see any reason to object. Councillor Miller stated that a visit to a property to the rear of the applicant had been made and the owner of the property was not aware of the application and had a number of concerns relating to a possible risk of pollution and a wall which currently supports a bank. The Clerk stated that she had asked the case officer for a short extension until 25 November and the neighbouring property could either submit their own independent comments or forward them to her for inclusion within the corporate response from the Parish Council. Councillor Miller stated that he would contact the neighbour.

Councillor Dyke asked the applicant if she wished to address the Council. The applicant stated that the wall belongs to her property and is a retaining wall which is in her interest to maintain. The applicant stated that the neighbouring property has very tall leylandii which provides an effective screen already, stating that the proposed dwellings would have no visual impact on the other property. The applicant stated that she wished to build a new property to improve her visual outlook, to be able to look out on greenery.

b. Other Applications

P/PABA/2024/06217, Burstock Grange Farm, Grange Lane, Burstock, DT8 3LL

P/TRC/2024/06311, West View, West Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QQ

These applications were not discussed and reported for information only.

c. Results

The Clerk reported the following results.

P/LBC/2024/04564, Hollis Hill Cottage, Hollis Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QS: Granted

P/HOU/2024/04565, Hollis Hill Cottage, Hollis Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QS: Granted

9. GOVERNANCE

a. To resolve that Item 2.1 of the Broadwindsor Group Parish Council's Standing Orders of May 2021 be amended as follows:

2.1 Meetings of the Council shall normally be held monthly on the second Monday of the month commencing at 7.30 pm, except for the months of January and August and held in Comrades Hall, Broadwindsor, Drimpton Village Hall, Blackdown Village Hall or other appropriate venues as agreed by the Council.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Raymond, seconded by Councillor Burt and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the amendment to the Standing Orders.

10. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Councillor Dyke reported that there has been a lot of work going on in the background to prepare for the community events and that he would like to thank in particular Sheila Hawkins and Councillor Roberts. Councillor Dyke stated that Councillor Belinda Bawden would be attending to help facilitate and that good attendance is critical as community support is needed in order to make any difference. Councillor Dyke stated that if there's no interest, there's no support and nothing will be achieved. Councillor Dyke asked for support from Drimpton Councillors. Councillor Dyke stated the event will also run in Broadwindsor on 30 November. Councillor Dyke stated that it's about picking the projects that are of most interest and that we can get some traction with, and it could well differ from meeting to meeting.

11. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Dyke stated that given the time of year, no report had been submitted.

12. MUGA UPDATE

a. Update on request from BADCE to sub-lease land by the MUGA

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Battens Solicitors and asked for a quotation for the legal work associated with this proposal and stated that she had passed this on to BADCE as they have agreed to cover all legal costs incurred by the Parish Council. The Clerk stated that BADCE are considering the quotation and will respond after their next meeting.

13. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke stated that this agenda item is to do with broadband and pushing for high speed broadband in all areas of the Grouped Parish. Councillor Dyke stated that the preferred supplier is now Wessex Internet and that he is sending regular emails to both Wessex and to Dorset Council. Councillor Dyke stated that it will not be a quick process.

14. HIGHWAYS

a. Review of reported highways concerns to Dorset Council

The Clerk stated that the spreadsheet had been updated and circulated and that any updates since the last meeting have been highlighted in green. The Clerk stated that a letter from James Hussey had also been circulated and incorporated within the spreadsheet. Councillor

Dyke stated that the inaction is most frustrating and stated that with regard to Back Lane, Dorset Council said a couple of years ago that the works couldn't be done during the winter, it had to wait until the summer, then still nothing happens. Councillor Dyke stated that with regard to Kittwhistle, the reply received states that if we want action, then the Parish Council will need to pay for a speed survey which is a considerable expense. Councillor Dyke stated that the question is which issues should the Parish Council challenge and stated that the message which seems to be coming back is if there haven't been accidents with injuries, then it's low priority and that essentially people need to be injured or worse before any actions can be taken. Councillor Dyke further stated that compared to Councillor Christopher's comments at the start of the meeting that Dorset Council wouldn't want to be sued for anything that happens on their roads, this seems to be the opposite approach - that they are not going to do anything until something has happened. Councillor Dyke asked Councillors whether the Parish Council wishes to challenge Dorset Council on issues where they are not taking any action or focus efforts where there is more chance of success. Councillor Raymond stated that she had recently contacted the Clerk as she was concerned about highway safety at the pinch point in Kittwhistle. The Clerk stated that Dorset Council had been out to inspect the road and that they had issued an order for the hedge to be trimmed back. Councillor Dixon stated that even if a speed survey was carried out, unless the speed limit is reduced then vehicles will not be exceeding the limit. Councillor Frampton stated that traffic lights would be a good solution. The Clerk suggested that the focus could be the pinch point and the Parish Council could respond to Dorset Council and ask them to review this area again. The Clerk asked whether any 'near misses' have been documented locally as this would be helpful to forward to Dorset Council.

b. 96 Bus Service, Drimpton

The Clerk reported that she had contacted South West Coaches which operates the service and they had stated that they would welcome communication from the Parish Council with regard to a request to change the location of the bus stop in Drimpton. The Clerk stated that there would be a financial implication in relation to changing timetables and registering the route which may not be favourable to Somerset Council. Councillor Harris asked whether the issue will be mentioned at the event at Drimpton Village Hall at the weekend as there may be contrary points of view.

c. Street Lighting, Broadwindsor

Councillor Dyke stated that this matter had been raised earlier in the meeting and that he was aware that there are differing views, not all residents feel that they are too bright. Councillor Dyke stated that a visit will be made by Dorset Council after the policy review has taken place and that may be the time to re-engage.

d. Flooding, Hursey Lane

Councillor Dyke stated that this is the part of Hursey Lane at its lowest point where water comes off the field and pools on the lane. The Clerk stated that she had contacted Dorset

Council to ask for a site visit and advice and asked Councillor Dyke for further information on the problem to forward to the relevant officers.

15. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Frampton asked that defibrillators be added to the next agenda and reported that he and other Councillors had attended the awareness session at Blackdown Village Hall, during which the importance of being able to quickly access the defibrillator was highlighted. Councillor Frampton stated that the defibrillator at Comrades Hall had to be unlocked with a code. The Clerk stated that she had also attended the event and had contacted Councillor Dyke with the same thoughts the following day, which he has now passed on to the Comrades Hall Committee. Councillor Frampton asked whether this was a decision for the Parish Council, the Clerk stated that although the Parish Council now insures and funds the maintenance of the defibrillator, it was purchased and installed by Comrades Hall. Councillor Dyke stated that he believed that it was a decision for Comrades Hall. Councillor Miller asked whether moving the defibrillator close to the village shop should be considered. Councillor Dyke stated that there are grants available and perhaps the village should have another one. Councillor Dyke asked if this matter could be added to the agenda for December.

Councillor Webb raised the matter of vehicles parking opposite the war memorial, the Clerk stated that this had been communicated to Dorset Police and there was very little which could be done. The Clerk stated that she would circulate the email from PCSO Bishop. Councillor Burt stated that there may be more cars parked at this location at the moment due to local road works.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

The member of the public stated that with regard to water on the roads, she works in Crewkerne and on one occasion when it had been raining heavily she had to drive to Bridport in order to arrive home safely due to flooding on the roads and stated that it was particularly bad at Whetley Cross, on the road from Littlewindsor to Drimpton, Clapton and out towards Seaborough. The member of the public stated that she was aware that some works had taken place and hoped that it would be better this year. The member of the public stated that she agreed that if you need to use a defibrillator, quick access is essential. The member of the public stated that the speed indicator devices are very effective in making vehicles slow down. Councillor Dyke thanked the member of the public for her comments.

The Clerk stated that she had been asked by a member of the public if the Parish Council could thank South West Water for promptly repairing a broken drain cover, which had been damaged by Dorset Council's street cleaning machine four weeks prior.

16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No further comments.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would be on Monday 9 December 2024 at Comrades Hall and stated that festive drinks and nibbles would be served from 7.00 pm and donations would be most welcomed.

18. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.11 pm. Councillor Dyke thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.