



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**  
**12 FEBRUARY 2024**  
**DRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Rowland Hibbard (Chairman), Cllr. Jacqui Sewell (Vice Chair), Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Steve Chubb, Cllr. Stephen Curtis, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Rick Dyke, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Fraser Hughes, Cllr. Stefan Nikolov, Cllr. Sonia Raymond, Cllr. Nathalie Roberts, Cllr. Yvonne White.

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and was opened by Councillor Hibbard. There were twelve members of the public present. Councillor Hibbard welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

---

**1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE**

Apologies were received 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.**

None.

**b. To receive requests for dispensations.**

None.

**c. To grant any requests for dispensation.**

None.

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

None.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Councillor Dyke commented that although the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting, he had since been informed that with regard to Agenda Item 8c, Dorset Council has previously approved solar panel installation at Athelhampton House. The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 January 2024 were confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor Hibbard.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

Councillor Hibbard asked the Council that given the number of members of the public in attendance specifically for Agenda Item 8a, P/FUL/2022/05832, Hillside, Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QN, that this item be discussed at this point in proceedings. There were no objections.

#### **5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No comments.

##### **a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council**

Councillor Christopher stated that his report had been circulated and asked for any questions. Councillor Chubb stated that he had raised concerns with Dorset Council last year about the lack of gritting on Axe Lane and Crewkerne Road, which was a busy school bus route and asked again that these routes be gritted. Councillor Chubb stated that he has spent a lot of time recently sending emails to Dorset Council along with Councillor Christopher regarding ongoing flooding problems and although replies are sent, nothing gets resolved and asked what more the Parish Council can do. Councillor Christopher stated that he will continue to challenge and keep the pressure on and that budgetary restraints have a significant impact on the work of the Highways Department. Councillor Hughes stated that following an email to Councillor Christopher the pothole at the bottom of Clan Hill had now been repaired and seems to be enduring passing traffic.

##### **b. Report from Dorset Police**

In his absence, the Clerk read aloud the report provided by PCSO Bishop which stated that on 24 January, Dorset Council received a call about a drone being flown in Broadwindsor, which lasted about twenty minutes. There are regulations around the use of drones, and it is possible that some people buy one without understanding the regulations. For information on the use of drones, you can go to the Civil Aviation Authority website, or the Government website for details. Overnight, between the 2 and 3 February, there was a break in at a property under renovation in the Seaborough area. It appears that some tools belonging to the builders were stolen. Properties under renovation can often be targets for thieves, as there are often tools and materials that have value to them. If anyone is concerned about their security, please contact Dorset Police. In his report, PCSO Bishop stated that his next engagement at Comrades Hall/Post Office will be on Monday 19 February at 11.00 am.

#### **6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES**

##### **a. Burstock Resident, Pre Application Comments for Redirection of Footpath W24/11**

Councillor Hibbard stated that the application was being made to divert footpath W24/11 which currently goes through the resident's farm and due to the fact that he manages an 'Approved Finishing Unit' (destination for other farms affected with TB), the resident has been advised by the Animal & Plant Health Agency that given the nature of the business, a

footpath should not run through this area. Councillor Hibbard stated that Dorset Council had advised the resident to contact the Parish Council and seek comments regarding this proposal prior to a full application submission. Councillor Hibbard reported that he had met with the resident and walked along the proposed new footpath route and stated that the new route is entirely sensible and easy to access and that he could not see any reason not to support the application. There were no other comments.

**b. Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR, Pageant Master, D-Day 80, 6 June 2024**

The Clerk stated that this had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillor Hibbard stated that he felt it appropriate to mark this occasion and stated that there is a beacon in Broadwindsor and suggested that a service at the new war memorial and the lighting of the beacon could be arranged. A member of the public stated that the Church also has its own memorial. It was agreed to review the correspondence again and add the matter to the agenda for the next meeting.

**c. DAPTC, Buckingham Palace Garden Party Nomination for Ballot**

The Clerk stated that this year's Royal Garden Party would take place on 8 May and that nominations must be for outgoing councillors. The Clerk stated that the deadline to respond to DAPTC was 26 February. Councillors were unanimous in their decision that the nomination for the Parish Council should be Councillor Hibbard.

**d. Drimpton Resident, Empty Property in Drimpton**

Councillor Hibbard reported that he had been included in an email from a Drimpton resident regarding a Magna Housing property that had been empty for two years and was in a poor condition and given that housing stock is in such short supply, this raised many questions for Magna to answer. The Clerk stated that she had contacted the Housing Officer for this area on two occasions without a reply and would continue to obtain a response.

**7. ACCOUNTS**

**a. To receive the Finance Report**

Councillor Hibbard referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 January 2024 was £44,019.64.

**b. To approve payment of £72.12 for HMRC (NI & Tax)**

**c. To approve payment of £118.80 for Total Web Solutions (Domain Registration, Two Years)**

**d. To approve payment of £290.39 for Total Web Solutions (Website Hosting)**

**e. To approve payment of £23.70 for Councillor Harris (Reimbursement for SID Keys)**

**f. To approve payment of £30.00 for Drimpton Village Hall and Recreation Trust (Hall Hire)**

**g. To approve payment of £60.00 for Dorset Climate Action Network (Carbon Literacy Workshops)**

**h. To approve payment of £143.89 for Swift Signs Weymouth LLP (Dedication Plaque)**

**i. To approve payment of £38.44 for the Clerk (Expenses February 2024)**

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Nikolov, seconded by Councillor Sewell and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved items 7b to 7i.**

**j. To consider a grant of £155.00 for Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley (Grant)**

**Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Dyke and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved item 7j.**

## **8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation**

**P/FUL/2022/05832, Hillside, Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QN**

Members of the public were invited to address the Council and express their comments. A summary of the points raised by members of the public and by the Parish Council is listed below:

#### **HOUSING NEED**

Although the site was allocated as part of the Broadwindsor Group Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the Plan clearly states that the focus should be on delivering smaller and more affordable housing. The need within the community is for smaller starter homes suitable for first time buyers and small two or three bedroom family homes. Larger units will make the homes less affordable and does not provide for the types of housing that the community needs and therefore is not compliant with Objective 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan. There are many large and attractive homes already, and outline planning permission already exists for twenty-two new market houses on the Bridport Road, which have yet to be built.

#### **ACCESS**

The Parish Council and those members of the public in attendance expressed their strong concerns about the access to the site. Access to the B3162 in both directions will be extremely dangerous, as it is a two-way narrow country lane. Approaching the site access point from the north (from Drimpton into Broadwindsor), cars are coming from a 60 mph zone into a 20 mph zone, and many people do not actually slow down sufficiently until nearer Broadwindsor Primary School, nearer to village centre. Vehicles approach the site access from a blind summit and a bend. Anyone attempting to exit onto this road will have extremely limited sight lines to the north because of the road bend and mature hedgerow. Should construction go ahead, this dangerous access will be made even worse by large vehicles and equipment being delivered to site. There are no pavements in the vicinity, and it would be extremely dangerous for anyone, particularly unaccompanied children, to walk along the road, especially during the winter and evenings when daylight goes so early.

#### **TRANSPORT LINKS**

The Planning, Design & Access Statement refers to "regular and convenient connections to Yeovil, Bridport and Poundbury". This is just not correct. Apart from the school service into Beaminster, there are two buses each way going to Bridport, and none going directly to Dorchester.

### **INACCURATE LOCATION**

Some of the planning application documents, including the Planning, Design & Access Statement refer to "Hillside, Drimpton Road...". This is a completely separate property. The character surrounding the site - currently a greenfield site, surrounded on two sides by farmland and another field across the B3162 cannot be classified as suburban.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The Parish Council was asked to raise the matter of communication. The neighbouring property, Hillside, did not receive written notice of the application and no notice was displayed at the application site. The owners were only made aware of the application when the Parish Council contacted them.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Parish Council and those members of the community who expressed concerns did not object in principle to development on this land. They do not believe that the proposals within the application are appropriate to the needs of the Grouped Parish and that before any development takes place, mitigation measures to ensure the safety of highway users and pedestrians needs to be positively addressed. Members of the Council were unanimous in their decision to object to this application.

### **P/FUL/2024/00157, Courtwood Farm, Broadwindsor, DT8 3LB**

Councillor Frampton stated that he had reviewed this retrospective application and although he has reservations about the location for the keeping of horses, on animal welfare grounds, he felt that he must support the application. Councillor Frampton stated he had managed to speak to neighbours at Wall Farm who objected to the application and asked that this objection be noted in the Parish Council's response to Dorset Council. Councillor Frampton stated that the Parish Council needs to be observant of applications which may be submitted to allow further development to take place in the future.

### **P/FUL/2023/07359, Magdalen Farm, Winsham, Maudlin, Chard, TA20 4PA**

Councillor Chubb stated that he had reviewed the application and spoken again with those living close by and stated that he welcomed the amendments and therefore proposed that the Parish Council support the application. No objections were raised.

### **P/TRT/2024/00356, Land West of Northcombe Lea, Drimpton**

The Clerk stated that this was a proposal for tree works and that the Parish Council had been sent the application for information only, although listed as a consultee. Councillor Harris stated that living in Netherhay Lane, he can see firsthand the loss to the roadside bank caused by the wide splay entrance to the site and that the country lane that was, has been urbanised and is now bare for a long stretch. Councillor Harris stated that Dorset Council should insist as a condition of approval that replanting take place for every tree removed. Sheila Hawkins from the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust (CLT) stated that she has been informed that the stumps of the trees being removed will be retained and that it is expected

that these will grow again. Councillor Harris stated that this would take too long and other species should be planted there. Councillor Chubb stated that he will ask that this matter be discussed at the next CLT meeting.

## **b. Other Applications**

### **Solar Farm, Wayford, Somerset**

The Clerk reported that to date, no application had been submitted to Somerset Council. Councillor Chubb stated that he had been asked for this to be added to the agenda after being contacted by the Wayford Solar Group asking for support in challenging the proposal as they believed that it would be obtrusive visually to the character of the area. Councillor Chubb stated that he personally did not object to the proposal, stating that the land which comprised 57 acres was not of great quality and was currently used for sheep grazing could generate some income for the wider community. Councillor Chubb stated that it was proposed that agricultural use would continue if the project was successful. Councillor Hibbard stated that if an application is submitted, the Parish Council may have the opportunity to formally comment. Councillor Dyke stated that he had agreed some time ago to prepare a Climate and Ecological Policy for the Parish Council and asked whether the Council should have a policy or opinion on solar power. Councillor Hibbard stated that it was difficult to state an opinion as it would depend on the proposal as to whether it should be supported.

### **P/LBC/2024/00223, The Old George, The Square, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QD**

Councillor Hughes reported that he had reviewed this application and spoken with those living close by and that no objections had been raised. Councillor Hughes stated that the proposed new sign was in keeping and remedial works to the fascia board would bring visual improvements to the property. Councillor Hughes stated that he could not see any reason for the Parish Council not to support this application.

## **c. Results**

Councillor Hibbard reported the following results:

P/HOU/2023/06716, 11 Bridport Road, Drimpton, DT8 3RD: Granted

P/LBC/2023/07021, 1 Church Path, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QE: Granted

P/HOU/2023/04430, Hollis Hill Cottage, Hollis Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QS: Granted

P/LBC/2023/04431, Hollis Hill Cottage, Hollis Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QS: Granted

P/FUL/2023/04548, Chaffleigh Farm Bungalow, Laymore, Cuckoo Lane, Winsham, Chard, TA20 4NX: Granted

P/HOU/2023/02226, Seaborough Court, Seaborough Court Access, Seaborough DT8 3QY: Granted

P/LBC/2023/02227, Seaborough Court, Seaborough Court Access, Seaborough DT8 3QY: Granted

Councillor White stated that with regard to the Seaborough Court applications, P/HOU/2023/02226 and P/LBC/2023/02227, she was extremely frustrated to learn that the mitigation as submitted as part of the Council's comments to Dorset Council and agreed by

the applicant and their project team were not included as conditions of approval. Councillor White stated that a number of concerns had been raised by the local community, most notably about the volume of work traffic and that it had been agreed that a traffic management plan would be produced. The Clerk was asked to contact the Case Officer and copy in the solicitor for Dorset Council.

## **9. ELECTIONS 2024**

### **a. Overview and Timetable**

The Clerk stated that elections will take place for all Dorset Council wards and for all parish and town councils in the Dorset Council area on 2 May 2024 and that the election will be for a five year term of office 2024-2029. The Clerk referred to the report as circulated which included information on the key processes and dates, the pre-election period, budget, the Election Act 2022, the application process and post-election tasks and processes. The Clerk stated that it is important that the Parish Council puts in place a robust awareness campaign to inform members of the Grouped Parish about the role and responsibilities of the Council and Councillors. There were no questions.

### **b. Consideration of the Positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Councillor Hibbard reminded that he will be stepping down from his position and from the Council in May as he was no longer eligible to stand for election due to a change in where he lives. Councillor Hibbard stated that the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman need to be considered and that without a Chairman, the Parish Council could not legally continue.

## **10. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024**

Councillor Hibbard stated that the date for the Annual Parish Meeting had been agreed for Friday 1 March at Drimpton Village Hall and that Chris Loder MP would be attending. The Clerk stated that she had emailed past presenters with the date and posted on social media to raise awareness. The Clerk stated that she would circulate the draft minutes from 2023 and agenda and ask for comments. A member of the public stated that it was a shame that the event was not being held at Comrades Hall, the Clerk confirmed that the Hall was not available on that date and that was the only date convenient for Chris Loder MP.

## **11. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

Councillor Dyke stated that the recent working party at Hursey Common was well attended and productive and thanked Councillor Nikolov and Sheila Hawkins. Councillor Dyke stated that another work party had been planned for 3 March, commencing at 10.00 am.

## **12. ALLOTMENTS**

Councillor Nikolov reported that all plots are taken with two people on the waiting list. Councillor Nikolov stated that he is now in possession of the strimmer from Councillor Bassett. The possibility of a secure unit for housing the mower and strimmer at the allotments was discussed.

### **13. MUGA UPDATE**

The Clerk stated that Dorset Council had scheduled for the drain to be jetted on 14 February but had since reported that they were hoping to complete the task sooner. The Clerk stated that as soon as this has been done, the MUGA can be cleaned and reopened to members of the public. Councillor Hibbard stated that he had received a quotation for the cleaning of the MUGA and moss treatment, the Clerk stated that she would check to see if a second quotation was required. The Clerk stated that the dedication plaque had been received and this was then shown to Councillors. The Clerk stated that she had spoken with Elaine Leader regarding a dedication event and after discussion amongst Councillors, there was consensus that if agreed by the family, a small event to mark the occasion with the school and Parish Council in attendance could be planned. The Clerk stated that she would contact the family.

### **14. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA**

Councillor Dyke stated that there was no update at this time. Councillor Frampton stated that he had seen a BT engineer in Grange Lane, Burstock carrying out an inspection as copper cables were hanging loose. Councillor Frampton stated that the engineer was unable to carry out a repair as he did not have the appropriate equipment and instead, he cut the cables which resulted in the loss of a number of landline services. Councillor Frampton asked whether this was a matter for the Parish Council. The Clerk stated that she would contact BT to make further enquiries.

### **15. HIGHWAYS**

#### **a. To consider quotations for Hursey Common Tree Works and Update on Planning Application**

The Clerk reported that the planning application for the tree works had been submitted to Dorset Council and that she had obtained one quotation from Simon Higgins for £560.00. The Clerk stated that she had contacted another company but had not had a reply. Given that Simon Higgins was also the contractor for the adjacent private trees and that a second quotation had been requested but not received, it was agreed to proceed with Simon Higgins. The Clerk stated that it was not proposed to carry out the works immediately and that planning permission was required beforehand as the trees are covered under a Tree Preservation Order.

#### **b. SIDs Update**

Councillor Hibbard stated that he was very pleased with the number of volunteers who came forward to provide assistance with the rotation of the speed indicator devices. Councillor Harris reported that training from Dorset Council took place on 24 January and that all volunteers have been provided with a training and information pack. Councillor Hibbard thanked Councillor Harris for his contribution to this. Councillor Harris stated that ideally there needs to be an additional volunteer from Drimpton.



**c. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Update**

The Clerk reported that Councillor Sewell had met with an officer from Dorset Council regarding potential sites for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The Clerk stated that a report is being compiled by Dorset Council and once received, she will circulate to all Councillors. Councillor Sewell reported that Drimpton Village Hall car park was the most suitable as it has lots of spaces but demographically, they have less need as there is limited roadside parking. The Clerk stated that Megan Jones from the Comrades Hall Committee had also attended the meeting and that given the amount of car parking spaces required for such infrastructure, the Committee had decided that they would not proceed any further at this point in time.

**d. Land and Bench Opposite War Memorial, Broadwindsor**

Councillor Dyke reported that he had been approached by an Executor for Julie Steel who had sadly passed away and that because Julie had often sat on the bench, opposite what is now the new war memorial site, she had expressed a wish that some of her estate be used to repair or upgrade the bench. Councillors concurred that this was a very generous and kind gesture. Councillor Dyke agreed to find out more information and costings and report back to the Council.

**16. REVIEW OF BROADWINSOR GROUP PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN**

Councillor Sewell reported that she had reviewed the current plan which was first published in 2018 and stated that a number of updates were now required. Councillor Sewell stated that she would report back at the next meeting.

**17. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION**

**a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council**

None.

**b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public**

None.

**18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No comments.

**19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would convene on Monday 11 March 2024 at Blackdown Village Hall.

**20. CLOSE**

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.24 pm, Councillor Hibbard thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.