



Clerk to the Council
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

12 January 2026

COMRADES HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rick Dyke (Chairman), Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Philip Dixon, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Garry Miller, Cllr. Sonia Raymond, Cllr. Nathalie Roberts, Cllr. Yvonne White.

ATTENDANCE: Councillor Simon Christopher (Dorset Council), Chezzy Brownen (Clerk).

The Meeting commenced at 7.45 pm, there was 1 member of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Beck, Cllr. Kevin Webb, and Cllr Tim 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.

None.

b. To receive requests for dispensations.

None received.

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

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 November 2025 were confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor Dyke.

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Frampton, seconded by Cllr Miller and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 November 2025.

4. MATTERS ARISING

6a The benches for White Lion pub: a grant has been secured for Bernards Place and playground. Over the next couple of months four benches will be placed there.

15b From the 10th November meeting Cllr Frampton raised the matter of the plaque on the wall and whether it is listed. Cllr Dyke confirms that following further investigation that the plaque is actually listed. The wall has now been extended to the bottom of the land and believes there are no further issues to follow up on because Dorset Council have no concerns and it will have been signed off by the Building Officer.

15c Hursey Common Occupier Agreement has been signed and payment has been received of approx. £350, so that is now resolved.

15e Grit bins. Cllr Dyke asks all present to remember that these need checking. Councillors for Seaborough, Blackdown, Drimpton confirm the bins have been checked, Redlands Lane are also all full.
Action: Cllr Dyke to check the other grit bins

Cllr White reported on her enquiry about strategic and community grit bins for Seaborough. She has requested feedback from local residents and she may come back for funding after receiving replies from residents. Cllr Dyke expressed a possible preference for a strategic grit bin in that area.

Action: Cllr White to return with further feedback after receiving replies from residents

Cllr Sewell's leave of absence needs to be resolved as her leave of absence term is now up, this needs finalising with her still. If the seat becomes vacant, it will need filling ideally from within Drimpton and Councillors were requested to invite interested residents to put their names forward in that ward to be co-opted to the Council to ensure that in the event of a vacancy, the seat is filled.

Action: Cllr Dyke to contact Cllr Sewell to confirm next steps. Cllr Dyke suggests that if there is a vacancy, it is raised at the forthcoming meeting in Drimpton to discuss speed limits, to see if there is any interest.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. Report from Councillor Christopher, Dorset Council

Following up from the last meeting, Cllr Christopher reported that he has spent a lot of time following up with Dorset Council Road Safety Officer. The Road Safety Manager is Tony Burdon the Road Safety Officer (part time) is Rob Camp. They are both very engaged with the needs of local residents and the need to make our roads safer. The North of Beaminster tunnel is of particular concern and Marshwood area is too. Cllr Christopher made a request for any road safety concerns to be emailed to him and he will raise them with the officers. The Marshwood road resurfacing work is a good example of this collaboration. Cllr Christopher and Cllr Dyke remind those present that road safety concerns and potholes can be reported online too for easier reporting.

Cllr Raymond raised the matter of works to the Blackdown roads and signage which have improved.

On 17th December Dorset Council received the details of the Central Government financial settlement and this was broadly as expected. Cost pressure continues for the provision of adult

and children's care, with running expenses being higher because of the rural nature of our county. Adult care cost increases are likely to be the single highest cost increase across the Council district. This leaves a position where Council tax increases are very likely, with something like 5% increase expected. Dorset Council is likely to draw down on its reserves yet again this year.

Cllr Dyke responded that any increase in Council tax cost would be bad news for residents. This provisional proposal is a 3-year deal with £25.9m additional funding of which £24.1m comes from increased Council tax. Cllr Dyke also raised the local trend for many retired people to move to the county and the increased pressure this puts on the sums required to support the provision of elderly care in the Council district.

Cllr Christopher agreed that rural counties are hit harder because of the lack of industry and larger sums coming in from commercial operations. Within the Dorset area Council tax is likely to increase by the 4.9%. People need to be reasonable about the local requirements and demographics. Elderly care costs and the sector pressures generally and the upward pressure on other costs including minimum wage cost increases, employers National Insurance and so on.

Cllr Christopher reported that just before Christmas there was a meeting with Aster Housing Association, Devizes, who are building affordable housing. The information and report was given to Cllr Dyke to circulate. They develop housing developments for smaller number of houses and keen to develop within the local area.

Action: Cllr Dyke to circulate the report.

Cllr Christopher brought attention to the Country Landowners Association (CLA) publication on *Farming Rules for Water* report which was issued recently and applies to all land managers who store silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil and storage must follow the *Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel, Oil Regulations 2010*. Char Valley Council for example are very engaged with these regulations. It involves assessing the needs of the soil, not exceeding the needs of the crops and how this impacts local water sources. It is very topical at present.

DEFRA now expects all farmers to assess each land parcel to assess the crop nutrient requirements of each land parcel. DEFRA has announced that it will help reform and consolidate the impact of farming on water quality and there is likely to be a white paper in the future. There is a question about whether farmers are aware of what legal requirements are, and what is also best practice. Cllr Webb raised the matter of sewerage farm impact and the resulting phosphates runs into the water supply. He believes human population impact and not just farming practice has the biggest impact on the clean water supply. Cllr Christopher agreed and discussed the need to balance farm profitability with the need for food security.

Cllr Curtis asked for clarification regarding reservoirs for rainwater and storage. Cllr Christopher discussed that climate change may increase the cost of storing water in the future.

Cllr Christopher School Governors meeting-will give more information at the next meeting.

b. Report from Dorset Police

PCSO Bishop reported by email prior to the meeting that there was nothing to report this month.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

None received

7. APPROVE FINAL PRECEPT NOTIFICATION FORM

The Final Precept Notification Form is required for submission by 31 January 2026. Cllr Dyke opened the discussions with the summary of current situation and previous discussions from the last meeting. He raised the question of what the Parish Council budget is likely to be for the forthcoming year. Currently the budget is about £5k less than required for each year and he referred to the budget spreadsheet previously circulated to Councillors by Helen Cudmore.

Cllr Dyke outlined the Parish Council budget expenditure, which for 2025/26 is £46,400. To the end of October spend was £28,600 and projecting that forward it's estimated at £40,200. Cllr Dyke ran through the underspend on costs this and what these might look like next year. Finger post restorations haven't been carried out as much as anticipated yet this year which has given a £3k saving, there have been no contested elections which has resulted in a £1k saving, the website hasn't been spent as much last year but there will need to be increased spending on this next year. In addition, MUGA payments were down.

Looking ahead is how these costs are planned for, as well as the Neighbourhood plan. Cllr Dyke outlined his view that it is worth waiting for the Local Plan to be finalised first because this takes precedence, and this is likely to be towards the end of 2026. Then the revision of the Neighbourhood plan should follow at that time. That means that funding for this doesn't need to be included in the budget for next year.

Cllr Dyke asks those present for views, and no opposing views were offered.

Cllr Dyke outlined that the budget for last year of £46k budget which was based on a precept of £29k with balance from FMR Trust and loan repayments. But given that the year ahead is unlikely to go down it makes little sense to reduce what is required for next year. Cllr Dyke suggests that the current Precept is held and that a small percentage increase is applied for. If the Parish Council were to apply a 4.65% increase that would come through to households as 4.99%. Dorset Council is very likely to increase by 4.99% so would be in line with this. In real terms this equates to a couple of pounds added to the bill. Those present are asked whether they consider this is reasonable and for their thoughts.

Cllr Harris put forward his view that 5% is about right because of the need to balance the books and is roughly in line with the likely increase from Dorset Council. Cllr Harris puts forward a proposal for 4.65% . This was seconded by Cllr Roberts and was unanimously agreed by all Councillors.

Action: Cllr Dyke and Chezzy Brownen to complete and submit the form to Dorset Council. The Deadline for the form submission is 31 Jan 2026

8. LAND ADJACENT TO COMMUNITY SHOP

Cllr Dyke reports that there is no update from the legal representatives and the shop have asked for an update on what is happening.

Action: Chezzy Brownen to contact the Battons solicitor to ask for update in first instance and report back on next steps.

9. DEFIBRILLATOR CHECKS

Helen Cudmore used to keep a check on and reports to the website and information needs to be regularly updated. Chezzy Brownen will need to take over this role going forward and will ensure that the website is updated to keep it current.

Cllr. Raymond carries out the checks for Blackdown, Cllr White responsible for Seaborough, Cllr Dyke checks Broadwindsor. Drimpton contact to be advised.

Action: Chezzy Brownen to report annually and update the website. Nominated person named above to continue with monthly checks as normal.

10. PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL TECHNICAL ISSUES AND WEBSITE

Cllr Dyke reported on the widespread email issues with Total Network Solutions, the issues have become more prevalent since their recent takeover with server issues, emails not working or working intermittently and delayed customer support. Cllr Dyke suggests we should be looking for an alternative supplier. Time is limited because of the annual renewal in February and this should be actioned soon to resolve these issues and to be able to guarantee continued communication.

Action: Chezzy Brownen to contact the Taunton firm for a quote for hosting website and Parish Council emails. Agreed a second quote should be obtained and Cllr Roberts will contact the shop to ask for their provider's details. Cllr Dyke to contact DAPTC to ask if they know of anyone. In the interim, private email addresses to be given to Chezzy to use as well as for all email communications.

11. ACCOUNTS

- a. To receive the Finance Report (Balance £41,800.43 as of 31 December 2025)
Financial Report issued today. Cllr Harris proposes, Cllr White seconds acceptance of the report.
- b. To approve the Budget and Precept Request 2026/2027
Cllr Dyke proposes to hold the budget level from last year, but increase the precept request as agreed above in Item 7 to allow the books to balance. Proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr White.
- c. To approve budget for costs associated with Drimpton 20mph speed consultation (hall hire and associated costs including poster printing). Costs agreed and proposed Cllr Webb and seconded Cllr White.
- d. To approve payment of £50.00 for Comrades Hall (interview room hire for Clerk role). Costs agreed and proposed Cllr Webb and seconded Cllr White.

- e. To approve payment of £92.00 for Focus (HS) Limited (Internal Audit). Costs agreed and proposed Cllr Webb and seconded Cllr White.
- f. To note payment of £72.00 for Bridport PC Repair (BGPC Laptop Repair)
- g. To note payment of £72.00 for DM Payroll Services Ltd (Payroll October 2025 – March 2026)

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation
- b. Other Applications
- c. Results

No new applications, received but results as below:

P/HOU/2025/05128 Greenham 11 Greenham Yard Greenham TA18 8QE, Demolition of a small garage and erection of new garage / workshop, Granted 19.12.25

P/TRC/2025/06874, High Street House High Street Broadwindsor DT8 3QP, T1 Cherry - Fell. G1 Sycamore - Re pollard to previous cut points, Tree Works - CA - Acceptable, decision date 16/12/2025

P/CLP/2025/07155, Broadwindsor Church of England Primary School, Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor DT8 3QL for the erection of modular structure. Certificate of Lawfulness has been received.

Cllr Roberts raised a possible concern about the location on the school grounds and the flooding of the MUGA.

Action: Cllr Dyke and Cllr Miller to look at the planning application for the school. Chezy Brownen to send details to Cllr Miller

13. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The Hursey Common working party was postponed due to weather, will take place next Sunday 18th January. Cllr Dyke requests help of those present to publicise it.

Cllr Dyke provides an update that water testing for reasonably regular water quality, initially at the bottom of Lewesden Hill. A group from Drimpton would like to continue testing there too. Looking ahead, testing will increase in regularity but the aim is to get a baseline before building work starts South of Fullers. Several sites are being identified and further training is being given.

Cllr Raymond raised the matter that's been brought up on Beaminster Banter face book app for who to contact for sandbags in the case of flooding. Numbers could be added to the website and also Cllr Dyke suggests adding the contact numbers to the Welcome Pack and also to the Parish Council website. Cllr Frampton points out that people who suffer from flooding already know how to get sandbags.

Action: Chezy Brownen to add contact details to the Parish Council website

14. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

Nothing received.

15. MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) UPDATE

Nothing received.

16. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Drimpton Wessex Internet meeting was well attend by residents in Drimpton earlier tonight. There is a forthcoming meeting to be held in Broadwindsor on 20th January. Cllr Harris reported that the infrastructure will be completed by end of March, with residents' houses start being connected from April onwards.

17. HIGHWAYS

- a. Feedback from Cllr Christopher on his meeting with Dorset Council re speed limits on the A3066 at South Dibberford.
Cllr Dyke reported that Cllr Christopher has given feedback on this. Resources are low for gathering feedback and replies so it's taking longer than hoped. But it should happen and a speed limit reduction should be in place later this year.
- b. Consultation of 20mph zone for Drimpton, to be held in March 2026
Cllr Harris reports that Cllr Beck is due to reply with a date which is likely to be in March, will revert shortly with a date. Cllr Harris is keen to have a wide-ranging consultation and Cllr Dyke is invited to chair the event and provide feedback what has happened in Broadwindsor and the police involvement.
- c. Review of various road closures in and around Drimpton between 23 February 2026 until 06 March 2026. Closures noted. Accepted by Councillors in Drimpton that the work needs to happen.
- d. Temporary closure of B3162, Laymore, 7th January for up to 5 days. Closures noted.
- e. Temporary closure of B3162, GREENHAM, 6th January for up to 5 days. Closures noted.

18. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

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

No items from members of the public.

Cllr Dyke raised the use of the phonebox in Broadwindsor square. The Parish Council are responsible for maintenance, but it now needs maintenance and is being used as a bit of a dumping ground. It has been tidied up again today, but the Parish Council have been asked to look at how this it is managed.

Action: to put on the agenda for the next meeting and agree a policy for how it's used and the type of donations and contents.

Cllr Dyke reports that several people have raised concern about the public footpath up to Lewesden Hill and the bridge which is in need of repair, particularly after heavy rain. Dorset Council have said this is not their responsibility in the past, however Cllr Dyke believes that it is the Councils' responsibility and would like to present the matter to the next meeting to discuss the best approach to remedial work.

Cllr Dyke asks Councillors to clarify for their areas of interest and responsibility to help Chezyy Brownen into her role and helps the Council organisation too. This will be discussed more at next meeting. Councillors are asked to email Cllr Dyke before the next week. For example, Cllr Dyke will attend NALC presentations on fundraising to enable the Parish Council over the coming months.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

None

19. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 9th Feb at 7.45pm Broadwindsor

21. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.15 pm. Councillor Dyke thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.