



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

12 MAY 2025

COMRADES HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rick Dyke (Chairman), Cllr. Chris Beck, Cllr. Tim Beer, Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Stephen Curtis, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Philip Dixon, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Garry Miller, Cllr. Sonia Raymond, Cllr. Nathalie Roberts, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, Cllr. Yvonne White.

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.45 pm, there were eighteen members of the public present.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

a. Election and signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Dyke stated that he would stand for election. Councillor Harris nominated Councillor Dyke; this was seconded by Councillor Beck. There were no other nominations. By a show of hands, Members of the Council unanimously agreed, there were no objections or abstentions. Councillor Dyke was elected as Chairman for the 2025-2026 period of office. Councillor Dyke duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, witnessed by the Clerk. There were no nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Beck and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously elected Councillor Dyke as Chairman for the 2025-2026 period of office.

2. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillors Frampton and Webb and unanimously approved by the Parish Council.

3. 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 Dyke expressed an interest in Agenda Item 7d.

b. To receive requests for dispensations.

The Clerk reported that a request for dispensation in relation to Agenda Item 7d had been submitted by Councillor Dyke on the grounds that he was best placed to be able to update and respond to questions from Councillors. The dispensation requested was for discussion only.

c. To grant any requests for dispensation.

The Clerk stated that the dispensation was granted.

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

None.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk stated that apologies for Councillor Dixon should have been reported at the last meeting. The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 April 2025 were then confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor Dyke.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Dyke stated that he had received quotations for replacing the noticeboards in Broadwindsor and Seaborough, the Clerk stated that she would add these for approval to the agenda for June. Councillor Dyke thanked everyone involved with the VE Day celebrations and stated that there are currently no church bell ringers living in Broadwindsor and he will be actively seeking to address this and encourage parishioners to get involved.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher provided the Clerk with a number of articles and asked her to circulate to all Councillors. Councillor Christopher reported that on Thursday at its Full Council Meeting, Dorset Council will be encouraged to declare an economic emergency, and stated that lots of businesses are in distress due to the increase in business rates and national insurance. Councillor Christopher stated that it was with great sadness that he informs of the passing of Councillor Bill Trite and stated that he was very much responsible for bringing back the Swanage Railway. Councillor Christopher asked for emails to be sent to him regarding any highway matters of concern and encouraged the Parish Council to ask for a visit from Dawn Heath, Highways Officer. Councillor Christopher stated that at a recent Cabinet Meeting, Dorset Council gave much consideration to affordable housing and stated that in particular larger housing associations are finding it hard financially to build more houses as much work is needed on existing outdated stock. Councillor Christopher stated that last Autumn, Dorset Council made a call for sites, asking landowners to put forward any sites that they may be interested in developing. Councillor Christopher stated that over the next few weeks there will be a number of exhibitions taking place which will highlight the sites put forward which

may eventually be subject to a planning application and possibly to development. Councillor Christopher asked for any questions. A member of the public asked Councillor Christopher if he could update on the current situation regarding the inappropriate street lighting in Broadwindsor and stated that he had sent many emails to Dorset Council and had also measured the new lights which he recorded as being 75% more bright, and stated that he had not received a satisfactory reply. The member of the public stated that he had also requested a site visit to enable Dorset Council to see for themselves the impact of the new lighting. Councillor Christopher stated that he was aware that Officers are currently looking into this and encouraged the member of the public to send him an email and then he will progress a reply from Jack Wiltshire, Head of Highways. Councillor Sewell asked about the sites which had been identified previously but not been developed and asked whether planning permission could be taken away. Councillor Christopher stated that he feels very frustrated if planning applications are approved and nothing happens and gave the example of Dorchester Prison. Councillor Sewell asked about the Land South of Fullers, Councillor Christopher stated that this was different due to the nitrate and phosphate problem and that as mentioned at a previous Parish Council meeting, CG Fry & Son appealed to the Supreme Court to challenge the decision of the Planning Inspectorate, to withhold the last phase of one of their developments and stated that Dorset Council was currently awaiting the decision which will heavily impact on the development of their Local Plan. Councillor Christopher stated that Dorset Council currently has a 5.02 year land supply, and a Planning Statement will be published in October, and it may be the case that this is reduced to below five years, which would put Dorset in a difficult position of being non-compliant which could ultimately lead to development being approved which does not go through the Local Plan.

Councillor Harris asked Councillor Christopher whether he voted in favour of the increase to the basic allowance for Dorset Councillors. Councillor Christopher stated that as a back bencher, he receives the smallest increase and although some Councillors incur more expenses, he is not totally convinced by it.

b. Report from Dorset Police

The Clerk stated that there had not been any further update since the report provided at the Annual Parish meeting.

c. Co-option to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council

The Clerk reported that she had received an expression of interest from Jacqui Sewell for the Parish Council vacancy for Drimpton and that she had circulated her CV. The Clerk stated that if Councillors had any questions, then they could address Jacqui at this point. Councillor Harris stated that he feels that Drimpton is underrepresented on the Parish Council and that there had been a notice on the board since last July advertising the vacancy and despite much effort no-one from Drimpton has come forward. Councillor Harris stated that there is no doubting Jacqui's pedigree but that he had hoped that someone from the Village Hall Committee would have come forward. Councillor Harris stated that he would support the co-option on the condition that if a vacancy arose in Broadwindsor, Jacqui would revert to being a

Broadwindsor Councillor and that the vacancy could then be advertised again for a Drimpton Councillor. The Clerk stated that if Jacqui was to stand down, then the vacancy would be advertised and all eligible candidates would be considered. Jacqui stated that she had never been a Broadwindsor Councillor, only a Drimpton Councillor and was very involved with Drimpton but stated that if someone from Drimpton had an interest in becoming a Councillor, then she would support that person and stand down. Councillor Harris stated that he was not happy that Drimpton was not fully represented but would not object to the co-option but on that basis he would abstain. Councillor Dyke stated that he understood the view of Councillor Harris but stated that it had been a whole year since the vacancy had been advertised and that no-one from Drimpton had come forward. Councillor Dyke stated that the Parish Council would be foolish not to accept someone with such experience and knowledge and asked Jacqui what her priorities would be, Jacqui stated social and affordable housing and planning. There were no further comments.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Beer, agreed by a show of hands with one abstention, the Council approved the co-option of Jacqui Sewell to the Parish Council to represent the Drimpton ward.

Councillor Sewell duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, witnessed by the Clerk and joined the Council.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Broadwindsor Resident, Social Housing Allocations

Councillor Sewell reported that she had been approached by many people living in Fullers concerned about the way in which houses are allocated and after a little investigation stated that it seems like people from outside of the local area are being allocated housing and that Magna will no longer let people under occupy. Councillor Sewell stated that she would like to know when these policies changed. Councillor Sewell stated that the Parish Council needs to look at these allocations. Councillor Dyke stated that he too had raised this issue with Dorset Council and had finally received a reply from Sara How, Service Manager Register & Lettings and that her reply had included some statistics which seemed to be different to the information held by Councillor Sewell. Councillor Dyke proposed that both sets of information be jointly reviewed prior to a response being sent to Dorset Council. Councillor Harris stated that he had written to the Chairman of the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust (CLT) and that he had reaffirmed his belief that the houses on the new development in Netherhay Lane were allocated according to the agreement made at the time between the housing association and Dorset Council, that they would be allocated to people with a local link to the Grouped Parish. Councillor Harris stated that he questioned this as to whether it was a fair way as the local link could be abused by people living some distance away and stated that he knows that there were people living locally who were disappointed not to be allocated a property. Councillor Harris stated that the Chairman of the CLT admitted that the CLT had very little hand in the allocation and Councillor Harris stated that he feels that people were misled as they believed that houses would go to local people.

b. Bridport & District Citizens Advice, Request for Grant

Councillor Dyke stated that the Parish Council has supported the Bridport & District Citizens Advice in previous years, the Clerk confirmed that the last grant was for £200.00. Councillors confirmed their continued support, and the Clerk was asked to add this to the accounts for the next meeting.

c. Dorset Council, Resident Engagement Project

Councillor Dyke stated that he found this request a little strange, that Dorset Council was asking the Parish Council to help facilitate engagement with those people who are under occupying in social housing. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council was likely to be one of many contacted to help disseminate information about the survey and confirmed that she had posted online. It was agreed to post copies on local notice boards.

d. The White Lion Community Pub, Grant Request Update

Councillor Dyke stated that he did not attend the meeting in 2021 when the grant to the White Lion was discussed but stated that he had spoken to the pub's Treasurer who accompanied David Leader to the meeting and her recollection is that it was stated that if a three year grant were given, the pub would not return to the Parish Council to request a further grant during that three year period. Councillor Dyke stated that the pub is happy to provide its accounts for review and suggested that the full year 2024 will provide the clearest picture of its financial situation. Councillor Dyke stated that the accounts have been signed off by the auditor but will not be made publicly available until the Annual Members Meeting due to be held on Tuesday 10 June, the day following the June meeting. Councillor Dyke stated that he cannot attend the July meeting and as the Parish Council does not meet in August, he would like to suggest that this discussion be tabled for the September meeting. There were no objections. Councillor Dyke stated that he understands the comment made at the last meeting that grants should be linked to profitability, but feels that there should also be a link to community ventures. Councillor Dyke stated that the White Lion is run by the community, is reliant on the community and therefore is a community venture and as such is different than other pubs. Councillor Dyke stated that ideally the pub would like to be in a position to be able to employ more staff rather than rely on volunteers.

8. COUNCIL MEETING DATES AND VENUES

a. To approve the dates and venues for Council Meetings for the 2025/2026 period

The following dates were approved: 14 July, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December, 9 February, 9 March, 13 April and 11 May. The Clerk stated that she would confirm venues.

9. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

a. To review and approve that the Council's Standing Orders are fit for purpose

No amendments were proposed.

10. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

The following representations were approved:

Broadwindsor School - To be decided

Comrades Hall – Councillor Dyke

Blackdown Village Hall – Councillor Raymond

Drimpton Village Hall Committee – Councillor Sewell

Broadwindsor Allotment Group - To be decided

ROWLO/Footpaths Officer – Councillor Dixon

DAPTC Western Area Committee - Councillors Dyke and Roberts

Dorset Council Climate & Ecological Emergency Support Group – Councillor Dyke

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Roberts and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the appointment these representations.

11. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive the Finance Report

Councillor Dyke referred Members of the Council to a report highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 30 April 2025 was £41,357.37. There were no questions.

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

b. To approve BGPC Direct Debits and Standing Orders for 2025/2026

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Harris and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the Direct Debits and Standing Orders for 2025/2026.

c. To approve the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights 2024/2025

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Beer, seconded by Councillor Raymond and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the dates for the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights 2024/2025 as 13 June to 24 July.

d. To note and approve the Internal Audit Report for 2024/2025

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Beer and agreed by a show of hands, the Council noted and unanimously approved the Internal Audit Report for 2024/2025.

e. To approve Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024/2025

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Beck and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024/2025.

f. To approve Section 2 – Accounting Statements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024/2025

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Roberts and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved Section 2 of the Accounting Statements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024/2025.

Councillor Dyke proposed that the following payments be approved en bloc.

g. To approve payment of £51.00 for Comrades Hall (Hire Fee)

h. To approve payment of £1,237.60 for Dorset Council (Litter Bins)

i. To approve payment of £159.96 for HMRC (NI)

j. To approve payment of £71.49 for the Clerk (Expenses)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Burt and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments g to j.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

No applications.

b. Other Applications

P/CLP/2025/02293, Old Village Hall, Red Lane Junction at Seaborough Court, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

The Clerk reported that this application had been received after the publication of the agenda, Councillor White agreed to review.

c. Results

The following results were reported.

P/PAPA/2025/01616, Honeydown Farm, Seaborough Hill, Seaborough, TA18 8PL: Prior Approval Not Required

P/PABA/2025/01395, Wood Farm, Wood Lane, Kittwhistle, DT8 3LG: Prior Approval Not Required

P/FUL/2024/07244, Whetley Farm, Main Road, Mosterton, DT8 3HE: Granted

P/LBC/2024/07245, Whetley Farm, Main Road, Mosterton, DT8 3HE: Granted

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

d. Review of Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Dyke stated that this matter was discussed at the last meeting and that he was pleased that so many members of the public were in attendance and to be able to have the opportunity to listen to their views. Councillor Dyke stated that he was aware that there may be some confusion in the community about the Neighbourhood Plan in that although the Plan itself is dated up to 2031, the planning element itself is only current for a period of five years, which has now lapsed and therefore, unless reviewed, carries no weight. Councillor Dyke stated that there are differing views as to whether the time and effort required for a review is worth the benefits it brings. Councillor Dyke stated that the Clerk had contacted a number of councils across Dorset to ascertain their views and experiences on Neighbourhood Plan reviews and that one response had been received and circulated. Councillor Sewell stated that she had been involved with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and stated that as an ANOB, the new street lighting was in conflict with the dark skies policy. A member of the public addressed the Council stating that he had been involved with neighbourhood planning in a different area of West Dorset and from that experience urged the Parish Council to carry out a review as soon as possible to prevent unwanted planning applications and to ensure that the spaces between settlements remain. Councillor Harris stated that at the start of the original process there was a desire for small settlements of no more than six houses but stated that was not what was delivered. Councillor Harris stated that he was interested to hear whether people wanted more houses to protect against development or whether they wanted houses because they believed that there was a need for them. Councillor Dixon asked whether we would just be allocated houses if we don't plan for them. Councillor Harris asked whether we would mind if that happened. A member of the public addressed the Council and stated that it would depend on the number, style and location and other factors and Councillor Dyke stated that infrastructure would also be a determining factor. Councillor Harris stated that people may ask for a small development but could end up with something different as builders always want to do more due to economies of scale. A member of the public stated that houses need to be appropriate and stated that the proposal for the Land South of Fullers includes four to six bedroom homes with gates and a courtyard and asked how affordable these would be. Councillor Dyke stated that the Parish Council needs to keep a close eye on the Land South of Fullers and the outcome of the legal challenge by CG Fry. Councillor Sewell stated that people need to think out of the box and stated that perhaps the provision of homes close to small employment sites should be considered. Councillor Dixon stated that he believed that a plan needs to be in place. Councillor Harris stated that having read the correspondence forwarded by the Clerk it would seem that even if the Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed it may become invalid in itself if the need for housing is not met as defined by the local authority and that you might think that the plan can prevent unwanted development, but if housing need is not met, the plan could be overridden anyway. Councillor Harris stated that personally he does not believe that a neighbourhood plan provides any protection. Councillor Dixon stated that surely if there is no plan in place, then there is nothing to argue with.

Councillor Dyke asked whether there needs to be wider consultation or whether there is general agreement to embark on a review. A vote was taken and all agreed with one objection that a review should be carried out.

13. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Councillor White reported that there was a meeting earlier that day regarding water quality testing and stated that discussions with landowners of potential sites will need to take place and that going forward this may be very important with regard to the development at Land South of Fullers. Training is on offer and once completed could be opened up to more volunteers and a sampling strategy would then be developed.

14. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that following the Broadwindsor Allotment Group AGM, Sarah Hunt remains Secretary, and Dominic Withington was elected Chair for the next twelve months. The Clerk stated that she had been informed that Japanese Knot Weed had been identified at the top of the allotments in the areas of plots 15 and 16. The Clerk stated that she had contacted Dorset Council to report and have asked them to treat it. It had also been reported that allotment tenants were concerned that over time the perimeter track had suffered erosion and deep rutting resulting in an increased camber towards the lower hedge, which could be a potential safety issue when accessing the site car park. The Clerk stated that she had been asked if the Parish Council had access to or knew a contact who could provide earth or spoil. Councillor Beer stated that it may be worth asking Highways to look at how stable the bank is before putting anything in. Councillor Dyke stated that it became evident during the VE Day celebrations that the beacon which has been in place for some time needs reviewing to ensure it is safe and that the pole could be reduced in height at the same time.

15. MUGA UPDATE

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

The Clerk reported that she had been informed that Dorset Council's legal team were yet to make contact with Battens Solicitors and that this delay may have been caused as Dorset Council was obliged to publish a public notice in the local newspaper. The Clerk stated that disappointingly, Dorset Council were unsure as to whether the notice had been placed. The Clerk stated that she would continue to push for this to be completed.

16. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke stated that this agenda item was very much focussed on the supply of broadband and communication with Wessex Internet and stated that this was progressing. Councillor Dyke stated that there was no specific update at this time.

75. HIGHWAYS

a. Review of reported highways concerns to Dorset Council

Councillor Dyke stated that there were a number of new additions to the spreadsheet, and stated that a video of water cascading down the road into the Comrades Hall car park had been reported to Dorset Council and Councillor Christopher had been asked to intervene. Councillor Dyke stated that road markings still required attention and that many cases of vehicles going the wrong way around the one way system were still being seen. A member of the public stated that at a previous Parish Council meeting he had suggested that by converting the give way outside of the pub to an actual stop with two solid white lines would improve the situation. Councillor Dyke stated that Dorset Council now has an online reporting system for near misses and encouraged members of the public to use this as it will help the Parish Council lobby for improvements. The Clerk stated that she would post the link online. A member of the public stated that on the Bridport Road, there are 20 mph signs coming into the village but not going out and she often sees vehicles speeding out of the village. Another member of the public stated that there is a legal requirement to have repeater signs of certain intervals. Councillor Beck stated that there is but no set distance.

b. Community Speedwatch Update

Councillor Dyke reported that Speedwatch has restarted in Broadwindsor and that the first session was held last weekend at the Cross Keys, which looked at vehicles in the direction of both Bridport Road and Beaminster Road and stated that it is to be repeated again shortly. Councillor Dyke stated that the issue of signage will be raised with the Police Officer involved and that various locations have been put forward but require approval by Dorset Police. Councillor Dyke reported that during the first session, speeds reaching 40 mph in the 20 mph area were recorded as well as many in the high 20s. Councillor Dyke reported that the view of Dorset Police is that it is not about numbers but more about awareness and changing attitude and that another area of concern for the Police is tractors with more than one person in the cab. Councillor Dyke reported that during the session a tractor did go past with a very young child in the cab.

18. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Sewell asked that street lighting be added to the next agenda.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

A member of the public asked that abbreviations be written in full on the agenda.

19. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

With regard to highways and a possible visit by Dorset Council, a member of the public asked for two other items to be considered. Firstly, he was concerned about the increase in rock fall along Hollis Hill and stated that he did not want a catastrophic landslip to occur such as the one in East Chinnock. The member of the public stated that prevention is better than cure and that this needs looking at by a professional and that if it is the responsibility of landowners

on each side, then they need to be made aware of their duty of care. The member of public also asked that the retaining wall on the one way system needs immediate attention as it is losing stone at a fast rate. Councillor Dyke stated that the owners wish to take action, but Dorset Council is causing the delay. Councillor Dyke thanked the member of the public for his comments which were duly noted.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would be at 7.30 pm on Monday 9 June at Drimpton Village Hall.

21. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.22 pm, Councillor Dyke thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.