



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

13 OCTOBER 2025

BLACKDOWN VILLAGE HALL

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

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm, there were six members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

a. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Stephen Curtis, Sewell, Frampton and Roberts 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 8 September 2025 were confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor Dyke.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Beer, seconded by Councillor Harris and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 September 2025.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Dyke noted that the Clerk has decided to step down after ten years of service to the Parish Council, and stated that she had made his role considerably easier and that she has managed a significant amount of work behind the scenes. Councillor Dyke reported that the Clerk will serve a month's notice, and her final meeting will be in November. The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for her contributions to parish activities and achievements, and wished her every success for the future.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher echoed the appreciation for the Clerk for her many years of service. Councillor Christopher confirmed that the deadline for public comments on both the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan had been extended to 31 October and 20 October respectively. Councillor Christopher also raised concerns about the pressures faced by local farmers, noting Dorset Council's Farm Strategy and the need for support with compliance obligations.

Councillor Dyke welcomed Antoinette Barnes, the new Headteacher of Broadwindsor School who has been in post for six weeks. Antoinette Barnes reported that Broadwindsor School has a high proportion of children with special educational needs (SEN) and is reviewing pupil progress to identify additional support needs. Antoinette Barnes highlighted the school's Forest School, which provides outdoor learning opportunities, and noted that it is well established but could benefit from further promotion. The school is seeking additional sensory resources to support children with SEN, such as tactile materials, cushions, and beanbags. Antoinette Barnes explained that early observations of the children indicate a wider range of developmental needs than initially expected, and staff are monitoring all pupils to ensure they receive the appropriate support.

b. Report from Dorset Police

The Clerk reported that PCSO Bishop had no concerns to raise with the community at this time and it was noted that his next engagement at Comrades Hall will be on Monday 27 October at 11.30 am.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Life Education Wessex, grant request, £155.00

The grant requested will support the costs of an educational visit to Broadwindsor School. Life Education Wessex is a charity that works with schools to help children make healthy, informed choices about their physical and emotional wellbeing. Using interactive workshops, including the popular Life Bus and Harold the Giraffe, they teach topics such as friendships, feelings,

healthy eating, exercise, and staying safe. Their sessions support the school curriculum and help children build confidence, resilience, and life skills.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Beck, seconded by Councillor Dixon and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved a grant of £155.00 for Life Education Wessex.

b. Village Voices, grant request, £250.00

The grant requested will support printing costs for a monthly newsletter which is delivered free of charge to 215 households. Councillor Beck agreed to be the liaison for providing Grouped Parish news and members of the Council stated that this was not an annual grant and should another application be made next year, they would expect to see that other sources of funding had been pursued.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Beer and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved a grant of £250.00 for Village Voices.

7. 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 September 2025 was £47,933.13. There were no questions.

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

b. To approve payment of £32.00 for Comrades Hall (Hall Hire)

c. To approve payment of £90.00 for Drimpton Village Hall (Hall Hire)

d. To approve payment of £52.00 for ICO (Data Protection Annual Fee)

e. To approve payment of £40.00 for E Hanscomb (Allotment Deposit)

f. To approve payment of £160.16 for HMRC (NI)

g. To approve payment of £67.63 for the Clerk (Expenses August- October)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Beer, seconded by Councillor Webb and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments b to g en bloc.

h. To note payment of £172.80 for Defib Shop (Replacement Defibrillator Pads Drimpton)

i. To note payment of £180.00 for Defib Shop (Replacement Defibrillator Pads Broadwindsor)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Beer, seconded by Councillor Webb and agreed by a show of hands, the Council noted payments h and i.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

None.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

The following result was reported:

P/TRC/2025/05148, Redwoods Access Road to the Hayes, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QF: No Objection

d. To review and approve the Parish Council response to the Dorset Local Plan Consultation

Councillor Dyke thanked the Clerk for her extensive work on the Local Plan and for preparing the Parish Council's draft response, following a well-attended public meeting at Comrades Hall. Councillors confirmed that they had reviewed the draft and that it reflects the wide range of views expressed by residents. It was agreed to expand the section on multi-use community facilities (including churches and village halls as community hubs) and to include reference to landowner concerns regarding the proposed site in Broadwindsor. The response will be finalised and submitted by the revised deadline. Residents are encouraged to submit their individual comments directly to Dorset Council.

e. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Dyke reported attending the Big Green Day event in Beaminster, where the Parish's Neighbourhood Plan was cited as an excellent example of good practice by Beaminster Town Council. A planning consultant present offered to assist with a review at a significantly reduced cost (£5,000–£10,000 compared with previous estimates of up to £20,000). Councillors discussed whether this represented good value for money given current uncertainties around Dorset Council's Local Plan and the lack of available funding. The consensus was that it would not be an appropriate use of Grouped Parish funds at this time. It was agreed to revisit the matter once the Local Plan is further advanced, though the possibility of local business sponsorship was noted for potential future consideration.

9. DAPTC PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY

Councillor Dyke confirmed willingness to complete the DAPTC survey on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillors agreed that this approach was appropriate, though Councillors may also submit individual responses if they wish. Councillor Dyke will share the survey form or draft response with Councillors if possible before submission.

10. REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENT 2025

It was agreed that this year, a service will be held in the Church, followed by a parade to the War Memorial, to avoid disruption from road traffic. Councillor Dyke has discussed the arrangements with Reverend Canon David Baldwin, who is supportive of the plan. The Royal British Legion will be contacted to confirm their availability. The school will publicise the event to parents, though pupils will not attend in an official capacity.

11. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Councillor Dyke reported on attendance at the Big Green Day in Beaminster, which generated interest in the Parish Council's Eco Strategy and Action Plan. However, it was agreed that future attendance may not be necessary for the Parish Council, though the Eco Group, led by Sheila Hawkins, will continue to attend. Current Eco Group activities focus on water quality testing at various locations. The testing will begin on a small scale and develop over time. Publicity about the project will be shared via the Parish Council website, Facebook page, and local newsletters.

12. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

The Allotment Group attended the Big Green Day event and reported strong sales of their produce, making it a successful day for the group.

13. MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) UPDATE

The Clerk reported that additional volunteers to assist with opening and closing the facility are still needed and that despite previous appeals, no one has yet come forward. The MUGA remains a valuable and well-used facility for both the school and the wider community, with the school managing access during the school day. It will continue as a standing item on the Parish Council agenda to address any issues as they arise.

14. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Discussed under Agenda item 15f.

15. HIGHWAYS

a. Report on meeting with Community Highways Officer, Dorset Council

Councillor Dyke reported on a recent meeting with the Community Highways Office which included site visits to Broadwindsor, Drimpton, Blackdown, and Seaborough. The meeting was productive, with immediate actions taken and the officer expressing willingness for regular face-to-face engagement. A report from the officer is expected shortly and will be circulated to Councillors.

b. Review of temporary closure of B3164, Broadwindsor

Councillors noted issues during the recent B3164 closure, including a significant number of drivers ignoring the one-way restrictions at Back Lane. Despite reporting problems to the Police, residents had to take action themselves to highlight dangerous driving. Concerns were raised that enforcement appeared to fall on the community. Councillor Dyke will write to David Sidwick, Police and Crime Commissioner, to raise these issues and to request improved communication and co-ordination between Dorset Council and Dorset Police for future road closures.

c. Consideration of 20 mph zone for Drimpton

A proposal for a 20 mph speed limit in Drimpton was raised following a site visit with the Community Highways Officer, focusing on safety concerns at blind bends near Netherhay Chapel and the Royal Oak. Councillors discussed:

- The safety benefits of reducing speed through the village, particularly for pedestrians, school children, and along the Drimpton Mile walking route.
- Existing measures including Speedwatch monitoring, Police enforcement, and traffic calming features, noting that compliance improves when there are visible consequences.
- Suggestions for additional measures such as improved signage, hedge trimming for visibility, white line enforcement, and possible concave mirrors.
- Importance of public consultation with Drimpton residents to gather views before proceeding.

It was agreed to hold a public meeting in Drimpton Village Hall once Dorset Council's report is received, to discuss the proposal and gather community feedback. The Speedwatch Team may also expand activity to support the initiative.

d. Request for speed reduction A3066

Councillors noted a request for a speed reduction on the A3066. The issue had previously been raised following a request from Beaminster Town Council to share costs for a speed survey with Mosterton. At that time, the Parish Council declined to contribute due to other funding priorities. A local resident has written again, reporting the most recent accident, including photographic evidence, and highlighting the history of several accidents and a recent fatality at the location. Councillors agreed that the evidence indicates a known black spot and that Dorset Council should fund any necessary speed surveys rather than the Parish Council. The Clerk will contact Dorset Council to press for action.

e. Local Transport Plan Consultation

Councillors confirmed that they had reviewed the Local Transport Plan consultation documents, and it was noted that while the Plan contains many positive aspirations, it lacks timelines, funding details, and clear implementation strategies. Councillors agreed that the Plan is largely aspirational. The draft response, circulated in advance, was approved for submission.

f. Request for Hursey Common Occupier Agreement, Wessex Internet

Councillors discussed the proposed installation by Wessex Internet. The company initially planned to use telegraph poles along Hursey Lane but was asked to consider underground cabling. The current plan tunnels to the edge of the playing field, then routes across Hursey Common, which raised concerns among some Councillors regarding the logic and necessity of this route. It was agreed to request further clarification from Wessex Internet on why the cabling cannot follow a straight line along the verge, alongside the tarmac. Councillors also requested to see the original plan showing the proposed telegraph poles. The matter will be

carried forward to the November meeting for further consideration.

16. 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.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would be at 7.30 pm on Monday 10 November at Blackdown Village Hall.

19. FMR TRUST

a. To receive the Finance Report (Balance £3,569.70 of 30 September 2025)

There were no questions.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Webb, seconded by Councillor Harris and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved the Finance Report.

b. To approve payment of £337.89 for Broadwindsor Group Parish Council (Trust Administration)

c. To note payment of £669.40 for Broadwindsor Group Parish Council (PWLB Repayment Grant)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Beer, seconded by Councillor Webb and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved payment b and noted payment c.

20. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.00 pm and the meeting of the FMR Trust was formally closed at 9.07 pm. Councillor Dyke thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.