



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

14 JULY 2025

BROADWINDSOR CRICKET PAVILION

PRESENT: Cllr. Tim Beer, Cllr. Philip Dixon, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Garry Miller, Cllr. Sonia Raymond, Cllr. Nathalie Roberts, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, Cllr. Kevin Webb.

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

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

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillors Stephen Curtis, Dyke, Beck, Frampton, Burt and White 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 9 June 2025 were confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor Sewell.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher reported that at the recent Dorset Council meeting, Councillor Clare Sutton was asked about the average cost of sending a child to a special school in Shaftsbury. Councillor Sutton stated that it costs £52,000 per year per pupil and that transport costs are £14,600 per year per pupil. This compared to £74,000 and £16,500 respectively per year for independent specialist schools. Councillor Christopher stated that he and Councillor Craig Monks are pressing for such provision to be reciprocated across Dorset.

Councillor Christopher stated that with regard to household recycling centres and the proposal to introduce booking times, he had expressed the view to the Leader of Dorset Council, Councillor Nick Ireland that not all household recycling centres are as good as Bridport and that the Council needs to look at what is happening in other areas and where sites need to improve rather than introduce a booking system which has been opposed by Bridport Town Council. With regard to planning, Councillor Christopher made reference to the development of the new Local Plan for Dorset and the consultation and the fact that the Government expects Dorset Council to build a lot more housing and is seeking to change how the planning system works. Councillor Christopher reported that we are living in interesting times, the new Chief Executive of Dorset Council has not yet arrived in post and that the former Section 151 Officer is now in charge of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Councillor Christopher reported that he has arranged for Tony Burden, Road Safety Manager at Dorset Council to attend the Grouped Parish in the Autumn and stated that any concerns relating to roads and signage be email to him, as well as concerns relating to footpaths and bridges.

Councillor Beer stated that Dorset Council has a legal obligation to protect milestones and boundary markers and that he has been in contact with Dorset Council regarding this but has not received a satisfactory response. Councillor Christopher asked Councillor Beer to email him information on this matter. Councillor Sewell asked that parish councils be more involved with local developments.

c. Report from Dorset Police

The Clerk read aloud the report from PCSO Bishop and stated that he wished to advise of a scam text message that has come to his attention. Someone has reported receiving a text message stating that they owe a fine for a parking charge, with a link that takes you to a site that looks like .Gov. However, the sender is a random mobile number and fines like this would come through the post, so please just delete it. For further advice or to report scams, please visit www.actionfraud.police.uk In his report, PCSO Bishop stated that his next engagements will be at Drimpton Village Hall on Friday 25 July at 9.30 am and Broadwindsor Comrades Hall on Monday 4 August at 11.30 am.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Resident, Speed Limit Axe Road

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a member of the public concerned about speeding traffic on Axe Road and that she had asked for a reduction to 30 mph. The Clerk stated that she had informed the resident about the reporting of 'near misses' to Dorset Council and the difficult and expensive process of changing speed limits. Councillors asked the Clerk to report this to Dorset Council.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive the Finance Report

Councillor Sewell referred Members of the Council to a report highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 30 June 2025 was £34,541.22. There were no questions.

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

b. To approve payment of £62.00 for Comrades Hall (Hall Hire)

c. To note payment of £160.16 for HMRC (NI)

d. To note payment of £2077.57 for the Clerk (Salary Adjustment April – June 2025)

e. To note payment of £16.64 for the Clerk (Expenses June 2025)

f. To note payment of £31.00 for Footprints Limited (Welcome Pack Labels)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Webb and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously noted and approved payments b to f.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/FUL/2025/03479, Childhay Manor, Wood Lane, Childhay, DT8 3LQ

The Clerk reported that this application had been received after the publication of the agenda and was seeking permission to erect a steel framed goat housing unit and covered feed passage connecting the existing building to the proposed building. The Clerk reported that Councillors Stuart Curtis and Frampton were leading the consultation, Councillor Webb asked if he could also attend.

b. Other Applications

P/PABA/2025/03874, Westlea, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

The Clerk reported that this application was for prior approval and that the Parish Council had not been asked for comments at this time.

c. Results

The following result was reported.

P/TRT/2025/02946, Seaborough Court, Seaborough, DT8 3QY: Consent

d. Review of Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk reminded that funding for neighbourhood plans has been withdrawn as a result of the spending review. Councillor Roberts stated that at the meeting she attended that day regarding the Local Plan, it was stated that no funding would be available from Dorset Council but that monies received from the Community Infrastructure Levy can be used for the development of a plan or review. Councillor Roberts also stated that if the review is completed before the Local Plan, then the Local Plan would take precedent. The Clerk reported that she has joined a WhatsApp Group co-ordinated by Jo Witherden, the planning consultant who supported the development of the neighbourhood plan and its members include other parish and town councils who are facing the same difficulties with funding. The Clerk stated that she would report back.

9. RIGHTS OF WAY

The Clerk stated that she had circulated a short report to Councillors prior to the meeting highlighting the different types of rights of way, the responsibilities of landowners, members of the public and dog owners and the suggested role of the Parish Council in maintaining and promoting safe and respectful use of the countryside. There were no questions. The Clerk stated that Councillor Dixon who is the Rights of Way Liaison Officer (ROWLO) for the Parish Council had been considering the role and how he can take it forward. Councillor Dixon stated that he has worked in farming all of his life and has increasingly thought that lines have very much been drawn in the sand between the public and landowners with regard to their perceptions of each other and stated that there must be way to align this. Councillor Dixon stated that he is well aware of rights of way, and that they can be abused by both the public and the farming community. Councillor Dixon stated that the more restrictions placed on access, the more members of the public will feel that they have a right to trespass. Councillor Dixon stated that there is an awful lot of disinformation with regards the countryside, for example dog faeces and stated that only 0.4% of domestic dogs have the parasite, which is a significant cause of abortion in cattle, compared to 47% of farm dogs and 98% in foxes. Councillor Dixon stated that both sides need to talk to each other and stated that as more of the public purse is used for the countryside, the more the public will demand access to it. Councillor Dixon stated that education around the countryside code would be helpful, Councillor Sewell asked if technology could be used to assist with this. Councillor Raymond stated that when a footpath gate on a field which she rents fell apart she asked Dorset Council if they would pay for its replacement and was informed that they would not. The Clerk stated that both the Parish Council and Dorset Council have in the past contributed equally to new kissing gates and stated that perhaps budgetary issues have now changed this. Councillor Curtis stated that his farm is located on a main road and he locks all of his gates as often vehicles back in and either use the land as a toilet or as a place to leave their rubbish and

stated that Dorset Council has informed that if rubbish is left on his land, then it is his responsibility to remove it. Councillor Dixon stated that it was also important to consider the perspective of a member of the public and stated that in Drimpton for example because the Government has placed restrictions on how you can spread manure, it has to be spread more thinly, normally during the summer and when a crop has just been taken off, and as a result, five out of seven days you can smell cow slurry and stated that there are a lot of people who do not like it. In addition, when harvesting and a farmer exits the field, often the verge becomes churned up and mud is left on the road and people don't like that either. A member of the public stated that the footpath behind the church in Broadwindsor cannot be accessed, Councillor Dixon stated that he would report this and stated that he had been impressed by the response of Dorset Council following his reporting of three footpaths recently. The Clerk stated that this could be retained on the agenda for each meeting and updated accordingly. Councillor Sewell thanked Councillor Dixon.

10. REPORT FROM DAPTC WESTERN AREA COMMITTEE & WEBINARS

Councillor Roberts reported that she had attended the DAPTC Western Area Committee and its focus was on devolution, from Dorset Council to the parishes and stated that Dorset Council is seeking to change how its services are delivered and has engaged with DAPTC to get feedback from the sector. Assets may be transferred to town councils and willing parishes to manage. Councillor Roberts stated that DAPTC has drafted a statement of reasonable expectation and that there will be an event on 2 October and a survey with an Autumn deadline so that parish councils can feedback their comments. Councillor Roberts stated that DAPTC has already asked larger town councils for feedback. Councillor Roberts stated that if Dorset Council wishes to engage better then she hoped that it will learn from the recent household recycling centre fiasco. Councillor Roberts stated that one concern is that out of 160 councils, there were only twenty attendees, including four DAPTC employees. Councillor Roberts stated that DAPTC have improved their training offering and stated that they believe that many parish and some ward councillors need more training, and have a new employee dedicated to training.

With regard to household recycling centres (HRC), Councillor Roberts stated that she had attended a webinar and Dorset Council had provided a presentation, a summary is below.

The main reason is cost savings.

- Booking to use the tip means Dorset Council can check that only Dorset households use their HRC for free.
- Out of Dorset people can book and pay (nonrefundable, £5-£10 tbc) (this is an issue particularly in Shaftesbury and Sherborne)
- Manage business waste misuse (van loads or carloads from trade is currently an issue on all sites).
- Estimated saving for reduced tonnage of waste: £120,000 per year.

Booking a time slot means:

- Better time management for operatives on site which means improved customer service.
- Better sorting of materials means cheaper cost of disposal.
- “Rich data” means data led decisions to manage the sites better.
- Shorter or no queues on some Dorset sites that get congested at peak times.

Putting in a system in 2025 means:

- Future proofing sites access: there will be an increase in usage due to high housing targets.
- If we think of Bridport, once Foundry Lea is fully occupied, and a few more sites are built in our area, the facility may not be as easy to use as it is now.

Estimated cost:

- £120,000 to implement system and £20,000 per year for subsequent running costs.
- Telephone bookings to follow, then an app.

How to use the system:

- It will be integrated into the Dorset Council website and the demo looked easy to use.
- It should not take more than one or two minutes to book. Same day booking possible, 30 minute slots, won't be turned away if early or late, can cancel or amend booking easily, car reg. number checked against DVLA, email address needed to send reminder or advise of site closure if needed.
- There will be a camera (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) in the entrance. If a car is not booked, it will have to report to site office, it will not be turned away and create havoc at the entrance.
- People who cannot use online will be helped locally, so they can still turn up.

Concerns raised:

- Fly-tipping.
- According to other councils who have a booking system and DEFRA analysis, there is no proof that a booking system increases fly-tipping, fly-tippers are criminals who will dump whether there is a booking system or not, Dorset are working separately to minimise/stop fly-tipping.

The Clerk stated that she had posted the presentation on the Parish Council's website. Councillor Roberts stated that she had listened to the meeting of Dorset Council online and that personally she felt that it turned into a political battle, rather than what is best for Dorset. Councillor Roberts stated that it has now been proposed that the system is rolled out centre by centre and that there is a consultation. Councillor Roberts stated that she asked how much the consultation would cost and was informed that it would be cheaper online but for one or two events the cost would be approximately £20,000 per centre, and there are ten centres. Councillor Roberts stated that as she understands it, the system will be rolled out to all HRCs

in the future and stated that what is missing in the debate is the value of the materials collected and the data that goes with it. Councillor Roberts stated that the Government is pushing for a circular economy as is Dorset Council and stated that next year there will be a new contract tendered, and it may be that having a booking system may be a cheaper option.

Councillor Dixon asked whether other centres outside of Dorset were asked if they receive waste from Dorset and if so, it may mitigate any out of area usage costs. Councillor Roberts stated that Dorset Council has to pay £700,000 a year to Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council to allow Dorset Council residents living in that direction, to use BCP centres and that Bridport HRC receives a small amount of waste from Devon but the main centres receiving waste from out of the area are Shaftsbury and Sherborne. Councillor Beer stated that everyone using Crewkerne HRC pays £2.00 including Somerset residents. Councillor Sewell thanked Councillor Roberts.

11. RESPONSE TO DORSET COUNCIL DRAFT HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY

The Clerk stated that this had been discussed at the last meeting and Councillors had been asked to review the draft policy to allow for a collective response and that the deadline is 24 August. Councillor Sewell stated that she very much opposed the proposed decrease from five years to two years in relation to the local connection and was disappointed that it was being proposed to amalgamate the whole of Dorset into one area. Councillor Sewell stated that there was no reference to community land trusts (CLTs) in the survey, the Clerk stated that she had forwarded the consultation to the Broadwindsor Group Parish CLT. Councillor Sewell stated that when people bought council houses in the past there was a stipulation that if they moved on then the dwelling would have to be passed on to someone from within the local area and that she did not think that this was being enforced at all. The Clerk stated that she would complete the consultation form on behalf of the Parish Council.

12. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

No update.

13. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

The Clerk reported that she had received an update from Dominic Withington, Chair of the Broadwindsor Allotment Group (BAG) and stated that the Japanese Knot Weed has been treated by Dorset Council and has for the most part died back. The area will be reviewed over the coming months, and the Parish Council will be advised if further signs of new growth are seen. The Clerk stated that she had reported an expansion of bamboo at the bottom of Plot 12 to Dorset Council but stated that Dorset Council would not get involved with this. The Clerk stated that rogue areas have been cut down and treated with a Glyphosate-based herbicide by the plot holder. The Clerk stated that in his report Dominic had stated that planning is very much a contentious issue in 2025 and that the Law Commission is reviewing the procedures governing the acquisition of land through compulsory purchase orders and having reviewed a document seen on the Farmers Guardian Facebook page the reference to

"Allotments" raised an eyebrow. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council was asked by BAG for an assurance that the allotments will be protected. Collectively, Councillors confirmed their commitment to the allotments. Councillor Sewell stated that she recollected that many years ago when potential sites were being looked at, the gradient of the allotments themselves would make it too expensive to develop.

14. MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) UPDATE

The Clerk reported that she had received an update from Dominic Withington and stated that the school is opening the MUGA at the end of the school day more consistently and that additional key holders would be beneficial and that it would be useful if a key could be retained at the community shop for those instances when the MUGA for whatever reason, is not open. It was also reported that the tennis fence needs a new clip/carabiner at one end to secure it and that users are still respectful and tidy on the whole. The Clerk reported that Councillor Dyke had agreed to approach the shop to enquire as to whether a key could be held there. Councillor Sewell reported that she had been informed that one night there had been a group of children playing on the MUGA at 10.00 pm using torches.

15. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

No update.

16. HIGHWAYS

a. Proposed temporary closure of B3164, Broadwindsor

The Clerk reported that she had posted the official notice from Dorset Council on the Parish Council's Facebook page which had then been shared and stated that a number of comments had been made raising concerns over the proposed diversion route and lots of suggestions had been put forward about signalling Back Lane. The Clerk stated that she had contacted Dorset Council and South Coast Traffic Management and raised these concerns and had received a reply which she read aloud.

Dorset Council

When the initial application came to us, the contractor discussed the possibility of using signals, but it just isn't feasible. If you were to keep the proposed section closed and make Back Lane 2-way there is no way to get across to the High Street, so would still essentially require a diversion. The traffic management company looked at removing the one way system completely but would involve a high amount of signal heads due to the West Street junction, B3162 south junction and Clanden Hill all needing signal heads as well as the one-way sections. The wait time between green lights on the signals would be excessive and cause delay to all vehicles coming to Broadwindsor, not just those needing to use the closed section. With excessive wait times you then increase the likelihood of people running a red light, which at this location, would cause chaos. You've then got the road narrowing by The Old George which would not allow any room for stacking vehicles so would mean placing the signal head near to the school, increasing the distance between signal heads.

South Coast Traffic Management

As queries as to why the road cannot remain open to light vehicles and only HGVs be diverted, this is something we did look at as an option initially, although the widths of the road may be wide enough, the issue we have is getting cars to the end of the closure we would need to apply to suspend the one way on High Street. Also 2 way signals on B3162 will have cars entering from Trusthams junction/Back Lane without signals, we could show a 4 way system to cover these junctions but this would cause its own delays, although this may seem drastic the cars egressing from said junctions would not be able to join the flow of traffic which in itself would cause issues with signal syncing and potential to cause a block within the narrower sections. Our client has also come back with the following information: This intended project is not possible to execute with the road open. Unfortunately, the tree surgery alone is substantial and requires heavy machinery, and this is the main reason to shut the road. To add, the way the new wall structure is designed (approved by the highways) the huge volume of excavated material will not be able to be done if the road remains open for light traffic. From an efficiency and health and safety point of view, the road must be shut. Our suggestion therefore would be if we were allowed to work round the clock and try and re-open the road in a week rather than two. There is no easy way to do this project unfortunately.

Councillor Sewell asked why the Parish Council was not consulted earlier, Councillor Roberts stated that the work has to be done, it cannot be carried out in the summer and there is no easy solution. Councillor Sewell asked about emergency services, Councillor Beer stated that they will be automatically notified. The Clerk stated that she had been contacted by Sandra Burrows and asked to raise the issue of how the pub will receive its deliveries with this diversion. Councillor Beer stated that given the amount of traffic, the size of the village and the width of the roads, those involved with planning the works and diversion are looking at the safety for all involved. Councillor Roberts stated that given the diversion route, people may be tempted to divert through Littlewindsor, which could not cope with an influx of vehicles, especially as the lanes are continually used by horses from the stable yards. Councillor Sewell stated that the village hall would also be affected. The Clerk confirmed that she would contact Dorset Council and South Coast Traffic Management confirming the Parish Council's support for carrying out the work within a week rather than two, highlighting concerns about traffic diverting through Littlewindsor, access for deliveries for the pub and timings.

b. Review of reported highways concerns to Dorset Council

The Clerk reported that when attending the June Parish Council meeting, the Police and Crime Commissioner had made reference to slow down signs and following that she had contacted Dorset Council to request that one be installed on Hollis Hill as a local resident had raised concerns to the Parish Council about speeding vehicles and difficulty in exiting her home onto the main road. The Clerk reported that Dorset Council had informed that the sign could not be installed in this location as it is subject to the national speed limit. The Clerk stated that

such signs cannot be used on roads with a limit of 50 mph or above. The Clerk agreed to circulate the information leaflet which had been attached to the email.

c. Street Lighting

The Clerk stated that at the last meeting she was asked to contact Dorset Council to find out the conclusions of the recent street lighting consultation. The Clerk stated that she had actioned this and was informed by the Street Lighting Team Leader that the consultation was run to gauge opinion on potential changes to the street lighting policy, so the outcome and conclusion will be made available as part of the policy review and reports to members later this year. The Clerk stated that she had replied and asked what residents who are still concerned about the brightness of new lighting in Broadwindsor can do and was told that all the street lighting present in Broadwindsor meets the highway lighting policy which was in place at the time it was installed and that a review of the current policy and any changes which might result are part of the democratic process and hence governed by the procedures set for local government. The Street Lighting Team Leader also stated that the Parish Council should refer residents to their locally elected representative in Dorset Council, for any local views to be included now that the public consultation has closed.

d. CB3 Bus Service

The Clerk reported that the proposed new timetable has now been sent off to the Office of the Traffic Commissioner and that it has been adjusted since the last report to take into account comments from Nick Hurrell to better connect with trains at Crewkerne Station. The Clerk stated that she had been informed that the old timetables were still up in bus stop locations and that she would raise this with the Beaminster Town Clerk.

17. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Curtis asked that Wessex Internet be included on the next agenda.

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 be at 7.30 pm on Monday 8 September at Drimpton Village Hall.

20. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 8.55 pm. Councillor Sewell thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.