



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

14 OCTOBER 2024

DRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rick Dyke (Chairman), 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. Yvonne White.

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

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

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Beck, Frampton and Webb 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.

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 September 2024 were confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor Dyke.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Dyke reported that he had spoken with Canon Baldwin and scheduled a meeting for next Monday to discuss the church clock issues.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher provided an update on the meeting held on 9 October with Dorset Highways representatives and stated that funds are clearly limited and that when the Chancellor announces her budget on 30 October, there will be substantial funds made available for local authorities to carry out work such as fixing potholes. Councillor Christopher stated that the budget will potentially have a huge effect on councils and that there are rumours circulating about an increase in national insurance which will impact on large businesses with many employees including Dorset Council. Councillor Christopher stated that there has been correspondence with Mr. Mainstone regarding street lighting in Broadwindsor and that further discussions will be taking place. Councillor Christopher stated that with regard to the request for a path to link the village to the Cricket Club in Broadwindsor, progress has been slow but a meeting with relevant officials is planned for November. Councillor Dyke stated that the Parish Council has been informed that there are no funds for the path and that it is not a priority for Dorset Council. Councillor Christopher stated that we must try and ensure that every effort is made and stated that he had received an email from the headteacher at Broadwindsor School stating how important the path would be for local school children and that the former portfolio holder for children Mr. Andrew Parry will also be attending the meeting to discuss the need for the path. Councillor Christopher stated that this is not a repair and could be funded from the capital budget. Councillor Dyke asked if the Parish Council could attend the meeting, Councillor Christopher stated that they could.

Councillor Dyke stated that one of the items on the agenda is that Broadwindsor School is looking for an additional Governor and knowing that Councillor Christopher is a Governor, asked whether he would provide an insight into the role. Councillor Christopher stated that Governors meet about ten times a year, meetings normally last about two hours and that there are numerous roles which can include setting school budgets and interviewing staff. Councillor Christopher stated that it is a very fulfilling role. Councillor Dyke stated that he had been informed that part of the role involved sitting in on classes, looking at improvements and overseeing subject-specific targets and that areas which they are looking to fill are science, religious studies/spirituality, PSHE and English.

Councillor Dyke stated that in respect to street lighting, Dorset Council has stated that there is no difference in terms of the intensity of light and although this is to be discussed later in the meeting, he hoped that the Parish Council could count on support from Councillor Christopher. Councillor Christopher stated that it was said at the meeting that Dorset Council would be happy to come out to speak to Parish Councils on such matters.

Councillor Dyke asked Councillor Christopher about the process of moving common land into Parish Council ownership, Councillor Christopher asked that an email be sent to him with further information and that he would chase the matter with the legal and planning teams.

Councillor Miller stated that there are places within the community with no lighting at all and asked whether there was additional funding to change this. Councillor Dyke stated that the current matter was not about budgets but about the replacement lights being more intense than the former ones.

b. Report from Dorset Police

The Clerk read aloud the report from PCSO Bishop which detailed two incidents involving a suspicious van in Broadwindsor, both of which were without subsequent issue. Additionally, in the early hours of 8 October, a resident in Broadwindsor was woken by a noise, they saw a small car parked outside a neighbour's garage and on inspection, the padlock had been damaged. Nothing appeared to have been taken. Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious activity directly to the Police. In his report, PCSO Bishop advised that he would be at Comrades Hall on Monday 28 October, from 11.30 am. There were no questions.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Beaminster Royal British Legion, Remembrance Service Representation

The Parish Council discussed convening a Remembrance Service in Broadwindsor and the choice of dates. It was agreed that the service would be held on Sunday 10 November, at 11:00 am, allowing the potential for greater community participation and the presence of the Royal British Legion. Councillor Dyke agreed to liaise with Canon Baldwin for clergy attendance and the Clerk agreed to arrange audio equipment for the event.

b. Broadwindsor School, Recruitment of Governor

Councillor Dyke stated that this matter had been discussed previously and encouraged anyone interested or aware of potential candidates to get in touch with Broadwindsor School.

c. DAPTC, AGM Notification

The Clerk confirmed that the Dorset Association for Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) AGM will be held on the 23 November via Zoom. Councillor Roberts agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillor Dyke reported that there is a proposal to change the structure of DAPTC to a company limited by guarantee, most notably to protect directors and that the Parish Council can vote to support or object to this proposal. The Clerk stated that in terms of service provision, nothing would change. Councillor Harris asked if this change was being repeated in other counties, Councillor Dyke confirmed that in some areas it was being and that those organisations which had taken that route had not reverted back. Councillor White stated that fundamentally, the proposal would protect people within the organisation from being liable for potential financial debt. It was agreed to review all proposals and vote at the next meeting.

d. Broadwindsor Residents, New Street Lighting Concerns

Councillor Dyke reported that a number of residents have raised concerns about the brightness and intensity of new street lights in High Street and the fact that no notice was provided by Dorset Council. It was noted that Dorset Council insists that the intensity has not increased and that they are far more efficient and therefore will save money. Residents dispute this, claiming the new lights are significantly brighter. Councillor Dyke stated that there has been correspondence with Dorset Council and their service provider. The Clerk stated that Mr. Mainstone had advised that those people with concerns should in the first instance contact the service provider who will come out and carry out a test. The Clerk stated that there is a strategy for lighting on Dorset Council's website. Councillor Dyke stated that he feels that this update may contravene rules around light pollution. Councillor Dyke asked members of the public if they wished to make any comment at this time.

A member of the public addressed the Council and stated that having a light opposite her house was a great benefit but now it is so bright it is comparable to daylight and stated that they are certainly not like for like. The member of the public stated that she is also concerned for the listed buildings on High Street and stated that it is detrimental to the health of those living there. The member of the public stated that some people in the village had been refused outdoor lighting for listed buildings and stated that those with responsibility need to come out and see for themselves that the lights are brighter. The member of the public stated that the lights contravene the Neighbourhood Plan for the Grouped Parish and that she is concerned about safety, going from very well-lit areas to other areas in total darkness.

Councillor Dyke stated that he was aware that one resident was planning on measuring the light intensity through an app on their phone so there should be some figures available. Councillor Miller stated that he had already done this and stated that although not an official measure, using the lux scale, the light fell just within the recognised parameters at 8.5/8.6, but when you actually look at the light, the brightness hurts your eyes. Councillor Miller stated that by the garages, there are no lights at all. Another member of the public stated that there is nothing to prevent this type of lighting going straight up into the sky and given that this is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), a Conservation Area and within the curtilage of at least three listed building, that this was not right. Another member of the public stated that this had happened before when lighting was changed without consultation in Broadwindsor Square. Councillor Beer stated that it would be interesting to compare the kelvin and lumen rates of both the previous and new lights and asked what cost savings they are supposed to bring about. The Clerk stated that she believed 50% and stated that given the strength of feeling, she would contact Dorset Council again.

e. Resident, Back Lane Safety Concerns

Councillor Dyke stated that there are ongoing concerns about the safety of Back Lane and that we should probably merge this with the other work which needs doing in Broadwindsor Square.

f. Dorset National Landscape, Invitation to Annual Forum

The Clerk reported that the Bridport event is on 13 November and that there are two sessions, 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm and 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm. Councillor Beer stated that the event will be held at the WI Hall.

g. Broadwindsor Resident, Creative Improvements to School Fencing

Councillor Dyke stated that he was expecting an update, but nothing had been received.

7. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive the Finance Report

Councillor Dyke referred Members of the Council to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 30 September 2024 was £50,526.91.

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

The Clerk stated that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds had been previously ring-fenced for the purchase of a defibrillator for Seaborough. Councillor White stated that she had been offered a half price defibrillator through a scheme. Councillor Harris asked whether there were CIL funds from developments in Drimpton. The Clerk stated that she would review all ring-fenced monies and report back at the next meeting. Councillor Dixon asked about the fingerpost restoration, the Clerk stated that a rolling programme of repair started a number of years ago and the work is put out to tender with a budget set annually.

b. To approve payment of £84.20 for HMRC (NI)

c. To approve payment of £40.00 for Information Commissioner's Office (Data Protection Fee)

d. To approve payment of £750.00 for London Hearts (Defib and Cabinet)

e. To approve payment of £30.00 for DAPTC (Councillor Training)

f. To approve payment of £58.00 for DAPTC (Clerk Conference)

g. To approve payment of £662.28 for Dorset Fingerpost Services (Fingerpost Restoration)

h. To approve payment of £26.25 for the Clerk (Expenses October 2024)

i. To approve payment of £1977.70 for the Clerk (Salary Adjustment July – September 2024)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Dixon and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments b to i.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/FUL/2024/04532, Racedown Home Farm, Marshwood, DT6 5QQ

Councillor Beer reported that he had carried out a site visit and had no concerns at all about the application and stated that it will bring about much improvement.

P/HOU/2024/04856, Coombe Farm, Coombe Water Lane, Blackdown, DT8 3LE

Councillor Raymond stated that the application was seeking permission to change the shape of the roof to allow for the installation of solar panels and that she could not see any reason to object to the proposal.

P/LBC/2024/05621, Hursey Farm, Hursey, DT8 3LN

Councillor Stuart Curtis stated that he had not been able to arrange a site visit as of yet as the homeowners have not been present but stated that he would try again.

P/HOU/2024/04565, Hollis Hill Cottage, Hollis Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QS

P/LBC/2024/04564, Hollis Hill Cottage, Hollis Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QS

Councillor Stephen Curtis stated that to carry out the works the wall will need to be removed and this will subsequently weaken the bank, and measures need to be put in place to mitigate the associated risks. Councillor Dyke stated that the longer it takes the more the building deteriorates, and that it was important that the works complete quickly but the issue about the bank must be resolved. The Clerk stated that she had included these concerns within the comments to Dorset Council and Councillor Dixon stated that this would surely be picked up by Building Control.

b. Other Applications

P/LBC/2024/0 1669, Manor House, Pitmans Grave Crossroads to Junction Littlewindsor Farm, Littlewindsor, DT8 3QU (Planning Appeal)

Councillor White stated that Councillor Roberts and herself had tried to arrange a visit but had only just made contact and a meeting had been arranged. Councillor White stated that the applicant was given the opportunity to amend plans but did not. Councillor Beer stated that he had reviewed the application and associated documents, and it was his opinion that Dorset Council was wrong to refuse planning permission. Councillor Roberts stated that as she understood the application at this stage, the new proposed structure looks bigger than the existing structure, Councillor Beer stated that the height would be increased to allow for the growing of plants and stated that the new structure would be a vast improvement. Councillor Dyke stated that the Parish Council had supported the original application.

P/FUL/2024/00831, 3 Templemans Ash, Pilsdon, DT6 5NX (Planning Appeal)

Councillor Harris stated that he and Councillor Raymond had visited the site, and nothing has changed since the Parish Council had reviewed the application previously and therefore they did not have any further comments to make.

c. Results

P/PABA/2024/04991, Manor Farm, Rookery Lane, Burstock, DT8 3LH: Prior Approval Not Required

P/FUL/2024/04050, Old Telephone Exchange Workshop, Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QL: Granted

P/TRC/2024/05136, Hayes Cottage, Access Road to The Hayes, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QF: No Objection

P/CLP/2024/04070, Oathill Farm Holiday and Touring Park, Oathill Farm Lane to Oathill Farm, Oathill: Refused

P/FUL/2024/03964, Broadwindsor House, Clanden Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX: Granted

P/LBC/2024/03965, Broadwindsor House, Clanden Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX: Granted

9. BROADWINDSOR FIREWORKS EVENT 2024

Councillor Dyke reported that the event will take place on Friday 1 November at the Cricket Club and that there are two reserves dates should the weather be poor. Councillor Dyke stated that the display will start at 7.00 pm, gates will open at 5.30 pm, the event will be free of charge and there will be a BBQ and bar. Councillor Dyke stated that PCSO Bishop has been advised, there will be road traffic calming measures in place as in previous years and car parking will be at Redlands Yard and hopefully at the village hall, which is to be confirmed. Councillor Dyke stated that for safety reasons, no sparklers will be allowed, and proceeds will be shared between the Cricket Club and the White Lion pub to enable them to purchase kitchen equipment.

10. FINGERPOST RESTORATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

Councillor Beer reported that due to illness, progress had been slow so far, but stated that with help from Councillor Frampton, he had completed the restoration of the fingerpost by Pound Cottage and stated that he had also completed the restoration of the fingerpost in Burstock Lane in Drimpton, which unfortunately was damaged shortly after it was reinstated. Councillor Beer stated that he had repaired the sign but not charged the Parish Council for the additional work. Councillor Beer stated that the next fingerpost to restore will be the one located at Birdsmoorgate which is rotten. Councillor Beer stated that after this, he will repair the sign opposite the pub in Drimpton. Councillor Beer confirmed that for all fingerposts letters are cast aluminium, fingers are hardwood with multiple layers of paint and brackets are cast aluminium. Councillor Beer stated that the sign at the Cross Keys in Broadwindsor is in his opinion very crowded with directional signs and brown signs and he welcomed further discussion about this and whether there should be two signs. Councillor Dyke stated that there are opposing views on this and stated that there would need to be consultation within the community in the first instance. Councillor Beer stated that he also welcomed a discussion about the restoration of boundary markers and stated that he has two in his possession but prior to 1966 the boundaries were different and there were many more situated across the Grouped Parish. Councillor Beer asked whether it would be possible to have more, cast from the originals and reinstate them back to their original location. Councillor Dyke stated that he supported the idea in principle, but it would be very much price dependent. Councillor Beer stated that he would obtain a quotation and report back. Councillor Dyke thanked Councillor Beer for his report. The Clerk reported that for this financial year a budget of £4500 had been earmarked for the restoration programme and that to date, £1444.28 had been spent. The Clerk stated that it was not possible to complete all fingerposts in any one year and that Councillors will agree an amount for the next financial year in the coming months.

11. DEFIBRILLATOR AWARENESS SESSIONS

The Clerk reported that two awareness sessions have been confirmed for 7 November at Blackdown Village Hall and 13 November at Comrades Hall and stated that both sessions will run from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm and will be free of charge. The Clerk stated that Dr Horne had asked if younger people could also be engaged and that she had asked Broadwindsor School if they could include a note about the event within their parent/carer weekly email.

12. REVIEW OF SCRIBE ACCOUNTS

The Clerk stated that a report had been circulated prior to the meeting which provided detailed information about Scribe and the reasons for changing to a cloud based system. The Clerk stated that currently Excel is used for all financial management and that it is her view that this is not the most efficient or secure option and does present several challenges and limitations. The Clerk stated that there are several customised accounting packages available, offering a variety of features tailored to the different sizes, needs and budgets of parish councils. The Clerk stated that she had been looking at Scribe for a number of years as it is used by many parish councils across Dorset and is well recommended and that the Chairman and herself had attended an online demonstration and were particularly impressed by its functionality, user-friendly interfaces and dedicated support offering which would ease transition. The Clerk reported that in terms of cost there would be an initial payment of £299.00, followed by monthly payments of £35.00, which includes unlimited support via phone and email, unlimited access to training via Scribe Academy, unlimited additional users and data back-up. No period of notice is required should you wish to leave. Councillor Dyke stated that this sits very closely with the recent discussions around how best to use the Clerk's time. Councillor Dixon asked whether the software would integrate with anything else, the Clerk stated that there are other add-on options including an allotment package but stated that she believed that the accounts package would be more than adequate for the Parish Council at this time. Councillor Harris asked when the Clerk would start, the Clerk stated that she would like to start before the end of the financial year. Councillor Harris stated that the packaged seemed good value for money. Councillor Dyke stated that unless Councillors wished for more time to consider the matter, he proposed that this be approved.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Harris and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the purchase of Scribe Accounts.

13. FREQUENCY OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillor Dyke reported that this had been discussed at the last meeting as a means of reducing the time spent by the Clerk on agenda and minute preparation and one suggestion that had been proposed was the removal of the January meeting which was often a fairly quiet month. Councillor Dyke stated that he supported this measure and asked Councillors if they had any views to the contrary. There were no objections. Councillor Harris asked whether any members of the public opposed this proposal, there were no objections.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Miller and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the removal of the January meeting, leaving ten meetings per year.

14. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Councillor Dyke reported that at the last Parish Council meeting, the draft strategy and action plan were approved and that it is now time to present the documents to the wider community and ask for feedback. Councillor Dyke stated that three meetings are being arranged - 16 November at Drimpton Village Hall, 30 November at Comrades Hall and the date has yet to be confirmed for Blackdown. Councillor Dyke stated that Dorset Councillor for Lyme Regis and Charmouth Belinda Bawden has agreed to act as a facilitator for all three meetings and an invitation to Edward Morello MP is being considered. Councillor Dyke reported that the plan is to have a rolling programme around the five themes of planning, farming and land ownership, community, natural environment and transport. Councillor Bawden will introduce each theme and then members of the community will take a seat at a table and discuss that particular theme before going back to listen to the presentation on the next theme. Councillor Dyke stated that this will enable people arriving at different times, to hear all thematic presentations and take part in all discussions. Councillor Dyke asked if there could be representation from Drimpton Councillors at the Drimpton event. A member of the public asked whether Dorset Council had ever forwarded the report following a visit looking at the potential for electric vehicle charging points. The Clerk stated that she had asked but no report had been sent but stated that she would ask again.

Councillor Dyke reported that on 22 October there will be a talk about the Brit Valley Project which is group landowners and farmers who have come together to work collectively in order to make a difference for nature in West Dorset. Councillor Dyke stated that it will be held at the Pavilion in Beaminster and should be very interesting.

15. HURSEY SPORTS FIELD

Councillor Beer stated that he had visited Hursey Common after the last meeting and was of the opinion that Hursey Common needs managing and that in terms of the sports field, he suggested making it into a Dorset apple orchard with seating and a picnic area and stated that this would be a lovely area for people to visit and spend time. Councillor Dyke thanked Councillor Beer for his comments. Councillor Dyke stated that he liked the idea of the apple orchard and that it had been proposed previously. Councillor Dyke stated that the views of the community will be sought at the upcoming Climate and Ecological Emergency meetings. Councillor Dyke stated that he will be speaking with Councillor Christopher about the process of transferring ownership of common land to the Parish Council as this will impact on what can and cannot be done. Councillor Dyke stated that in terms of Hursey Common, there are two parts, which differ quite significantly and are not comparable. Councillor Dyke stated that much work has taken place on the more southerly part of the Common, including the removal of evasive species and stated that this part of the Common is in very good condition.

Councillor Dyke stated that the other side is much bigger, and that regular work does take place including a number of working parties, and given the size, much of the work tends to focus around the car park area. A member of the public stated that the sports fields is often very wet and boggy during winter and that on the Common itself there had been a lot of debris left by contractors who cut back trees around the electric cables. The member of the public also stated that there are other areas of common land that need managing, Councillor Dyke stated that there is a piece of land opposite Hursey Farm which has deliberately been left and not cut during certain times of the year to aid biodiversity. The Clerk stated that there was a management plan for Hursey Common which is now out of date and that Dorset Wildlife Trust have surveyed again and a new plan is awaited. The member of the public stated that he welcomed more dialogue with Dorset Wildlife Trust, the Clerk stated that the Parish Council may be able to help with this.

16. ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Dyke read aloud a report kindly provided by Sarah Hunt from the Broadwindsor Allotment Group (BAG) which stated that the allotments are at full occupancy, with the last half plot in the throes of being taken up and a waiting list for plots which is very encouraging. BAG was represented at the Beaminster Big Green Day and donations for the produce from all plots totalled £145.00, less £15.00 to Beaminster Eco Group, this means an additional £130.00 to add to BAG funds, a fantastic result. This has been banked and will be used as and when required for general upkeep and maintenance. The report stated that there is a chance that through Sheila Hawkins, there may an opportunity to lay the hedges on the perimeter adjacent to Drimpton Road over the winter, with early thoughts that after a demonstration and training the BAG Group will have the opportunity to practice under supervision of an expert. Ideally, they will lay some of the hedge and learn the skills to carry on the project on their own. Several work parties will take place over the next few months to ensure common areas are maintained and the continued high standards are met. There have been no further instances of parents at pick up, parking on the allotments and that signage and the proposed chain in the final analysis deemed to be a little over the top. In summary, a busy Summer, some really great things have happened and more to look forward to this Autumn and Winter.

17. MUGA UPDATE

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

The Clerk reminded that a request had been made by BADCE to utilise a piece of land next to the MUGA which is not used by the school. The Clerk stated that Dorset Council have approved the change to the lease and have asked for details of the Parish Council's solicitor.

Councillor Dyke read aloud a report from Dominic Withington which asked whether the drainage issues had been resolved, Councillor Dyke stated that this matter is still ongoing. The report stated that opening and closing times are moving to reflect the day light hours and despite the weather, the MUGA is still being well used and looked after by those who use it, with no litter issues or antisocial behaviour. Broadwindsor School has been opening after school as required and Dominic confirmed that he is still happy to continue to close through

the week and open/close at weekends but an additional volunteer or two to cover would be welcomed. The report also stated that the use of the MUGA will dwindle to a few people on the weekends for much of the next six months once the clocks go back and raised the question about lighting. The report stated that there would obviously be questions regarding the financing, planning, neighbourhood issues and management should the MUGA be lit. Councillor Dyke stated that this would likely be problematic and was perhaps a matter for a different agenda. A member of the public stated that the MUGA is in a conservation area and that lighting would not be allowed.

18. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Councillor White reported that Wessex Internet is bringing superfast fibre optic broadband to Seaborough via her own land and that she has asked them whether they are planning to do the same in Drimpton. Councillor White stated that they had informed that Drimpton was on their list but could not offer a date and that she had suggested to them that given the close proximity, they could do it at the same time. Councillor Dyke stated that he had been informed that Hursey was still eighteen months off, and Councillor White stated that she had been told that Wessex Internet must complete everything by March 2026. The Clerk stated that she had spoken with a representative from Wessex Internet at a recent conference and had been advised that the Parish Council should keep in contact with Dorset Council's Digital Team.

19. HIGHWAYS

a. Review of reported highways concerns to Dorset Council

The Clerk stated that the spreadsheet had been updated and circulated and stated that the offer of the HGV sign had been withdrawn due to cost and that although the Parish Council had been informed that the path was not a priority, Councillor Christopher was willing to progress this further. Councillor Harris stated that if Dorset Council will not fund a new HGV sign, could the Parish Council purchase one and put it on the existing pole. The Clerk stated that she thought that Dorset Council would insist on putting up the sign but that she would ask the question. Councillor Raymond stated she was concerned about the safety of the bus stop at the crossroads at Burstock Lane/Netherhay Lane and stated that she had seen a lady waiting for a bus who only narrowly missed being hit by a car and she had also seen a child sitting on the road waiting for the bus. Councillor Raymond stated that she had stopped her car and advised the young person not to sit on the road as it was dangerous. Councillor Harris stated that the bus stop location had changed as it used to be in Chard Lane which was much safer and stated that some years ago, he had contacted Somerset Council to express his concerns, but no action was taken. The Clerk stated that she had recently spoken with Councillor Harris about this and was waiting for him to send her the contact details so that she could follow up with Somerset Council. Councillor Raymond stated that she had been approached by a number of residents concerned about the safety of the road as you approach Kittwhistle from Clapton. Councillor Raymond stated that at the pinch point there are two properties and that the hedge of one of the properties is overgrown and needs cutting back

as you cannot see the road ahead and oncoming traffic and you often have to reverse back up into a junction. Councillor Beer stated that there have been many accidents at this spot, and it needs reviewing by Dorset Council and measures put in place to slow down the traffic at the pinch point. The Clerk stated that she would contact Dorset Council and add to the spreadsheet.

b. Storage of BGPC Mower

Councillor Dyke reported that the Parish Council mower will remain where it is for the time being, but a long term solution needs to be found.

c. Salt bins and dumpy bags 2024/25 Season

The Clerk reported that Dorset Council will now start to fill grit bins across the county and asked Councillors to notify her if they see any bins which are damaged or any that are not filled. The Clerk stated that Dorset Council will fill all bins for free and charge for any further fills. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council can purchase additional dumpy bags to store. The Clerk stated that she had contacted both flood wardens and asked if they required additional sandbags for the coming season and stated that she will be ordering an additional sixty for Broadwindsor but was yet to hear back about Drimpton.

20. 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.

21. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public stated that it had been difficult to hear some of the meeting. Councillor Dyke stated that it may be necessary to change the formation of the tables and chairs for the next meeting. Another member of the public stated that they had not seen a report from Councillor Christopher, Councillor Dyke stated Councillor Christopher had informed at a previous meeting that he would not be circulating a report prior to a meeting until the budget had been agreed for Dorset Council.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

23. FMR TRUST

a. To receive the Finance Report

Councillor Dyke referred Trustees to a spreadsheet highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 30 September 2024 was £3,427.98. There were no questions.

b. Review of Trust objectives and eligibility criteria

Councillor Dyke stated that the Clerk had circulated a number of Trust documents with the supplementary papers. The Clerk stated that she had been told on commencement of her position, that the Trust funded sporting projects, and the definition had been slightly widened over the years to active recreation to encourage more applications to come forward. The Clerk reported that she had spoken again to the Charity Commission and the Trust still falls under the threshold for charity registration. There was considerable discussion about how to interpret the objectives set out in the Trust documents. Councillor Harris stated that more detailed working guidelines which do not deviate from the Trust documents are required to aid Trustees and applicants. It was decided that further discussion was required in order to agree on the Trust's objectives and eligibility criteria and the Clerk was asked to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

c. To approve payment of £347.82 for Broadwindsor Group Parish Council (Trust Administration)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Dixon and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved payment of £347.82 for Broadwindsor Group Parish Council.

d. To consider grant application of £200.00 for West Dorset Rangers (Activities)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Dixon and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved a grant of £200.00.

e. To consider grant application of £500.00 for Comrades Hall (Resurfacing of Car Park)

Trustees were very much supportive of this project but agreed that the application did not meet the current eligibility criteria for the FMR Trust and asked the Clerk to invite the applicant to submit a grant request to the Parish Council.

f. To consider grant application of £500.00 for 1st Beaminster Scout Group (Water Based Activities)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Burt, seconded by Councillor Stuart Curtis and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved a grant of £240.00.

g. To consider grant application of £200.00 for Village Voices (Community Newsletter)

Trustees were very much supportive of this project but agreed that the application did not meet the current eligibility criteria for the FMR Trust and asked the Clerk to invite the applicant to submit a grant request to the Parish Council.

24. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.35 pm and the meeting of the FMR Trust was formally closed at 10.15 pm. Councillor Dyke thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.