



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

DRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rick Dyke (Chairman), Cllr. Tim Beer, Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Philip Dixon, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, 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, there were nine members of the public present. Councillor Dyke paid tribute to the Duchess of Kent following her recent passing, acknowledging her contribution to the Royal Family and her public duties.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

a. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Curtis, Sewell, and Beck and unanimously approved by the Parish Council.

b. To consider approval of absence request from Councillor Sewell under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Harris and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved a three month period of absence request for Councillor Sewell under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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.

Councillor White expressed an interest in Agenda Item 8c, and Councillor Frampton expressed an interest in Agenda Item 8d, specifically relating to identified housing sites in Broadwindsor.

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 14 July 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 Miller and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 July 2025.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a. Reported out of hours MUGA usage

Concerns had previously been raised regarding out-of-hours use of the MUGA, with reports of late-night noise and lights during the summer months. The volunteers responsible for the daily opening and closing confirmed that checks are carried out regularly, that instances of late use are rare, and that reported lights may have been their own when inspecting the facility. The Council expressed thanks to the volunteers for their continued commitment in managing the facility. It was noted that the planning condition requires closure at 8:30 pm, and discussion took place about whether this might be reviewed, particularly during lighter summer evenings. Suggestions were made about sharing responsibilities among more volunteers and considering future options should volunteer support decline. The Council agreed that the MUGA remains a valued facility for the Parish and will continue to be managed as at present, with further discussion on conditions to be taken up with Dorset Council if appropriate.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher reported that the Local Plan has generated considerable discussion, with opinions varying widely—even within political parties. Some support it enthusiastically, while others strongly oppose it. The Plan sets out Dorset Council's proposals to demonstrate a five-year land supply, and it will take time to progress fully. Councillor Christopher stated that there is some confusion locally about which sites are included. Some submitted in the Call for Sites last December were not accepted, while others were included, leading to questions about the selection process. An explanatory email from the Liberal Democrat Portfolio Holder for Planning, Shane Bartlett, is expected and will be circulated when received. Councillor Christopher stated that there are several public events planned to discuss the Local Plan and residents are encouraged to view the Plan online and send any queries to the Parish Clerk or himself.

Councillor Christopher stated that it is important to note that inclusion in the Local Plan does not mean planning permission has been granted; it simply identifies potential sites. The Plan uses a tier system to classify settlements:

- Tier 1: Larger towns such as Dorchester and Weymouth
- Tier 2: Medium towns like Bridport and Beaminster
- Tier 3: Larger villages with potential to accommodate additional housing

For example, Broadwindsor is listed as Tier 3. The tiering generally indicates which villages could accommodate growth, often based on existing amenities such as schools, though it is not exhaustive. Councillor Christopher stated that readers will also notice the emphasis on renewable energy sites, which feature prominently in the Plan, sometimes more than individual housing sites. Councillor Christopher stated that residents are encouraged to review the Local Plan and provide feedback. Questions were raised regarding the Local Plan, particularly about the impact of new housing on infrastructure, including employment, healthcare, schools, and transport. Concerns included:

- Availability of local jobs for new residents
- Access to doctors and healthcare, highlighting national and local shortages
- Capacity of schools and other essential services
- Public transport limitations

Councillor Christopher acknowledged these points, noting that the Local Plan includes guidance on employment sites and community infrastructure. However, he emphasized that the Council cannot directly provide services like doctors, and that housing provision must be balanced with realistic infrastructure planning.

It was noted by a member of the public that when reviewing the Local Plan, what stood out were the proposed sites for renewable energy within the Grouped Parish rather than additional housing. Councillor Christopher commented that some people had made off-the-cuff remarks suggesting that if Dorset is not going to be covered in concrete with houses, it may instead be covered by renewables.

Discussion also covered the design of new housing, with the Plan encouraging smaller, regional builders (10–30 houses) to maintain local character, rather than large national developers. Other points included:

- Challenges posed by the five-year land supply requirement, which has created a sense of urgency in the Local Plan.
- Issues experienced in nearby villages where developers have applied for large housing schemes, sometimes leading to planning permissions being granted due to insufficient supply.
- Difficulties in recruiting sufficient local workforce to support new development, with employees commuting from further afield.

A member of the public expressed concern that the neighbourhood plan is becoming outdated and cannot be properly reviewed due to the withdrawal of funding, leaving the community vulnerable to additional development. It was agreed that a considered and cohesive response to the Local Plan consultation is necessary. Parishioners were encouraged to attend upcoming public sessions, including an open meeting on Sunday in Broadwindsor, to share views and ensure community concerns are communicated to Dorset Council.

Additionally, Councillor Dyke noted that Dorset Council will be upgrading old streetlights to dimmable LED units to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs. He explained that some lights in Broadwindsor have already been replaced and was unsure as to whether these would be eligible. Dorset Cabinet are set to discuss the programme at their meeting tomorrow evening. Councillor Christopher will attend the meeting and will encourage Dorset Council to liaise with the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity regarding local requirements.

Councillor Dyke thanked Councillor Christopher for arranging the meeting with Mr. Jan Britton describing it as incredibly productive. Positive progress was noted, and it was highlighted that Mr. Britton was particularly supportive of creating a pedestrian link to the Cricket Club showing a more positive approach than had previously been received from Councillor John Andrews. Councillor Christopher advised that continued engagement with the officer would be beneficial.

It was noted that efforts are being made to encourage Sue McGowan, Head of Dorset Travel at Dorset Council, to meet with the Parish Council. Councillors were advised to provide a clear agenda of transport-related issues, particularly those linked to the Local Plan, such as bus services and train frequency on the Waterloo line.

c. Report from Dorset Police

No report.

c. Presentation from Ben Heath, Wessex Internet

Ben Heath attended the meeting on behalf of Wessex Internet to outline the company's plans to extend full fibre broadband provision to rural areas, including parts of the Grouped Parish. Ben explained that the rollout is supported by the Government's Project Gigabit initiative and will provide connection speeds of 100–900 Mbps, with properties provisioned for connection but not obliged to take up the service. Projects affecting the Grouped Parish include work in Broadwindsor (over 400 properties), Drimpton (over 180 properties), and areas of Blackdown, with construction likely to begin in early 2026. Village halls may be eligible for a community hub connection at a nominal cost of £1.20 per month, in exchange for supporting awareness in the community. Questions were raised by Councillors and members of the public regarding:

- Land access agreements, communication with landowners, and the threatening tone of initial correspondence.
- Concerns about compulsory access, depth of cable installation, and liability for any damage.
- The balance between pole-mounted and underground cabling.
- The commercial nature of the enterprise and its government-backed funding.

It was noted that communication and negotiation with landowners had caused some dissatisfaction. The Chair advised that further queries should be directed through the Parish Council so that they can be collated and, if necessary, taken up directly with Wessex Internet senior representatives. Ben Heath offered to provide contact details and further information, and agreed that improved communication with landowners would be beneficial going forward. Councillor Dyke thanked Ben for attending.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Broadwindsor Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and West Dorset Rangers, Request for Fundraiser Support

The Clerk reported that an appeal has been received from Broadwindsor Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, and West Dorset Rangers in support of their forthcoming Bingo Night fundraiser on 27 October. The event will raise money towards running costs, activities, and supplies, helping to keep membership affordable for families. They are seeking support in the form of raffle prizes, contributions towards hall hire, or donations for refreshments. It was agreed that the Parish Council offer to cover the costs of hiring the hall.

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 31 August 2025 was £32,817.96. 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 receive and note the External Auditor Report and Certificate 2024/2025

c. To approve payment of £72.00 for DM Payroll Services Ltd (Payroll)

d. To approve payment of £18.00 for Comrades Hall (Furniture Hire)

e. To approve payment of £252.00 for BDO LLP (External Audit)

f. To approve payment of £42.00 for NALC (Online Event)

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

h. To note payment of £160.16 for HMRC (NI, August)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Beer, seconded by Councillor Roberts and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously noted the External Auditor Report and Certificate and approved payments c to h.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/FUL/2025/04285, Cuckoo Farm, Cuckoo Lane, Winsham, TA20 4NX

Councillor Beer reported that a site visit had been carried out. The site, which has not been used as cow stalls for many years, is proposed to be repurposed as an equestrian exercise yard with associated stables. It was considered that this would be a positive improvement, tidying the area and making it more useful for the family. No objections were raised.

P/CLE/2025/04793, Old Drimpton Farm, Chard Road, Drimpton, DT8 3RF

Councillor Harris reported that he and Councillor Beck had reviewed this application and carried out a site visit. The property was originally constructed as a single dwelling. On completion, it was subsequently rented as two dwellings and has been assessed for council tax purposes as two separate units for approximately ten years. This application confirms the legal subdivision without the need for a further planning application. Two neighbouring properties were consulted and raised no objections. For these reasons, Councillor Harris proposed that the Parish Council supports the application. All agreed.

b. Other Applications

P/HOU/2025/05128, 11 Greenham Yard, Greenham, TA18 8QE

This application was received after the agenda was published and seeks permission to carry out the demolition of a small garage and the erection of a new garage and workshop. The deadline for comments is 23 September. Councillor Beer kindly volunteered to lead on the consultation.

c. Results

The following results were reported.

TPO/2025/0023, Land at Manor Farm, Common Water Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QR: Confirmed without modification

P/PABA/2025/04209, Land West of Netherhay Lane, Drimpton: Refused

P/PABA/2025/03874, Westlea Access Road to West Dairy Farm, Seaborough, DT8 3QY: Prior Approval Not Required

P/HOU/2025/03043, 20 Redlands Lane, Broadwindsor, DT8 3ST: Granted

P/HOU/2025/02959, Rock House, Clanden Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX: Granted

P/LBC/2025/02960, Rock House, Clanden Hill, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PX: Granted

P/VOC/2025/01730, Sandpit Cottage, Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor, DT8 3RS: Granted

d. Local Plan Consultation

Discussed under Agenda Item 5a.

e. Withdrawal of Funding for Neighbourhood Plans

The Clerk reported that she had recently joined a WhatsApp group set up by Jo Witherden, the consultant on the previous neighbourhood plan, which included representatives from other parish and town councils in similar positions. With funding for neighbourhood plan

reviews withdrawn, councils are exploring alternative approaches. Some are funding the review themselves while reducing consultant input by undertaking more groundwork in-house. Others plan to fund the review initially but aim to recoup costs through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on future developments. It was noted that consultant fees can be significant, with estimated costs for different stages of a review ranging from £3,200 to £8,000, potentially totalling around £20,000. It was noted that completing a review requires significant work and commitment. The original neighbourhood plan took around seven years to develop, with a core group of volunteers providing the bulk of the input. For any new review, a dedicated team from the community would be essential.

9. DAPTC PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY

The DAPTC Parish Council Survey, aimed at assessing how effectively parish councils work with Dorset Council and the quality of communication, is open until 31 October. Councillors were encouraged to review the survey over the coming month, with responses to be discussed and submitted at the October meeting. Comments can be sent to the Clerk prior to the meeting for collation.

10. WARM SPACES INITIATIVE

Councillor Dyke stated that there was funding available to train volunteers who are involved with the provision of warm spaces and that the Clerk had approached the three village halls to ask if they would be interested and whether they have capacity. The Clerk stated that Drimpton responded that they currently do not have sufficient volunteer capacity and noted potential financial implications, so are unable to participate at this time. Comrades Hall stated that they run a session on Mondays from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm for coffee and socialising, which could be extended and designated as a warm space with additional volunteers. They expressed interest in participating. The Chair of Blackdown Village Hall indicated that due to the smaller number of residents, the village hall may not be suitable for a warm space but welcomed input from local councillors. Councillor Raymond stated that she had spoken to the Chair and confirmed that Blackdown would not be appropriate. It was noted that some Parish Council funding could potentially be allocated to support the initiative, depending on interest and feasibility.

11. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Councillor Dyke noted that there has not been any significant progress on some initiatives in recent months. A further meeting in Broadwindsor is planned to discuss the future use of the playing field, including the suggestion of converting part of it into an orchard. Other priorities, such as the Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plan, and transport matters, have taken precedence. Upcoming events include Beaminster's Big Green Day on 27 September, which will be attended by the Allotment Group and by Councillor Dyke who will be presenting.

12. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

It was noted that a half of plot has been reinstated and is available for rent.

13. MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) UPDATE

The Clerk provided an update regarding the piece of land next to the community shop. The shop wishes to sublease the land from the Parish Council to enable an extension. The advert for this was placed in the Bridport News, and no objections were received during the consultation period. Dorset Council has confirmed that the Parish Council will be invoiced for the newspaper advert (£339.60 + VAT) and their legal fees (£500 + VAT) related to the lease variation. BADC has agreed that they would be willing to make a donation to cover the net cost of these fees (excluding VAT), meaning the Parish Council would not incur any additional expense. It was agreed to proceed on this basis to enable the lease process to move forward.

14. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke noted that communication within the Grouped Parish relies heavily on social media, which does not reach all residents and that he is exploring a paper-based newsletter as an additional method of communication, similar to the Broadwindsor News model. Broadwindsor News currently has a paid circulation but could potentially be expanded to reach all residents, with possible additional advertising revenue to cover costs. It was suggested that any such initiative should be co-ordinated with existing local newsletters to avoid duplication, and advice should be sought from those with experience, including Andrew Pastor. A mix of communication methods, including social media, website updates, and printed newsletters, was considered the most effective approach to ensure parishioners are well-informed about events and meetings and it was agreed that work on developing a broader communication strategy will continue.

15. HIGHWAYS

a. Highways meetings with Dorset Council

Councillor Dyke stated that a meeting was held on 26 August with Jan Britton, Executive Director of Place at Dorset Council along with Councillor Christopher to review priority highway issues across the Grouped Parish. Key areas of focus included the pathway to the Cricket Ground and the long-standing Kittwhistle pinch point. Jan Britton is relatively new to Dorset and is reviewing the matters raised with Council Officers and will provide a formal response by letter. Councillor Dyke stated that it was a very positive meeting. The Clerk stated that the replacement Community Highways Officer, following Blair Turner's departure, has not yet been appointed. Dave Carey, currently covering, will visit the Group Parish on 23 September for a drive-around to review outstanding issues.

b. Update on temporary closure of B3164, Broadwindsor

It was confirmed that the B3164 in Broadwindsor will be temporarily closed starting 15 September. The closure is expected to last up to two weeks, but the road may reopen earlier if work is completed ahead of schedule. The road will be closed 24 hours a day, with work only occurring between 7.00 am and 11.00 pm. A diversion route has been shared via the Parish Council's Facebook page, website, and Broadwindsor Locals' Facebook group. With regard to school transport, the Clerk stated that all bus companies are consulted regarding road closures or diversions, and that transport plans should be in place to accommodate these

changes. However, communication has been poor, and she will be following up to ensure clearer guidance is provided for parents and pupils.

Councillor Raymond reported that since the school reopened on Thursday, cars have persistently been parking outside North and South Cottages which has caused both sides of the road to be blocked. This has caused severe congestion, making it difficult for other vehicles to pass and creating safety concerns. Councillor Raymond stated that the former headteacher repeatedly reminded parents to park only in the designated car park, on the estate, or on the specified section of road, but the issue persists. Councillor Dyke stated that the new headteacher will need to address this with all parents to ensure compliance and improve safety. It was suggested that the local PCSO could attend.

c. Wessex Internet, superfast broadband

Discussed under Agenda Item 5c.

d. Speed Limit on A3066, Beaminster to Mosterton

Councillor Dyke reported that Beaminster Town Council has been approached by a householder at South Dibberford Farm expressing his concern at the speed of the traffic travelling along the A3066 between Beaminster and Mosterton. As that particular section falls within the areas of Broadwindsor and Mosterton Parish Councils, Beaminster Town Council has asked that both Councils consider contributing towards the cost of speed surveys on the A3066. After discussion, it was noted that the Parish Council has several areas where speed surveys could be beneficial. It was agreed that, while the Parish Council would like to support this request, current priorities mean it is not feasible to contribute at this time.

e. Local Transport Plan Consultation

Councillor Dyke reported that the Local Transport Plan consultation is running in parallel with the Local Plan consultation and stated that the two documents do not align: the Local Plan proposes significant housing growth, yet the Local Transport Plan makes no provision for additional bus services in this area, nor does it reference trains. Councillor Dyke stated that the Local Transport Plan is difficult to read, with missing costings and proposals that appear incomplete. Councillor Dyke reported that he has had discussions with Nick Hurrell of Drimpton, who has been reviewing the Plan, and further input will be sought. It was agreed that the Parish Council should respond, highlighting the lack of integration with the Local Plan and the absence of meaningful transport improvements for rural areas. The deadline for response is 13 October 2025.

Councillor Harris reported that the Community Speedwatch Team in Broadwindsor continues to operate weekly sessions on Fridays. During one recent session, 65 vehicles were recorded speeding on the Bridport Road and Beaminster Road within just one hour, out of a total of 256 vehicles monitored. While it is disappointing that such a high proportion of drivers continue to exceed the limit, the Speedwatch sessions are proving effective in identifying and reporting offenders. It was further noted that the Speedwatch scheme in Drimpton is still running under the leadership of a dedicated volunteer, now aged 90. However, additional

volunteers are urgently needed to ensure the scheme can continue. It was agreed that a call-out for new Speedwatch volunteers in Drimpton will be placed on the Parish Council website, and Facebook page similar to the recent appeal for Broadwindsor. Councillor Dyke reported that the team in Broadwindsor remains enthusiastic and well supported, with a large pool of volunteers co-ordinated by Scott Cleary. Each week he circulates times via WhatsApp, allowing people to choose sessions that suit them, ensuring there is always a good rotation and mix of participants. Some of the speeds recorded have been over 40 mph, and the Police to whom results are reported weekly have expressed astonishment at the levels of speeding captured. In fact, they have recently attended with their own speed gun and, in just one session, issued penalties to eight drivers exceeding 40 mph. These drivers now face three points on their licence and a £100 fine. It is hoped that with both community and Police action, the message will start to get through.

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 13 October at Blackdown Village Hall.

19. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.27 pm. Councillor Dyke thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.