



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
9 DECEMBER 2024
DRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr. Rick Dyke (Chairman), Cllr. Chris Beck, Cllr. Tim Beer, Cllr. Stephen Curtis, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Andrew Frampton, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Garry Miller, Cllr. Sonia Raymond, Cllr. Nathalie Roberts, Cllr. Kevin Webb, 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 two members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Burt and Dixon 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.

Councillor Frampton stated that he had an interest in Agenda Item 8a, planning application P/PABA/2024/06217. The Clerk informed that he should leave the meeting room when this item was discussed.

b. To receive requests for dispensations.

The Clerk reported that she had received a dispensation request in relation to Agenda Item 7b from Councillor Beer.

c. To grant any requests for dispensation.

The dispensation was granted.

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

4. MATTERS ARISING

a. Report from DAPTC AGM

Councillor Dyke thanked Councillor Roberts for her detailed report from the AGM and for representing the Parish Council at the meeting. Councillor Dyke stated that there was also a vote to increase the annual subscription by 30% and asked the Clerk whether their services represent good value for money. The Clerk stated that they did and that they offered a wide range of good quality support.

b. Community Speedwatch Update

Councillor Dyke reported that this item was discussed at the last meeting and stated that a member of the public had expressed an interest in reinstating a team within Broadwindsor and that the Parish Council had concerns on how effective it would be. Councillor Dyke stated that he had sought the views of some of the SIDs volunteers and it was thought that cameras would be much better. Councillor Dyke stated that the Clerk had contacted Dorset Police and investigated this further and whilst there are camera systems currently being reviewed by them, they are still too expensive to become operational. The Clerk stated that the information supplied to her was that currently one camera would cost £15,000. Councillor Dyke stated that the Parish Council has expressed its interest in continuing dialogue with Dorset Police on this matter and could look at a cost sharing project in the future. The Clerk stated that she had been informed by Dorset Police that the member of the public who had expressed an interest in setting up a new community speedwatch group had not been back in touch with them.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher reported that he had attended a meeting with the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner who expressed his wish to visit more parish councils to discuss a number of issues, including the theft of farm machinery. In relation to the proposed footpath to link the village of Broadwindsor and the Cricket Club, Councillor Christopher reported that he attended a meeting with the Portfolio Holder and could confirm that Dorset Council is not responsible for the piece of land in front of the houses facing the B3163 and given that, any new footpath would have to run alongside the road. Councillor Christopher stated that this then raises a number of issues, a crossing would be required to enable pedestrians to safely cross over the road and visibility would have to be considered. Councillor Christopher stated that it had occurred to him that traffic calming measures are needed on the east side of the 20mph limit and the comment from the Dorset Council Officer was that the 20 mph limit would benefit by being moved a few yards eastward. Councillor Christopher stated that he

will speak about this and about visibility with Councillor Frampton and stated that at the recent full Dorset Council meeting, he had commented that Dorset Council had failed local villages by not dedicating sufficient resources for road safety. Councillor Christopher stated that the Chief Executive of Dorset Council had recently resigned. Councillor Frampton asked for clarification as to whether it was now being proposed that the footpath run along the roadside rather than the side where the houses are. Councillor Christopher stated that it was the recommendation of the Officer that this would offer the best solution in terms of access and safety, although the issue of visibility was yet to be reviewed. Councillor Frampton stated that to narrow the road, install calming measures and a new crossing would not be cost effective to the amount of people using the footpath and stated that he did not wish for Parish Council funds to be under more strain. Councillor Frampton asked about land ownership in front of the houses, Councillor Christopher stated that he believed that it was 'Bona Vacantia' – ownerless property, although did not have this in writing. The Clerk stated that she had made enquiries regarding ownership and Chris Loder, former MP had helped and stated that she would review communications and report back.

Councillor Dyke stated that he had asked a number of questions to Councillor Christopher and had received a reply but asked that his response be shared with the Parish Council. Councillor Dyke stated that with regard to the proposed development Land South of Fullers, it had been noted that a number of new documents had been uploaded to the planning portal including a suggestion of an onsite nutrient treatment system and stated that the Parish Council should be contacted when there is likely to be further activity as there is concern that the latest plans do not meet what the Parish Council is looking for from this development. Councillor Christopher stated that he had spoken to the Case Officer Mr. Bob Burden who confirmed that he is willing to engage with the Parish Council regarding any queries that the Parish Council may have. Councillor Dyke stated that he would draft something for the Parish Council to review. On a different note, Councillor Dyke stated that there were general concerns about proposed devolution plans and joining with Somerset, Wiltshire and possibly Swindon. Councillor Christopher reported that a statement had been issued by Dorset Council in terms of the 'Heart of Wessex Plan' and stated that nothing is yet cast in stone and that invitations are still open to other authorities to join. Councillor Christopher stated that all individual councils will still exist, but it may be that certain matters are devolved to the combined authority. Councillor Dyke stated that this could include planning and transport and that there is concern that the way in which monies are therefore then allocated could mean that rural areas will be worse off. A member of the public asked Councillor Christopher for an update on the request for road surface improvements on Sandpits Road, notably when the works will take place. The member of the public stated that the surface is dangerous to vehicles and horses which use the road often. Councillor Dyke asked in relation to white line painting in Back Lane, whether Blair Turner had visited yet and stated that vehicles are still driving the wrong way up the Lane. The Clerk stated that she had received an update from James Hussey, Councillor Christopher asked that this be forwarded to him. Councillor Raymond asked why the white lines on the side roads had not been completed at the same time as the lines on

the middle of the main road. Councillor Beer stated that they are carried out by different teams.

b. Report from Dorset Police

The Clerk read aloud the report from PCSO Bishop which stated that there was nothing specific to the Parish to feed back at this time but that there was a theft of a trailer near Bettiscombe and a theft of a digger in Broadoak over the last weekend. Fortunately, the digger had been found in a field in the Crewkerne area, but the digger is still outstanding. It is probable that the trailer was stolen to transport the digger and then dumped once used. In his report PCSO Bishop advised to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to Dorset Police. In his report PCSO Bishop stated that he will be at Comrades Hall on Monday 23 December for his monthly engagement and in Drimpton at the Food Share on Friday 20 December. There were no questions.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Village Voices, Note of Thanks

The Clerk reported that a note of thanks for the grant had been received and circulated with the supplementary papers.

b. BGP Community Land Trust, Request for Financial Support for Footpath Maintenance

Rowland Hibbard, Chair of the Broadwindsor Group Parish Community Land Trust (BGPCLT) addressed the Council and asked whether they would consider contributing financially to support the costs associated with the upkeep of the new footpath. Rowland Hibbard stated that when the new homes in Drimpton were built, Dorset Council insisted that a new footpath be installed and because it is very difficult to access to cut the hedge, a contractor has to be engaged and for this year, the cost was £678.00. Rowland Hibbard asked the Parish Council if they would consider contributing £300.00 a year. Councillor Frampton asked whether residents contribute towards the maintenance of the site, Rowland Hibbard stated that they pay a sum of money to Abri, the Housing Association, and not to the CLT. Steve Chubb, Treasurer of the BGPCLT stated that the piece of land in question does not belong to Abri but is owned by the CLT and stated that the CLT did not want to take on this ownership or responsibility for the new footpath, but it was forced to do so in order to gain planning permission. Steve Chubb stated that the area was very overgrown and hard to maintain and that due to the fencing it was not possible to access with a tractor. Councillor Stephen Curtis asked which area needed maintaining – the bank, ditch or hedge. Rowland Hibbard stated all three. Councillor Stephen Curtis stated that the ditch is by the path and the hedge is the responsibility of the owner of the property next door. Rowland Hibbard confirmed that the local contractor used had stated that he cannot get into the area with his hedge cutter. Councillor Beck asked if the path was a public footpath and recorded on the Definitive Map, Steve Chubb stated that attempts had been made for the path to be adopted by Dorset Council, but it had not proceeded. Councillor Beck stated that the CLT had taken on the path and therefore taken on the obligation. Councillor Roberts asked if the path was well used, Steve Chubb stated that it was. Councillor Harris stated that it seemed crazy to him that the

CLT were awarding grants when they could spend that money on the things that needed doing. Councillor Beck asked why fencing was required, Steve Chubb stated that it had to be stock proofed to prevent any animals that may be grazing from escaping. The Parish Council considered the request from the CLT but did not support it.

c. Dorset Council, Climate and Nature Survey

Councillor Dyke stated that he proposed that a response be formulated by the CEE Group and presented at the next meeting of the Parish Council prior to submission. This was agreed.

d. Broadwindsor School, Request for Relocation of Litter Bin

The Clerk reported that Broadwindsor School had made contact to ask for support in relocating the litterbin currently positioned at the entrance to the school due to smell, wasps in the summer and dogs using it to foul on. The Clerk stated that she had contacted Dorset Council who then carried out a site visit and survey and had repositioned the bin further up the path at the location proposed by the school. The Clerk stated that Dorset Council had made no charge and that the school were pleased.

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 November 2024 was £45,420.26. There were no questions.

b. Budget and Precept Planning 2025/2026

Councillor Dyke thanked the Clerk for the reports. Councillor Dyke stated that he and Councillor Miller had made a site visit to the MUGA and that surface water on the MUGA still remains a problem and that it is likely that funds will be required to resolve this. Councillor Dyke stated that one issue is that surface water is flowing down from the bank near the community shop and a lip which protects the boundary prevents water going back once it has reached the MUGA. Councillor Raymond stated that the school drain which does not have a cover is full of grit and stated that it had been reported to and jetted by Dorset Council previously. Councillor Miller agreed to review this drain. The Clerk stated that Dorset Council does not have any record of the drain in the school field and stated that she had contacted the contractor who had installed the MUGA. Councillor Dyke asked the Clerk to contact South West Water. Councillor Miller stated that he could make changes to the wall to alleviate the water run off but stated that this would offer a short term fix if the land were to be used by BADCE for an extension to the shop. Councillor Dyke stated that costs are unknown as yet but could well escalate. The Clerk stated that the draft budget showed costs just for the annual inspection and clean. Councillor Dyke stated that the draft budget for the fingerposts had been based on six being completed within the year. Councillor Beer stated that he would work to the agreed budget and stated that he was concerned that the Parish Council may need to fund village entrance signs in the future. Councillor Dyke stated that with the tax base applied, if the Precept remains the same as in the previous year, this would result in a reduction for parishioners, if the Precept is increased by 3%, it would equate to about the same level as the

current year. Councillor Harris stated that once the grants to the village halls and community shop have been deducted from the allocation for grants, there would not be much left for other groups. Councillor Harris stated that he would like to raise the grant level for village halls as they have had increases in overheads and have more in the budget for others. Councillor Dyke stated that he understood this view but asked what should then be reduced in order for the budget to balance. Councillor Christopher stated that as a comparison, Char Valley Parish Council had voted for a 7% increase. Councillor Dyke stated that it was a difficult decision, on one hand wanting to reduce the financial burden for parishioners but on the other, wanting to support vital community assets. The Clerk advised that even with a slight increase, there will be a small budget deficit. Councillor Beck stated that it would be hard to make the case that the Parish Council should be supporting the running costs of village halls. Councillor Frampton stated that village halls also have a revenue stream. Councillor Dyke stated he would struggle with a 7% increase even though in terms of monetary value, the increase is little. Councillor Roberts stated that she feared that the Parish Council will be forced to take on more and more financial responsibilities from Dorset Council and although it has some reserves, the Parish Council needs to be able to be resourced sufficiently to meet these demands. Councillor Harris asked whether a 7% increase would mean that the Parish Council would still have a budget deficit, the Clerk stated that it would. Councillor Dyke proposed a 5% increase which would in monetary terms equate to a small rise for parishioners due to the tax base. There were no other proposals, and no objections were made for a 5% increase.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Miller and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved a 5% increase in the Precept request for 2025/2026.

- c. To approve payment of £84.00 for HMRC (NI)**
- d. To approve payment of £70.00 for Focus (HS) Limited (Internal Audit)**
- e. To approve payment of £60.00 for DM Payroll Services Ltd (Payroll)**
- f. To approve £250.00 for Village Voices (Grant)**
- g. To approve payment of £500.00 for Comrades Hall (Grant)**
- h. To approve payment of £300.00 for Morelock (Adaptation to SID)**
- i. To approve payment of £35.00 for DAPTC (Councillor Training)**
- j. To approve payment of £52.71 for the Clerk (Expenses November/December 2024)**

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Beer, seconded by Councillor Webb and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments c to j.

k. To consider revision to Clerk's Telephone/Broadband Allocation
Deferred until the next meeting.

I. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Projects

Councillor Dyke recalled that at the last meeting it was mentioned that a contribution towards play equipment for Drimpton may be a possible project for CIL monies. The Clerk stated that another option could be that some of the CIL funds be used for the fingerpost restoration or

for maintaining the MUGA. Councillor Dyke stated that another possible, low cost project could be dog litter bag dispensers and stated that he had seen this initiative by a council in Hertfordshire and it had been very effective. Councillor Webb questioned whether it would make any difference. Councillor Beer stated that for any future fingerpost restorations, he will not be charging for labour. On behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Dyke extended thanks and appreciation to Councillor Beer. Councillor Beck asked whether the FMR Trust could provide grants to help with the MUGA, the Clerk stated that the Parish Council receives a grant already for the repayment of the PWLB loan. Councillor Dyke concluded that a list of potential projects had been started and asked when the CIL monies must be spent, the Clerk confirmed that they must be used within five years of their respective allocation date.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

P/FUL/2024/06675, Fullers, Broadwindsor, DT8 3PY

Councillor Roberts reported that the application was seeking approval for the installation of solar panels and external wall insulation on Magna Housing properties in Fullers, Broadwindsor. Councillor Roberts stated that there was a very bright outside light which should be in keeping with restricting upward light ratio to 0% in accordance with Dorset Council's Street Lighting policy and that she would ask that Dorset Council ensures that the specifications proposed, particularly the mortar, will result in buildings that can continue to breathe so as not to create unintended consequences such as health issues due to condensation for residents. Councillor Dyke stated that the Parish Council's comments should reflect those issues raised by Councillor Roberts. The application was supported.

P/PABA2/2024/06616, Burstock Grange Farm, Grange Lane, Burstock, DT8 3LL

Councillor Frampton left the meeting. Councillor White reported that she and Councillor Beck had arranged a site meeting for the next week and that the application had received support from Natural England and from the Environment Agency. Councillor White stated that the proposal seeks approval to cover the various yards between the existing agricultural buildings and stated that the application seemed very straight forward and that she would report back to the Clerk after the site visit.

b. Other Applications

Councillor Raymond referred to a previous planning application P/FUL/2022/05832, Land adjacent to Hillside, Drimpton Road, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QN and stated that she had seen a social media post from the applicant asking if anyone in the Broadwindsor to Thorncombe area has an old septic tank that needs replacing and explained that it could be provided free of charge as part of Dorset Council's credit scheme to offset phosphates and nitrogen omissions as part of the planning application process. Councillor Frampton stated that this type of offer is seeking to demonstrate that self-contained septic tank discharge does not contain phosphates. Councillor Beer stated that he had responded to the social media request.

c. Results

The following results were reported.

P/PABA/2024/06217, Burstock Grange Farm, Grange Lane, Burstock, DT8 3LL: Prior Approval Required

P/TRC/2024/05411, Island House, High Street, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QP: No Objection

P/LBC/2024/05621, Hursey Farm, Main Street Through Hursey, Hursey, DT8 3LN: Granted

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

d. Planning Notices and Notifications

The Clerk stated that she had sought clarification from Dorset Council regarding their current process relating to sending out notices for planning applications and stated that they no longer inform neighbouring properties. The Clerk stated that when Councillors carry out a consultation, they normally make contact with neighbours and stated that it is even more important now that this continues.

e. Call for Housing and Employment Sites

Councillor Dyke reported that a call for sites for development for housing and employment has been announced by Dorset Council with a deadline of 20 December. A member of the public stated that the Parish Council will need to review its Neighbourhood Plan and that process will allow for new sites to come forward. Councillor Harris stated that he was doubtful that any new sites would be identified. The Clerk stated that she had contacted Dorset Council with regard to the review and stated that the Parish Council will be actioning this, at a date to be agreed. Councillor Dyke stated that at present, we do not know how many new houses Dorset Council will have to provide.

9. COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS

Councillor Dyke stated that this item was discussed at the previous meeting and since then he had contacted Comrades Hall Management Committee and stated that they are happy for the Parish Council to take a decision on whether the defibrillator located at Comrades Hall remains locked or unlocked. The Clerk was asked to find out the price of a new unlocked cabinet and report back. It was decided not to pursue the option of a second defibrillator due to cost.

10. WELCOME PACKS

Councillor Dyke stated that a lot of effort has been made in bringing the packs together and stated that they now need distributing. The Clerk reported that she had updated them and had provided some to Drimpton and that she had been using up the old folders. The Clerk stated that any changes should be forwarded to her to update the inserts.

11. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Councillor Dyke reported that two meetings had now been held, both of which had been successful in terms of feedback and generating new ideas. Councillor Dyke stated that the

last meeting will be at the end of January in Blackdown. Councillor Dyke stated that after that time, all feedback will be collated and will provide a view of what the priorities are for projects to take forward. Councillor Dyke stated that there had been a lot of interest in transport and Hursey Sports Field had been the topic of much discussion at the Broadwindsor meeting.

12. ALLOTMENTS

No report.

13. MUGA UPDATE

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

The Clerk reported that BADCE had held their meeting and had commented that the quoted legal costs seemed too high for the work involved and therefore she had provided contact details for the two parties to engage and discuss further.

14. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke stated that there wasn't anything additional to report with regard to high speed broadband. Councillor Roberts stated that she had seen Wessex Internet in Broadwindsor that morning.

15. HIGHWAYS

a. Review of reported highways concerns to Dorset Council

The Clerk stated that the spreadsheet had been updated and circulated and that any updates since the last meeting had been highlighted in green. The Clerk stated that the MUGA had already been discussed, she had been asked to report back to Dorset Council that the hedge at Kittwhistle needed to be cut back further which she had actioned, a site visit had been made by James Hussey to look at Hursey Lane - attended by Councillor Dyke, the Enforcement Team had acknowledged her online report and that although Dorset Council was sympathetic to the concerns of the Parish Council with regard to safety at the pinch point at Kittwhistle, they did not view it as a priority site. Councillor Dyke stated that with regard to Hursey Lane, it is predominantly the ditches which are filled and need re-digging and stated that Dorset Council will not do this, and the work will fall to volunteers, most likely the Hursey Common Working Group. Councillor Raymond stated that she had been informed by a parishioner that the hedge was overhanging the white line on the highway which was illegal. Councillor Beer stated that there is a statutory distance which needs to be visible and the hedge needs taking back, but understands that it is not an easy task given the location. The Clerk stated that this had been reported.

b. Electric vehicle charging point, Broadwindsor

The Clerk stated that she had circulated the information from Dorset Council, responded to the questions raised by Councillor Harris and had not received any further details with regard to when the charging point would be installed. Councillor Beck confirmed that Drimpton Village Hall did not want to pursue an installation at this time. A member of the public asked about insurance for the charging point, the Clerk confirmed that the location is outside of the

MUGA within the parking bay and as such the land is owned by Dorset Council and it is their responsibility.

c. 96 Bus Service, Drimpton

Councillor Harris stated that a decision on the preferred new location had been deferred until after the CEE meeting in Drimpton in order to gain feedback from the local community. Councillor Dyke stated that a suggestion had been put forward to move the bus stop to the location of the new CLT homes. Councillor Harris stated that he objected to the bus going down Netherhay Lane and would prefer the bus stop to be where it had been originally in Crewkerne Road. The Clerk was asked to contact South West Coaches.

d. Speed Indicator Devices Update

The Clerk reported that changing the speed between 30 mph and 20 mph during rotations was quite difficult and as such the Parish Council had asked for a dial to be added to make the process easier.

16. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Dyke stated that at the appointment of the Parish Council in May, the position of Vice Chair was not filled and as there were a number of new members joining the Council, he did not want to push anyone into the role at that time. Councillor Dyke stated that he would like Councillors to take a view on whether they would now like to put themselves forward for this position and that further discussion can take place at the February meeting.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No further comments.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would be on Monday 10 February 2025 at Drimpton Village Hall.

19. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.34 pm. Councillor Dyke thanked everyone for attending and for their participation and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas.