



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

9 JUNE 2025

DRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. Rick Dyke (Chairman), Cllr. Chris Beck, Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Stephen Curtis, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Bob Harris, Cllr. Garry Miller, Cllr. Nathalie Roberts, Cllr. Jacqui Sewell, Cllr. Yvonne White.

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

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

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from PCSO Bishop and from Councillors Beer, Dixon, Frampton, Raymond and Webb 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 Roberts expressed an interest in Agenda Item 9a, planning application P/HOU/2025/02959.

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 12 May 2025 were confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor Dyke.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

a. Presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Mr. David Sidwick, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset provided a presentation to the Parish Council on his role and responsibilities, current priorities and programmes. A copy of the slides can be viewed on the Parish Council's website or obtained from the Clerk. Following the presentation a number of questions were asked by Councillors and members of the public.

Is this part of West Dorset penalised financially as it is far away from the larger conurbations?

Mr. Sidwick stated that in the past when there had been just one Command, then this may have been the case but stated that there are now two Commands, one for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and one for Dorset which will have made some difference to the direction of funds but stated that where money is sent is more to do with reports and stated that having checked the number of reports for this area prior to the meeting he had found one, for the same time frame in Bournemouth there had been over two hundred. Mr. Sidwick very much encouraged members of the public to report incidents to Dorset Police and stated that this can be done online and by telephone.

How to increase the awareness of Dorset Alert?

Mr. Sidwick stated that Dorset Alert is the main channel for Dorset Police to communicate information to members of the public and stated that once signed up, you will be notified about every crime or incident that happens in your local area, and you can also find out when and where your local Neighbourhood Police Team will be holding drop in sessions. Mr. Sidwick very much encouraged members of the community to sign up to this service.

What happens to money seized by authorities during drug-related seizures?

Mr. Sidwick stated that this money can be repurposed by Dorset Police but the amount depended on how many others were involved with the investigation and therefore were entitled to a share of the pot.

Can the Police and Crime Commissioner support the Parish Council with its many requests to Dorset Council to improve local road safety?

Mr. Sidwick stated that he has no statutory power to enforce any actions but if written to by the Parish Council he would pass on the communication to Dorset Road Safe.

Are there any records relating to how effective the rehabilitation of offenders is in Dorset?

Mr. Sidwick stated that he does not have figures for Dorset and stated that although the county has three prisons, none of them release back into Dorset, perhaps only 10%. Mr. Sidwick stated that Dorset has prisoners released back from other areas but that there is not any joined up approach to capture this data. Mr. Sidwick stated that there are academic studies which the Government relies upon in order to make reforms and that there had been a recent one relating to sentencing.

Are there any updates about future funding for the Police?

Mr. Sidwick stated that negotiations were still ongoing at this time and stated that although there has been more money coming into policing over the last four years, how it is distributed is completely wrong. Mr. Sidwick stated that when wages increased last time, he had been told that this increase would be fully funded but it was not and stated that £15m of savings have had to be made over the last two years due to the national funding formula. Mr. Sidwick stated that he will of course be happy for more funding to come into the system but will not be happy if Dorset does not get its fair share.

Can Parish Councils support the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding a review of the national funding formula?

Mr. Sidwick stated that a letter could be sent to Edward Morello MP who has already talked about rural crime in the House of Commons and stated that all MPs have had all of the information sent to the Home Office. Mr. Sidwick stated that the Home Secretary has had his letter for six weeks and he awaits a response but stated that as long as he is the PCC he will continue the battle.

Councillor Dyke thanked Mr. Sidwick for his presentation and for attending the Parish Council meeting.

b. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher stated that he wished to bring a recent planning decision to the attention of the Parish Council and referenced a controversial proposal to build up to 120 homes, along with office and retail space in Marnhull. In July 2024, Dorset Council rejected the application, the decision was appealed, and a government planning inspector overturned the refusal, citing the need to meet increased housing targets set by the Labour government. The inspector emphasized the absence of an up-to-date local plan and stated that when Dorset Council submits its Annual Statement in October it will only have a land supply of 2.67 years, significantly short of 5 years which will mean a deficiency of 8000 houses. Councillor Christopher stated that this will make life very interesting for land agents and promoters and for rural Dorset. With regard to nitrates and phosphates and the removal of constraints, Councillor Christopher stated that Dorset Council is to hold a webinar on 1 July on this matter.

c. Report from Dorset Police

The Clerk read aloud the report from PCSO Bishop and stated that Dorset Police had received a number of reports of alarms going off at different properties across the Grouped Parish, but stated that there had not been any suspicious incidents. The Clerk stated that PCSO Bishop would be at Drimpton Village Hall, 9.30 am on Friday 27 June and Comrades Hall, 11.30 am on Monday 7 July.

6. CB3 BUS SERVICE

Councillor Chris Turner from Beaminster Town Council addressed the Parish Council and members of the community and informed that a new draft timetable had been produced for the CB3 community bus service. Councillor Turner reported that the CR6 service operated by First Bus Group - Bridport to Yeovil - was now introducing a Saturday service and the draft CB3 timetable had been designed to compliment this rather than duplicate. Councillor Turner stated that the CB3 service was established in 2018, initiated in response to the discontinuation of the First Wessex number 6 Saturday bus service. Dorset County Council contributed by donating a surplus minibus and assisted with the training of volunteer drivers. Councillor Turner stated that the CB3 bus connects Crewkerne, Beaminster, and Bridport, passing through several local villages. It operates on Saturdays, providing essential transportation for residents in rural areas. Councillor Turner stated that the new draft timetable will still service Crewkerne Rail Station, and include Cheddington (Winyards Gap), South Perrott, Misterton, Clapton, Broadwindsor, Beaminster, Netherbury, Melplash, Bradpole and Bridport and it is proposed to include Drimpton for the first time. Councillor Turner stated that as it stands it is proposed to come through Drimpton twice a day on a Saturday, with stops at Netherhay Lane and by the village hall, departing at 10.13 am and 10.15 am and leaving Bridport at 2.15 pm. Councillor Turner stated that this is subject to change as the service now needs to get approval from specific regulatory bodies before it can legally operate. Councillor Turner stated that he welcomed comments on the draft timetable. A member of the public thanked Councillor Turner for his efforts and stated that it was great to get a bus back in Drimpton but asked how the information would be managed and shared. Councillor Dyke confirmed that the Parish Council will co-ordinate this. A member of the public asked what route the CB3 will take and what will the fare be. Councillor Turner stated that the fare has not been agreed yet and bus passes will be accepted. Councillor Turner stated that the timetable is still a draft and can still be tweaked. Councillor Sewell stated that the opportunity to go to Bridport on a market day is great. A member of the public asked if there was any chance that the CB3 could run more frequently, Councillor Turner stated that the new timetable was much abbreviated compared to the former timetable, partly due to the CR6 Saturday service. Councillor Harris asked if the CB3 drivers were all volunteers and stated that he presumed if they were that in order to increase the service, more volunteers and buses would be required. Councillor Turner stated that both drivers and clippies are volunteers. Councillor Beck suggested that an additional stop at the pub in Drimpton would be helpful to serve that part of the village, Councillor Turner agreed to review. A member of the public asked if all of the different bus routes and timetables could be made available in

one place, Councillor Dyke stated that it is on the Parish Council's website and would ensure that it is updated and promoted. A member of the public asked why Mosterton was not included in the draft timetable, Councillor Turner stated that Mosterton will be served by the CR6 service. A member of the public asked for assistance to help amend the timetable for the 96 Bus which only allows four minutes or four and a half hours in Crewkerne which is not practical. Councillor Turner stated that South West Coaches would have to be contacted, and the Clerk stated that she had a contact. Councillor Dyke thanked Councillor Turner for attending the meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Dorset Council, Dorset Local Plan – Parish and Town Council Event, 14 July 2025

The Clerk reported that there are two different sessions on offer, 11.00 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm and would take place at the Corn Exchange in Dorchester. Councillor Dyke suggested that if a Neighbourhood Plan working group could be brought together, then a representative from that group could attend. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council can send up to two people.

8. 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 May 2025 was £39,012.05. There were no questions.

b. To approve the End of Year Reconciliation 2024/2025

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Harris and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the End of Year Reconciliation for 2024/2025.

Councillor Dyke stated that the Parish Council must review its expenditure to ensure that it does not continue to operate with a deficit.

c. To approve payment of £200.00 for Bridport Citizens Advice (Grant)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Beck and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payment c.

d. To approve payment of £270.00 for MA Burt (Noticeboards for Broadwindsor and Seaborough)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Webb, seconded by Councillor Miller and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payment d.

e. To approve payment of £161.16 for HMRC (NI)

f. To approve payment of £42.00 for Comrades Hall (Hall Hire)

g. To approve payment of £66.00 for Universal Services (Sports Equipment) LTD (MUGA Inspection)

h. To approve payment of £796.21 for the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) (Annual Subscription)

i. To approve payment of £86.75 for Focus (HS) Limited (Internal Audit)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor White and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payments e to i.

j. To approve payment £855.87 for Community First Trading Limited (Insurance)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Burt, seconded by Councillor Roberts and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payment j.

k. To note payment of £286.20 for the Defib Shop (Defibrillator Battery)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Sewell, seconded by Councillor Beck and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously noted and approved payment k.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

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

Councillors Sewell and Miller carried out the review of this application which is seeking approval to remove the thatched roof and replace with slate tiles. Councillor Sewell summarised that the reason for the application is out of safety and that the property was involved in a fire in 2013 where part of the thatch was burnt and had to be removed and replaced. Councillor Sewell stated her concern that there is no fire hydrant located close to the thatched properties in Redlands Lane and given that the next door property is a holiday let, it is difficult to manage the risks associated with BBQs and other potential fire hazards at that property. Another property, 32 Redlands Lane also changed their thatch roof to tiles in 2023. The applicant addressed the Council and stated that repairs to the roof are now needed, and it will have to either be rethatched or tiled. The applicant stated that he had been informed by his insurance company that if the next door property has a BBQ and he does not ask them to put it out, then his cover would be invalid and that this is a constant worry for him. Councillor Beck asked the applicant whether there is anything in place for the runoff from the property, the applicant stated that the existing soak aways will be sufficient. There were no further questions, and the Parish Council expressed its support for the application.

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

Councillor Roberts left the meeting room. Councillors Dyke and Webb carried out the review of this application and visited the property. Councillor Dyke stated that the application seeks approval to make a number of conservation repairs and improvements to the definition of boundaries, which are reasonable and will lead to an overall improvement of the property. Councillor Dyke reported that the applicant had sought pre-application advice from Dorset Council and that in principle support had been given. Councillor Dyke stated that the

neighbour closest to the property was contacted and had no concerns or objections. The Parish Council expressed its support for the application.

P/VOL/2025/02762, Seaborough Court, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

P/VOC/2025/02750, Seaborough Court, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

The Clerk stated that these applications were seeking permission to vary and remove a condition attached to an existing planning permission. Councillor White reported that she had reviewed the proposal, and the original application had indicated that the windows to the rear would be different than the front but had now decided that they should both be the same, using more carbon friendly glazing. Councillor White stated that there are also proposed amendments to the roofing, and a request to have two conditions removed as both the arboriculture method statement and surface water management plan had been submitted and approved by Dorset Council. Councillor White stated that she had no concerns.

b. Other Applications

P/CLP/2025/02293, Old Village Hall, Red Lane Junction at Seaborough Court, Seaborough, DT8 3QY

The Clerk reported that this application had subsequently been approved and stated that it was seeking a Lawful Development Certificate to evidence that the original planning permission was still valid. Councillor White stated that the applicant had now completed the foundations.

c. Results

The following results were reported.

P/CLP/2025/02293, Old Village Hall, Red Lane Junction to Junction at Seaborough Court, Seaborough, DT8 3QY: Granted

P/TRT/2025/02230, Brent Paddock, Axe Lane, Drimpton, DT8 3FN: Consent

P/FUL/2025/00778, 1 Spear Mead, Drimpton, DT8 3RW: Withdrawn

P/FUL/2024/07080, The Old George, The Square, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QD: Granted

P/LBC/2024/07081, The Old George, The Square, Broadwindsor, DT8 3QD: Granted

d. Review of Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Dyke stated that this matter was discussed at the last meeting and that there was agreement to move forward with a review of the Neighbourhood Plan and proposed that a small working group be formed, initially comprising of Councillors and then opened up to members of the wider community. Councillor Dyke stated that although the Plan itself is dated up to 2031, the planning element itself is only current for a period of five years, which has now lapsed and therefore, unless reviewed, carries no weight. Councillors Roberts, Sewell and Beck volunteered to be part of the group as did a member of the public. Councillor Dyke thanked those who had volunteered.

e. Social Housing

Councillor Sewell reported that Dorset Council is now consulting on its Housing Allocation Policy and that the deadline for the submission of comments is 24 August. Councillor Sewell stated that the draft policy is written in some depth and that she is concerned that there are no references to community land trust or affordable housing. Councillor Sewell stated that she had seen one positive proposal at 1.7 in the document and stated that this would be beneficial to local people.

“Dorset Council shall allocate social rented housing to tenants seeking a transfer of social rented housing, in line with the rules of this Scheme. Tenants who under-occupy their social rented housing that seek a transfer to downsize to a smaller home, shall be given priority for an allocation of social rented housing and shall be exempt from disqualification rules relating to outstanding rent or service charge arrears that have been incurred because of under-occupation.”

Councillor Dyke asked the Clerk to add this to the July meeting agenda and asked that Councillors review the proposed Draft Policy prior to the meeting to allow a collective response to be formed and then submitted to Dorset Council.

10. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

No update.

11. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

The Clerk reported that Japanese Knot Weed had now been treated by Dorset Council and that the perimeter track had been reviewed again and no further action requested.

12. MUGA UPDATE

a. Update on Sub-Lease

The Clerk reported that the public notice had now been published in the Bridport News with a deadline for comments of 5 June. The Clerk stated that she had asked Dorset Council again to make contact with Battens Solicitors. The Clerk stated that she would continue to push for this to be completed.

13. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke stated that this agenda item was very much focussed on the supply of broadband and communication with Wessex Internet and stated that this was progressing.

14. HIGHWAYS

a. Review of reported highways concerns to Dorset Council

Councillor Dyke stated that there are a number of issues on the spreadsheet and stated that given the number of issues it would surely warrant a site visit by Dorset Council. Councillors Dyke and Sewell and the Clerk agreed to review the spreadsheet.

b. Street Lighting

Councillor Dyke stated that Dorset Council's consultation had now completed and that the Parish Council now needs to find out what the results are. The Clerk agreed to contact Dorset Council.

15. FARESHARE COMMUNITY LARDER

Councillor White reported that sadly the working model for how the food larder is run is changing and to continue, would mean taking on financial and legal responsibility and the associated risks which is beyond the remit of the group of volunteers. Councillor White stated that she had hoped to be able to continue as an outreach of the Beaminster Food Group Hubs and that she had been speaking to them about that, but stated that they haven't reached a decision as to how they will continue to operate. Councillor White stated that they will carry on until she is told otherwise and that it was such a great shame as the scheme was popular and well used, many friendships had developed, and the scheme also offered access to other service providers. Councillor White stated that she will be speaking to members to find out how they wish to keep the community element going. Councillor Beck asked if the village hall had been approached to take on the scheme, Councillor White stated that she was aware that they were not keen to take on the added responsibilities, stating that take up was never guaranteed, and there was a risk of financial loss and that cold storage would have to be provided and health and safety and food hygiene training would be required. Councillor Dyke thanked Councillor White and others who were involved with the scheme for their efforts.

16. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Dyke reminded that he is not able to attend the next meeting and stated that another Councillor will need to chair the meeting. Councillor Sewell stated that she would do this.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

A member of the public addressed the Council and stated that she had attended a previous Parish Council meeting and had asked that consideration of a reduction in the speed limit be given at Hollis Hill and asked if the 'Slow Down' signs referred to by the Police and Crime Commissioner may be a temporary solution. Councillor Dyke stated that he had noted this during the presentation and agreed that they would be useful and that members of the community can now report near misses to Dorset Council. The Clerk stated that the link was posted on the Parish Council's Facebook page but if that isn't easily accessible to contact her. A member of the public asked if issues around dogs and livestock and rights of way could be on the next agenda. Councillor Dyke stated that he agreed that this may help with any lack of understanding.

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 14 July at Broadwindsor Cricket Pavilion.

19. FMR TRUST

a. To receive the Finance Report

Councillor Dyke referred Trustees to a report highlighting income and expenditure which had previously been circulated. The current balance as of the 31 May 2025 was £4,955.79. There were no questions.

b. To consider and approve the FMR Trust contribution towards Parish Council administration

Trustees agreed that the current formula for calculating the cost charged by the Parish Council to the FMR Trust for administration should remain the same.

c. To consider grant application from Drimpton Village Voices for £900.00 (Stage Curtains)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Beck and agreed by a show of hands, Trustees unanimously approved a grant of £900.00 to Drimpton Village Voices.

d. To consider grant application from Drimpton Village Hall and Recreation Trust for £500.00 (Mower Services and Repairs)

Trustees asked the Clerk to find out further information from the applicant as to whether a quotation had been obtained for the repairs and servicing and how this would be funded in subsequent years. At this time, the grant was not approved.

e. To note communication from Broadwindsor Cricket Club

Trustees noted the communication.

20. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.50 pm and the meeting of the FMR Trust was formally closed at 10.08 pm. Councillor Dyke thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.