



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

PRESENT: Cllr. Rick Dyke (Chairman), Cllr. Chris Beck, Cllr. Tim Beer, Cllr. Rebecca Burt, Cllr. Stephen Curtis, Cllr. Stuart Curtis, Cllr. Philip Dixon, 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 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 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 Dyke stated that the artwork which will be produced as a result of the project discussed under Agenda Item 6b is to be featured at the White Lion pub, which he is the Chairman of.

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

4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. Report from Councillor Simon Christopher, Dorset Council

Councillor Christopher stated that on this occasion he had not circulated a written report prior to the meeting. Councillor Christopher stated that there was a huge amount of uncertainty within Dorset Council regarding the forthcoming budget and that he had heard many times, that difficult decisions will have to be taken at the budget meeting on 30 October. Councillor Christopher stated that compared to other councils, Dorset Council has received much less funding from Central Government. Councillor Christopher stated that he will be attending a meeting with officers on 9 October, specifically to highlight the state of local roads and will be expressing his opinion that this part of Dorset has had much less money spent on roads compared to other parts of rural Dorset. Councillor Christopher asked for questions. Councillor Frampton asked if there were any updates regarding the proposed development close to Fullers in Broadwindsor which had been paused due to the recent nitrate and phosphate issue. Councillor Christopher stated that he could not comment at this time but stated that it is clearly the Government's intent to make it easier to get planning permission and for development to come forward. Councillor Dyke stated that an observation, rather than a question - an item on the agenda that evening was feedback from the Big Conversation meeting with Dorset Council and stated that in summary there are four areas which Dorset Council has identified to progress, one of those is housing and specifically to make more housing available which is affordable for local people. Councillor Dyke stated that this is where he sees that there will be a dilemma for the Parish Council with the proposed development next to Fullers, as the latest proposal was not focussed on affordable housing. Councillor Dyke stated that getting the balance right will be a challenge for Dorset Council. Councillor Christopher stated that there is not an up to date local plan for West Dorset and there will be pressure on Dorset Council to deliver housing and sites and stated that it has been the case in the past when developers state that a particular site is not viable for affordable housing.

Councillor Dyke stated that with regard to highways, he would like to thank Councillor Christopher for his support in progressing a number of items and stated that resurfacing is now scheduled for Clanden Hill, going into Broadwindsor and out to Beaminster and that the reduced speed limit along that road will soon come into force. Councillor Dyke stated that there still needs to be a push for the footpath which will provide safe access to the Cricket Club, Councillor Christopher stated that he will raise this at the meeting on 9 October.

A member of the public stated that he had emailed Councillor Christopher about the state of the roads again near Sandpits - Drimpton to Littlewindsor Road. The member of the public stated that on 8 March an Asset Team from Dorset Council attended the area, carried out some preliminary work, but stated that it was not sufficient. The member of the public urged Councillor Christopher to press for action to be taken as winter fast approaches and stated that last year the road was closed due to flooding for approximately six to eight weeks.

Councillor Christopher stated that there is a commitment in Dorset Council to improve this road. Councillor Dyke stated that the Clerk had prepared a spreadsheet listing all current highways issue, and asked Councillor Christopher to encourage officers to make best use of it.

b. Report from Dorset Police

The Clerk referred members of the Council to the report as circulated. There were no questions.

c. Co-option to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council

Councillor Dyke stated that unfortunately Kevin Webb was unable to attend the meeting that evening, the Clerk confirmed that he still wished to be considered for co-option to the Council and stated that he would not be able to commence duties until he had signed his declaration of acceptance of office form. Councillor Dyke stated that he supported this application and proposed the co-option, Councillor Raymond seconded the proposal.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Dyke, seconded by Councillor Raymond and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the co-option of Kevin Webb to Broadwindsor Group Parish Council to represent the Broadwindsor ward.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTICES

a. Broadwindsor Resident, Repair of sports field gate posts

Councillor Dyke reported that he had inspected the gate that day and was pleased to confirm that it had been repaired and was a job well done. Councillor Dyke thanked those involved in its restoration.

b. Windrose Rural Media Trust, Request for grant for community project

The Clerk read aloud an update from the applicant which stated that in addition to the £4,800 Culture and Community Fund grant from Dorset Council, which enabled the project to go ahead initially, Windrose has also received a £500.00 contribution from Magna Housing Association and although still £1,000 short to enable the project to run as planned, Magna has indicated that they might be able to provide an additional £500.00 from a fund to which they have access to, thus leaving a shortfall of £500.00. Councillor Frampton asked whether this would be suitable for the FMR Trust, Councillor Dyke stated that it was his view that it was more for the Parish Council to consider. Councillor Dixon asked what the grant would specifically fund, Councillor Dyke stated that there was expenditure costed to each strand of the project. Councillor Raymond asked whether Windrose had fundraised for the project, the Clerk read aloud the list of grants awarded. Councillor Roberts asked whether there is a deadline of when the funds need to be secured, the Clerk stated that she had asked the applicant this question and stated that she was aware that the project had already started. Councillor Beck stated that if the project had already started, he presumed that it would roll on with the money they had already secured and that they have a period of time between the start and when they need the next batch of funding. Councillor Dyke stated that if they do not receive all of the funding required, then some elements will need to be scaled back

and stated that those elements aren't necessarily the ones that happen at the end of the project. Councillor Frampton asked whether the project was just aimed at Broadwindsor, it was confirmed that it was. The Clerk stated that she would ask the applicant for a breakdown of costs and circulate to Councillors.

c. Broadwindsor Resident, Highway concerns, Clanden Hill and Cross Keys

The Clerk stated that a local resident had concerns about the increase in vehicles parking opposite the Cross Keys in Broadwindsor which is causing a reduction in the flow of traffic. The Clerk stated that she had approached PCSO Bishop for advice. A second concern raised by the resident was the need for a Blind Summit sign on Clanden Hill due to a steep ascent and decline. Councillor Dyke stated that he had witnessed something potentially very dangerous there and asked the Clerk to add it to the Highways spreadsheet for Dorset Council. Councillor Beck stated that he was more concerned about the blind summit as you head out of Broadwindsor towards Drimpton as there was no signage to alert you of what was to come. Councillor Stephen Curtis stated that the road narrowed at the point of the summit which made it very tight for road users. Councillor Beer stated that Dorset Council does not use the edging plough any longer which was used to cut back the edges to the tarmac which enabled cars to use the whole width of the road which very much increased safety when the road narrowed.

d. Broadwindsor Resident, Surface deterioration of Church Path

The Clerk reported that a local resident had contacted Councillor Roberts regarding the state of the road surface of Church Path and stated that the resident had asked the Council to report this. Councillor Raymond asked whether the road was public or private, the Clerk stated that she would ask the question to Highways in the first instance.

e. Broadwindsor Resident, Back Lane highway concerns

Councillor Dyke stated that the response received from PCSO Bishop had been forwarded to the resident but that there were still concerns. Councillor Curtis asked whether the owners of the house on the right hand side could be asked to cut the hedge as this may help with keeping some traffic off the pavement, Councillor Dyke stated that he would approach the owners.

f. Broadwindsor Residents, Request for Parish Council support to reinstate Church Clock Chimes

Councillor Dyke stated that a draft letter had been produced and circulated and stated that if there were no objections, he would share the draft with those who had raised the issue before forwarding to the Canon. There were no comments.

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 31 August 2024 was £35,917.43.

b. To note External Audit Report and Certificate

The Clerk reported that the annual external audit had now been completed and that no matters for concern had been raised. Councillor Dyke thanked the Clerk.

c. To approve payment of £84.00 for HMRC (NI)

d. To approve payment of £378.00 for BDO LLP (External Audit)

e. To approve payment of £60.00 for DM Payroll Services Ltd (Payroll Services)

f. To approve payment of £40.00 for S Fletcher (Allotment Deposit Return)

g. To approve payment of £23.50 for F Hughes (Petrol for Parish Council Mower)

h. To approve payment of £40.00 for DAPTC (New Councillor Training)

i. To approve payment of £30.90 for the Clerk (Expenses September 2024)

j. To note payment of £29.34 for Clerk (Expenses August 2024)

k. To note payment of £84.00 for HMRC (NI August 2024)

l. To note payment of £27.57 for F Hughes (Petrol for Parish Council Mower)

m. To note payment of £560.00 for Wild Service Tree Care (Cutting of Overhanging Branches, Hursey)

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

n. To consider grant request for Drimpton Darlings Play Group

Councillor Dyke stated that further information had been received since the last meeting and a member of the public confirmed that there would not be any prayers held during the playgroup, that all financial transactions will be co-ordinated through the Youth Club Chairman and Treasurer, that homeschooling will not take place at the group, rather children who are being home schooled may attend with parents and siblings and that the group had been widely advertised across the Grouped Parish area and that a parent from Broadwindsor had attended the first meeting. Councillor Dyke stated that with the additional information now received he supported the application. The Clerk stated that the original application requested a grant of £250.00.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Frampton, seconded by Councillor Roberts and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved a grant of £250.00 for the Drimpton Darlings Play Group.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received and Circulated for Consultation

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

Councillor Miller reported that he and Councillor Dyke had attended a site visit and stated that they had seen an example of the metal storage unit which would be used if planning permission is granted. Councillor Miller stated that access would not be impacted, and drainage had been reviewed. Councillor Miller stated that the new units would house

refrigerator units which are currently housed in a nearby garage. Councillor Miller stated that he could not see any reason to object to the application.

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

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

Councillor Roberts reported that she had attended the site and spoken with the manager and stated that due to a collapsed drain, the structure of the Orangery is showing clear signs of subsidence due to softening of the ground around the collapsed drain. Councillor Roberts stated that the extent of the damage is not just to the Orangery but also to the house itself: there is a wet room behind the wall between the Orangery and the house that has a damaged floor, although this area was not visited at the time of the meeting. The applicant is proposing to rebuild using as much original material as possible, repair where possible, whilst improving the foundations of the Orangery. Councillor Roberts stated that these repairs are much needed and urgent and asked that the Planning Team and particularly the Conservation Team at Dorset Council come to a swift decision.

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

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

The Clerk stated that these applications had been submitted seeking approval to demolish and reconstruct a retaining wall to the rear of a single storey section, replace a roof structure and covering to the main roof and emergency work to the gable end of the single storey extension. The Clerk asked for a Councillor to lead on the consultation, Councillor Dyke and Councillor Stephen Curtis agreed and stated that they would report back.

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

The Clerk reported that this application had been sent to the Parish Council for information only and stated that if the application proceeds to a full planning application, then it will be sent to the Council for consultation.

b. Other Applications

None.

c. Results

None.

9. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL'S BIG CONVERSATION MEETING, 27 AUGUST 2024

Councillor Dyke reported that he had attended this meeting and found it to be rather disappointing. Councillor Dyke stated that he had expected that a lot of other parish councils would be in attendance and that a 'big conversation' would take place, instead he was asked to give feedback on priorities already agreed by Dorset Council which were introduced under four headings, communities for all, respond to the climate crisis, provide high quality housing and grow our economy. Councillor Dyke stated that participants were given stickers and asked whether they agree or disagree to a number of general statements. Councillor Dyke stated that he believed this to be a lost opportunity in the process, either parish councils should have

been engaged earlier or at a later stage when Dorset Council is developing its plans with an allocated budget. Councillor Dyke stated that the Parish Council should stay in touch with the process and wait until the next stage to get involved again.

10. FREQUENCY OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillor Dyke reported that this had been discussed at the last meeting and thanked the Clerk for her report. Councillor Dyke stated that he had raised this matter as he would like a greater proportion of the Clerk's time to be spent on other matters rather than agenda and minute preparation. Councillor Dyke stated that there seems to be two areas which need to be reviewed if the frequency of meetings is to change, finances in terms of making payments and planning applications - responding to consultations. Councillor Dyke stated that it was his preference to change to a six weekly interval. Councillor White suggested that this could be trialled. The Clerk stated that a planning committee with delegated powers would need to be set up as it is already commonplace for extensions to the deadline for consultations to be requested. The Clerk stated an initial review would determine if a planning application was relatively straightforward and could be dealt with by committee or if more complex, should be on the agenda for a full Council meeting. The Clerk stated that a planning committee would be subject to the same rules as an ordinary meeting in terms of agenda and minutes. Councillor Harris stated that sometimes applications which seem minor cause great concern for parishioners and if the number of meetings is reduced too much, this will take away the opportunity for members of the public to see and engage with the Parish Council which is the first tier of local government. Councillor Dyke stated that sometimes agenda items are too repetitive and that any change would have to be reflected in the Council's Standing Orders. Councillor Dyke asked members of the public present at the meeting for their thoughts about reducing the number of meetings, a member of the public stated that meetings were very important. Councillor Frampton stated that he did not want to see the planning process slow down for applicants and asked how many members would a planning committee require. The Clerk stated that she would find out and report back. Councillor Dyke asked that this matter be added onto the next agenda.

11. REVIEW OF EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Dyke stated that he had looked at the Emergency Plan and confirmed that a lot of work was needed to update it, noting that the Plan relies on First Responders which are no longer in place across the Grouped Parish area and that all contact details are out of date. Councillor Dyke stated that it was a work in progress. Councillor Dyke stated that a parishioner had suggested to him that the Parish Council organise Defibrillator training for the Grouped Parish. Councillor Dyke stated that the Clerk had made enquiries with the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Councillor Beck stated that there is a defibrillator in Drimpton and a local resident who is a doctor provided training last week and stated that it was a well-attended session. Councillor Dyke stated that it would make sense if another session was going to be held to advertise it wider to other parts of the Grouped Parish. Councillor Raymond stated there are courses available which offer a first aid at work certificate.

Councillor Dyke stated that if we could piggyback the event in Drimpton then this may be the best route, Councillor Beck stated that the parishioner who had provided the session made it clear that he is not a trainer, but a doctor. Councillor Beck stated that the session was delivered very effectively. Councillor Dyke asked whether the parishioner would be happy to deliver to a larger audience, Councillor Beck stated that he would ask and report back. Councillor Beer stated that he supported the inclusion of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance in terms of training delivery.

12. BROADWINDSOR GROUP PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

a. To review the BGPC Draft Strategy and Action Plan

b. Update on Information Workshops

Councillor Dyke stated that the Draft Strategy and Action Plan had been circulated again for this meeting and had been discussed previously and stated that he would like to get an initial sign off for these documents in order that the community meetings can commence. Councillor Dyke stated that it is planned to have the first meeting in Drimpton at the end of October and that a facilitator with knowledge of this area may be engaged to help with the sessions. Councillor Dyke stated that only once all of the community meetings have been held and feedback provided, would the documents have their final sign off.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Dixon and agreed by a show of hands, the Council approved the Draft Strategy and Action Plan.

13. ALLOTMENTS

No update.

14. 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 was not used by the school. The Clerk stated that she had arranged a site visit with Dorset Council who seemed quite supportive in principle at this time and that she had been advised that the most straightforward option would be to change the terms of the lease held between Dorset Council and the Parish Council, to enable the Parish Council to sublease the land to BADCE. The Clerk stated that she had forwarded a draft amendment to Dorset Council for review and included a copy in the supplementary papers. The Clerk stated that if agreed, BADCE would look to submit a planning application to extend the community shop. The Clerk reported that BADCE had agreed to pay any legal costs and stated that she would keep the Parish Council updated.

15. COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE GROUPED PARISH AREA

Councillor Dyke stated that Jurassic Fibre had now been acquired by AllPoints Fibre and stated that Wessex Internet would also be an option for this area. Councillor Burt stated that Wessex Internet are becoming more visible and that she would find out more information.

16. HIGHWAYS

a. Review of reported highways concerns to Dorset Council

The Clerk stated that the spreadsheet as circulated is a starting point, to be updated as and when and a way for the Council to document and track highways issues, especially those which have been ongoing for a number of years. The Clerk stated that photographs, when possible, are very useful. The Clerk stated that she would update the spreadsheet and circulate again. Councillor Harris stated that this was an excellent idea and could be given to Councillor Christopher to follow up with Dorset Council. Councillor Raymond referred to the increase in the number of cars parked on the roadside as you approach the pub in Drimpton from the direction of the village hall and stated that to pass by, a vehicle has to move into the centre of the road which before a bend creates a dangerous situation. Councillor Harris stated that he had reported this to Councillor Christopher but had not heard anything back and stated that he agreed that it was dangerous but also stated that this is where residents park their vehicles.

b. CB3 Community Bus Consultation in Drimpton

The Clerk stated that she had received one additional reply about this and wanted to ask the Council what they want to do next. Councillor Dyke stated that public transport will be included in the meeting in Drimpton co-ordinated by the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee and suggested that the Council waits until after this meeting before taking any action.

c. Speed Indicator Devices Update

Councillor Harris reported that he had previously made reference that the battery of one of the SIDs was not working correctly and stated that the Dorset Council SIDs Team had been out to look at the SID and tested the battery which was working but replaced a faulty lead which was responsible for the solar panel not charging. In addition, Councillor Harris stated that after reinstalling the SID, volunteers could not change the speed indicator limit and therefore the SIDs Team attended the site again and reinstalled the software and stated that all was working well now. Councillor Harris stated that the SIDs Team have advised that a new screen should be purchased which they could provide for £260.00 plus VAT. Councillor Harris stated that this was for the device which was damaged previously and had received a temporary fix by the SIDs Team. Councillor Harris stated that he recommended that this be done and added to the next agenda for approval. Councillor Harris stated that one of the solar panels situated on the Bridport to Salway Ash Road had been knocked off and stated that the SIDs Team had been out and replaced it with a new bracket. Councillor Harris stated that he wished to thank all the volunteers who take part in the SID rotation each month and stated that it was not an easy job. Councillor Harris stated that the Clerk is to feature them on social media during the Autumn. The Clerk stated that she has been so impressed with the team of volunteers and stated that they are so well organised and are doing a great job. The Clerk stated that thanks should also be paid to the SIDs Team at Dorset Council who have been out on three occasions recently and not made any charge. The Clerk confirmed that the excess

for making a claim for the damaged SID would be £100.00. The Clerk was asked to submit a claim. Councillor Dyke stated that the SID located on the Bridport Road is positioned behind overgrown foliage which means that it does not register speed when it should do and stated that the hedge needs cutting back. Councillor Frampton kindly agreed to do this.

d. Storage of BGPC Mower

Councillor Dyke reported that the Parish Council mower needs to be moved from its current location and that there is nowhere locally for it to be moved to. Councillor Dyke state that it is a big machine and not easy to drive and therefore needs to be situated close to the sports field. Councillor Dyke stated that one option is to purchase some form of unit and place in the car park area which will be quite costly as it needs to be robust and secure. Councillor Dyke stated that this then leads to the bigger question as to what is the medium to long term future of the sports field and stated that there are a number of potential options including, a dedicated dog walking area, a community orchard, sheep grazing to keep the grass growth down or a wild grassland area. Councillor Dyke stated that as common land, it would not be possible to put the site forward for affordable housing unless there was a status change which could take years. Councillor Dyke stated that this matter has not been debated by the Council yet and asked that it be on the agenda for October as the Council needs to come to a decision before long. Councillor Frampton asked how the field is currently used, Councillor Dyke stated that it is mainly used by dog walkers. Councillor Dixon asked who mows the field, Councillor Dyke replied that a number of local volunteers take it in turns to do so. It was also agreed to consult the wider community on the future use of the field.

e. Road Signage

The Clerk stated that following on from the last meeting, Councillor Beer had kindly sent a number of images of road signs which are in need of repair and stated that they were circulated prior to the meeting. Councillor Beer stated that the poor state of the signs is mainly down to age, and all are in need of replacing. The Clerk asked for a location of each to be sent and asked Councillors if there are more to report, to send them to her as soon as possible and then she will log them all with Dorset Council. Councillor Beer stated that the warning sign as you come from Blackdown into the narrows of Kittwhistle needs looking at especially now as there has been a wall built and chains and stated that it is very dangerous and if someone does get hurt, traffic lights may be considered by Dorset Council. Councillor Raymond stated that the hedge opposite needs cutting back aswell. Councillor Frampton asked if traffic lights would be a bad idea as it is the main arterial road from the A303 to Lyme Regis, Councillor Beer stated that it would be a brilliant idea as the road has a 60 mph limit and people who are not local take no notice of the slow sign and speed through that part.

17. MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INFORMATION

a. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Council

Councillor Frampton asked that the Broadwindsor Firework Display be added to the next agenda, Councillor Dyke asked that the fence by Broadwindsor School also be added.

b. Items for next Agenda from Members of the Public

None.

18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would be on Monday 14 October 2024 at Drimpton Village Hall.

20. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 9.21 pm. Councillor Dyke thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.