



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF EAST STOKE HELD ON THURSDAY 6th
AUGUST 2026 IN MEETING ROOM 1, D'URBERVILLE CENTRE, WOOL

PRESENT	Cllr Rebecca Cady (Chair) Cllr Neill Child (Vice Chair) Cllr Chris Evans Cllr Fenella Lewin Cllr Graeme Langley
APOLOGIES	Cllr Keith Evans
IN ATTENDANCE	3 Members of the Public Dorset Cllr Ben Wilson Liz Maidment (Parish Clerk)

1. **Public participation period** for 15 minutes
None.
2. **Apologies**
Apologies were received, and the reasons were approved from Cllr Keith Evans
3. **Granting of Dispensation**
No applications for a dispensation had been made.
4. **Declarations of Interest**
None
5. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd July 2026.**
The minutes from Thursday 2nd July 2026, were duly proposed as a true account and were duly signed by Cllr Rebecca Cady.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes**
None
7. **Planning Applications or Planning Information received**
 - a) **P/FUL/2026/03547 - Orchard Cottage**, Highwood, BH20 6AR. Change of use and conversion of building to form a dwelling.
The Parish Council has no comments or objections.
 - b) **P/CLE/2026/03479 - Hazel Lodge**, Bindon Lane BH20 6AS. Existing outbuilding used for purposes incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse.
The Parish Council has no comments or objections.
8. **Update of Previous Applications or planning information**
 - a) P/CLE/2026/02604 - Luckford Wood Camp Site Holme Lane, BH20 6AP. Provision of decking associated with reception to caravan site and an all-weather enclosure for mobile sanitary/toilet block facility. **Granted. Noted.**
 - b) P/HOU/2026/00771- Beehive Cottage Holmebridge To East Holme Holmebridge BH20 6AF. Construct extensions and alterations to the dwellinghouse. Construct detached garage with room/office above. **Granted. Noted.**
9. **Dorset Council Report**
Dorset Cllr Wilson's report was circulated prior to the meeting.
 - i) Dorset Council has announced a change to preparing the Dorset Local Plan following changes to the planning system introduced by central government. The revised timetable means the previous plan could no longer be progressed as a sound Local Plan. Moving to the new system at this stage allows Dorset Council to build on work already completed, including last year's consultation on potential development sites, which received around 9,000 responses.

It was noted that the revised approach is expected to result in only a minor overall delay while aligning Dorset with its Wessex devolution partners. The new process is also intended to provide greater transparency and allow the Local Plan to carry more weight at an earlier stage. The Primary Residence Clause included in the Purbeck Local Plan, which it had been hoped would be incorporated into the previous Dorset Local Plan, is now unlikely to feature in the new plan. It was confirmed that Dorset's housing targets will remain unchanged, and the new Local Plan is expected to be adopted by February 2029.

- ii) Cllr Wilson has raised the issue affecting many rural areas of being unable to use landline or mobile phones during an electricity power cut. There are currently no further updates; however, the problem is being investigated, and a further update is expected shortly.
- iii) It was confirmed that there was no Section 106 obligation associated with the wind farm. A Section 106 obligation is a planning requirement, whereas a community benefit fund is generally a voluntary contribution made by the developer. In this case, the wind farm owner made a voluntary community contribution, which was awarded to Dorset Scouts.
- iv) A query was raised as to whether planning permission would be required to replace the existing bus shelter. It was confirmed that planning permission is not required, as passenger shelters can be installed by local authorities, including parish councils, under permitted development rights set out in Schedule 2, Part 12 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended). Highways confirmed that the land is in their ownership and that they would approve the installation of a replacement bus shelter.

It was agreed to apply to the Capital Leverage Fund, which is open until 10th January 2027 and can provide funding of up to 20% of project costs. Additional funding will be sought from ESWCC, the Parish Council and local individuals. Cllr Cady will contact Morebus and other bus operators to enquire about potential match funding.

The possibility of providing a power supply was discussed, which could allow for the future installation of a defibrillator and electronic bus information signage. Cllr Cady will also check with the bus operator whether there are any safeguarding considerations relating to the proposed shelter.

The design will be based on the bus shelter at Winterborne Kingston. Options for half-brick/half-timber and full-brick construction were discussed. It was agreed that the shelter should have a pitched tiled roof to provide greater resilience in strong winds. Cllr Langley will draw up plans, following which local builders will be approached for quotations.

Action: Cllr Langley to visit the bus shelter at Winterborne Kingston and draw up plans. Cllr Cady to contact Morebus and other bus operators regarding match funding, safeguarding considerations and potential future electronic signage.

10. Bus Shelter

Discussed 2026-8-356/9iv

11. Finger Post

Cllr Quinn raised a query regarding the collars on the fingerpost and if the castellated rings should be fitted above and below the bracket. It was confirmed that both are fitted, although they may have been installed upside down. Dorset Fingerpost Restorers provided options for addressing this, including fitting new collars or replacing them with plain collars.

A second damaged fingerpost has also been identified at Rushton Lane. Only three screw-on letters are missing, and these will be added to the existing Dorset Fingerpost Restorers order, together with a replacement oak finger. Items will be ordered unpainted, at approximately half the cost, with volunteers undertaking the painting. The replacement letters for Rushton Lane will be screw-on.

Action: Cllr Quinn to contact David Creech regarding dismantling the Holme fingerpost and retrieving the relevant parts.

12. Police issues to report or update on issues reported

The Police were observed carrying out speed monitoring near the entrance to the New Cottages track.

13. Highways Issues

a) Update on issues

No updates.

a) Speed Indicator Device

This has been moved.

c) Camp Bestival

It was noted that traffic was particularly heavy on the Monday. In previous years, a temporary

no-right-turn restriction had been implemented from the A352 Road onto the B3070, which had worked well. This was not in place this year, resulting in significant traffic through Sandford. Concerns were also raised regarding the lack of traffic marshals at Holme Crossing. Only one marshal was observed attempting to manage traffic approaching from four different directions. It was also noted that an accident occurred shortly before the railway crossing. **Action:** The traffic management issues will be raised at the debrief meeting.

d) **Other Issues**

None

14. **Consultations for consideration or New Items for Discussion/Consideration**

- a) Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) Consultation. This is the formal 3-month consultation for the draft Dorset's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2026 to 2036. The ROWIP sets out how Dorset Council will develop a modern, accessible and better-connected network of public rights of way that supports everyday walking, cycling and access to natural green and blue spaces.
<https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/c-e/dorset-rights-of-way-consultation/>
Closes 12th October.
The provision of cycle paths was discussed, including the need for a safe cycle route to Wareham. It was noted that SANGs can include stewardship arrangements for the provision of all-weather paths, and it was questioned if this could be explored in relation to the Farrer Estate SANG. A significant financial and practical issue would be the narrow section of road over the railway line, which would require an additional bridge for cyclists and pedestrians. **Action:** Cllr Lewin to complete the consultation.
- b) New Register of Interests (RoI) Process - is now live! - Action Briefing. We encourage all serving councillors to do this by Friday 17 July 2026.
Approximately half of the Parish Councillors have now registered.

15. **Correspondence Received**

- a) New development of affordable homes; have your say on new 20mph schemes; and much more. **Noted.**
- b) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Overnight Temporary Road Closure Rushton Lane, East Stoke. It will come into operation between 00:15 and 06:00 on 17th July 2026 and remain in force for five days, however it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 17th July. **Noted.**
- c) Plans to strengthen public transport; review of Dorset parking; and much more. A new report, known as an Outline Business Case, has been published to help councillors review the current system and consider options for the future. **Noted.**
- d) Thank you letter from Citizens Advice East Dorset & Purbeck. **Noted.**
- e) Community Conversations – Events coming up in your area. The next meeting will be Friday 11th September from 9.30am to 12.30pm at Harman's Cross Village Hall.
Cllr Wilson recommended that a Parish Councillor attends.
- f) Waste disposal advice. Verify the person's Waste Carrier's Licence on the Environment Agency Public Register. **Noted.**
- g) Proposed Temporary Overnight Closure Of B3070 At Holme Level Crossing. The closure has been requested to provide Network Rail with safe access to undertake culvert jet washing. These works are programmed to commence from 22:00 until 06:00 from 31st Aug until 2nd Sept. **Noted.**
- h) Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for Highwood between 7th and 11th September. The road will be closed daily between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30, and will be reopened to traffic overnight and at weekends. Whilst these works are being completed, access to properties and businesses will be maintained as appropriate. Whilst these works are being completed, access to properties and businesses will be maintained as appropriate. **Noted.**
- i) Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation Update. The Council proposes moving to the Government's new planning system because the current Local Plan cannot realistically meet the December 2026 deadline. Previous consultation feedback and evidence will still be used, with further public consultation to follow. **Noted.**
- j) Proposed Temporary Closure Of A352 At Wool Level Crossing. These works are programmed to commence between 19:00 and 23:59 on 22nd September 2026. **Noted.**
- k) AGAR Digital Portal. The Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) will introduce a new voluntary Digital AGAR Portal for 2027 to simplify annual audit submissions. Councils will be asked to update their contact details to prepare for its launch. **Noted.**
- l) Proposed Temporary Closure Of Church Lane. The closure has been requested to allow Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd to undertake Level crossing maintenance works. These works are programmed to commence between 18:00 until 23:55 on 23rd September. **Noted.**

- m) Publication of the Notice of Intent to Commence Plan-Making and Local Plan Timetable. The first consultation stage will be a targeted Scoping Consultation, focused on the principal policy issues that the Local Plan should address. It is currently anticipated that this consultation will commence on 21st September. **Noted.**
- n) Free bus travel and cheaper days out; could your home be more energy efficient; and much more. Throughout August, children aged five to 15 can travel free on local bus services in England. **Noted.**

16. Finance

- a) **The following payments were duly approved and will be paid electronically. Cllr Cady and Cllr Evans to approve the payments.**

	Amount
Miss E Maidment Salary & Allowances	£328.12
Dorset Council Pension Fund	£84.72

The Clerk confirmed that replacement defibrillator pads have been ordered and requested that the Parish Council be invoiced directly. The pads will be delivered to Cllr C. Evans, who will install them.

- b) **Notice of Conclusion of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights**
To note that the statutory period for the exercise of public rights in respect of the 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) has now concluded. Noted.

17. Items for information or next agenda

An email was received from the Chair of Purbeck Flying, based at Eyres Field. It was agreed to invite him to attend the next Parish Council meeting to introduce himself. He will also be offered the opportunity to give a longer presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

With no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:25

Chairman:

Date.....