



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF EAST STOKE HELD ON
THURSDAY 2nd JULY 2026 AT LONGTHORNS CAMPSITE

PRESENT	Cllr Rebecca Cady (Chair) Cllr Neill Child (Vice Chair) Cllr Chris Evans Cllr Fenella Lewin Cllr Keith Evans
APOLOGIES IN ATTENDANCE	Cllr Graeme Langley 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 Graeme Langley
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 4th June 2026.**
The minutes from Thursday 4th June 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**
No planning applications were received by the time the agenda was published; however, two were received shortly before the meeting and will be discussed next month.
8. **Update of Previous Applications or planning information**
None.
9. **Dorset Council Report**
Dorset Cllr Wilson's report was circulated prior to the meeting.
 - i) On Friday 17th July, Dorset Council will host the first of two Community Conversations for Purbeck. These sessions aim to bring together Dorset Council, town and parish councils, local service organisations (including the NHS), and the voluntary sector to explore how they can work more effectively in partnership to support local communities. The session will take place from 9.30am to 12.30pm at Morden Village Hall. Cllr Quinn, Cllr Child and Cllr Keith Evans will explore the possibility of attending on behalf of the Parish Council.
 - ii) The renewable energy funds for community benefit were briefly discussed.
 - iii) Dorset Cllr Wilson reported that his Cabinet responsibilities at Dorset Council have been expanded to include Customer Services (including libraries), alongside the council's transformation agenda and workforce. Cllr Cady expressed her appreciation for Dorchester Library, which she visited during the recent heatwave. She commented that the air conditioning provided welcome relief and praised the library staff for being extremely helpful. Cllr Child added that the staff at Wareham Library also provide an excellent service. It was also noted that a banking hub has been established at Weymouth Library, and a similar facility could be beneficial in other towns.
 - iv) There was a power outage on 24th June, which affected large parts of the village.

As landlines are now digital and the mobile network was also unavailable during the outage, residents had no reliable means of communication. Concerns were expressed that this could have serious implications in the event of an emergency. It was further noted that, although utility companies maintain registers of vulnerable customers, they are unable to contact those individuals when both landline and mobile services are unavailable. In such circumstances, the only option is to carry out door-to-door welfare checks. These welfare checks had not been undertaken during the recent outage. It was recognised that this is an issue affecting rural communities more widely and is not unique to East Stoke. **Action:** Cllr Wilson to investigate the matter.

10. Bus Shelter

It was agreed, in principle, to replace the bus shelter with a design similar to that at Winterborne Kingston, which was constructed by a local builder. As the original shelter was located on highway land, the replacement shelter would be built in the same location.

Clarification is required as to whether planning permission will be needed. Once this has been confirmed and a quotation obtained, funding opportunities will be explored. Potential sources include the East Stoke and Wool Community Charity (ESWCC), a donation from a local resident, Dorset Council's Capital Leverage Fund (which may contribute up to 20% of the project costs), local bus operators, SUEZ, and the local sawmill. **Action:** Cllr Quinn to contact the builder and the Planning Dept.

11. Finger Post

A damaged fingerpost at the junction of Meadow Lane and the B3070 was discussed. It was agreed that the Dorset Fingerpost Restoration Project would supply the necessary materials, while Wareham Men's Shed would undertake the painting, fit the lettering, and install the restored fingerpost. **Action** Cllr Quinn to contact the Dorset Fingerpost Restoration Project and for the Clerk to contact the Men's Shed.

12. Power Outages

Discussed 2026-7-355/9iv.

13. Police issues to report or update on issues reported

None.

14. Highways Issues

a) Update on issues

No updates.

a) Speed Indicator Device

This will be moved next week.

c) Other Issues

None

15. Consultations for consideration or New Items for Discussion/Consideration

Bere Regis Neighbourhood Plan Review (2019 to 2034). Bere Regis Parish Council has undertaken a review of its neighbourhood plan. It runs from 8 June to 20 July.

<https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/spatial-planning/bereregis-npr/consultation/intro/>

Noted.

16. Correspondence Received

- a)** Hear about our new long-term transport plan; see what rating our Adult Social care received; and much more. The Overview committee were asked to give their views on the final draft of the Local Transport Plan 2026 to 2041. **Noted.**
- b)** Urgent Temporary Closure Of West Holme. amended. All vehicles will be prohibited from proceeding along West Holme between Luckford Lake Farm and West Holme House, a distance of approximately 400metres. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 12th June 2026. **Noted.**
- c)** Action Briefing / Register of Interests (RoI) Process Change. Every current serving councillor will need to re-validate their RoI to remove their home address - which is a requirement from 29 June 2026.
The link currently does not work. **Action:** Clerk to investigate.
- d)** Introducing Dorset Connect: Purbeck - our new style network for your neighbourhood. 'Dorset Connect' is a new brand bringing together people and organisations who are passionate about making a difference locally. Whether you represent a community group, charity, business, education provider, faith group, arts and culture organisation, sports and leisure service, health or social care provider, or a town or parish council — Dorset Connect offers a space to connect across sectors. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th July from 9.30 - 12 at Herston Village Hall. **Noted.**

