



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF EAST STOKE HELD ON
THURSDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2026 AT LONGTHORNS CAMPSITE

PRESENT	Cllr Rebecca Cady (Chair) Cllr Neill Child (Vice Chair) Cllr Chris Evans Cllr Graeme Langley Cllr Fenella Lewin
APOLOGIES	Dorset Cllr Ben Wilson Cllr Keith Evans Cllr Barry Quinn
IN ATTENDANCE	Liz Maidment (Parish Clerk)

1. **Public participation period** for 15 minutes
None
2. **Apologies**
Apologies were received, and the reasons were approved from Cllr Quinn, Cllr Keith Evans and Dorset Cllr Wilson
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 8th January 2026.**
The minutes from Thursday 8th January, were duly proposed as a true account and were duly signed by Cllr Rebecca Cady.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes**
The SID keys have arrived.
7. **Planning Applications or Planning Information received**
An amendment to P/FUL/2023/07467 Proposal: Use of land as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) with associated access, landscaping, infrastructure and alterations to road Location: Land South Of A352.
An update to this application was received after the agenda was published, therefore it will be discussed at the next meeting.
8. **Update of Previous Applications or planning information**
None.
9. **Dorset Council Report**
Dorset Cllr Wilson's report was circulated before the meeting.
 - i) Highwood is now fully passable, and the immediate issues around Holmebridge seem to have improved. Highways has ordered the jetting of the drainage along the A352, although a specific timeline for this work has not yet been established. The abandoned car at Hethfelton has been removed.

Cllr Cady reported that the Mill Paddock area of Church Lane is currently underwater, with a flood depth of approximately 4 inches. This has resulted in a significant amount of gravel on the roads, and she has requested that a street cleaner be dispatched to address this issue. The second bridge has been damaged and has been reported on the Dorset Portal. **Action:** The Clerk to order the road sweeper.
 - ii) Jon Andrews, Portfolio Holder for Place (including Highways) released a statement regarding the flooding. He understands people's frustration when water collects outside

their homes or on the roads. However, he believes the main issue is not blocked drains and that this week's flooding resulted from swollen rivers, rising groundwater, and heavy rainfall—not from a lack of drain maintenance. Highway drains can handle rainwater from the road but cannot cope with overflowing rivers or groundwater. Most flooding in Dorset came from these sources, and when water rises quickly, even clear drains have nowhere to send the water.

- iii) There has been a response from Dorset National Landscape in relation to the PC's question regarding deer management across Purbeck. In summary, whilst they are pushing for greater coordination in deer management, it remains the responsibility of individual landowners: - Increased coordination in deer management is being seen, particularly in the Purbeck Heaths NNR partnership. The larger landowners are implementing higher cull targets across their holdings. The Landscape Recovery is viewed as a key method to enhance collaboration, with hopes for round 3 development funding for Purbeck opening this autumn. Efforts are being made to integrate the management of the Wareham Arc implementation phase, which will also enhance coordination in that area. **Action:** Cllr Wilson will contact Purbeck Heaths NNR partnership to get their perspective.
- iv) Cllr Wilson is supportive of the revised plans for the SANG and the addition of parking. There is a risk that this parking is used for overnight stops by campervans and other vehicles, as is increasingly the case in this area. He therefore requests that this parking comes with a restriction on any overnight stopping. If this is possible, he questions who is responsible for enforcing a restriction - DC highways or the local landowners? He also requests the provision of waste bins on site, including for dog waste, and these be included in the Dorset Council's waste disposal remit.
- iv) The Dorset Council budget proposal was made available to the public on 13th January ahead of submission to the Scrutiny Committee and eventually to full Council in February. £482m will be spent running services in Dorset, with around 60% of that providing care for the elderly, vulnerable adults and children. Council tax will rise by 4.99%, meaning a Band D home will pay an extra £2.02 per week more than last year.

10. **To publicise the grounds maintenance tender**

The amendments suggested at the previous meeting have been made and circulated to the Councillors ahead of this meeting. The Clerk will now publicise the tender on social media, and submitted sealed tenders will be opened during the March meeting.

11. **Police issues to report or update on issues reported**

No issues to report.

12. **Highways Issues**

a) **Update on issues**

The flooding on the A352 at the bend has significantly improved. Councillor Child was thanked for digging it out. A question was raised about whether the flooding at Hethfelton is a result of the number of trees that have been felled at Hethfelton Woods. Although the pipe beneath the road has been cleared, this has not led to any noticeable improvement.

b) **Speed Indicator Device**

The SID is functioning well, and due to the lack of daylight hours, it will not be moved to the shadier area at the Black Dog.

c) **Flooding**

Discussed 2025-2-350/9i

d) **Bus Shelter**

Due to the lack of grants available, this will be discussed at a later date.

e) **Other Issues**

None.

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

Bere Regis' Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation runs from Monday 5th January 2026 to Sunday 22nd February 2026. [Bere Regis Parish Council - Official Website](#) Bere Regis Parish Council | Bere Regis Parish Council Website. **Noted.**

13. **Correspondence Received**

- a) Proposed Temporary Closure Of Church Lane, East Stoke. The closure has been requested to allow Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd to undertake a railfoot inspection. These works are programmed to commence between 23:45 and 06:00 from 28th January until 30th January.
- b) Grant Request from Citizens Advice in East Dorset & Purbeck. To be discussed in the April meeting.
- c) Last chance to apply for community grants, make 2026 the year you foster and much

- more. The closing date for the Capital Leverage Fund was 16th January. **Noted.**
- d) e-News 13 January 2026. The Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) AGM will now be on 14th March. **Noted.**
 - e) NEWS: Council sets budget to invest in roads, care, and jobs. A total of £482m will be spent running services in Dorset – with around 60% of that providing care for the elderly, and vulnerable adults and children. Major road improvements and safety works will also be funded, and car parking charges will be frozen for a further year. **Noted.**
 - f) Royal Garden Party Invites - Friday 8 May 2026. The closing date for Parish Councils to nominate will be on 12th February. The nomination has been submitted.
 - g) Dorset Council Town and Parish Council Forum – Planning and Building Control: Tuesday 3 February. The morning: in-person event, 10am-12.30pm, Corn Exchange, Dorchester and in the afternoon it will be (2.30pm-4.30pm) and a Teams invite has been circulated for this separately. **Noted.**
 - h) Proposed Temporary Closure Of A352 At Wool Level Crossing. These works are programmed to commence between 00:30 until 08:00 on 22nd March 2026. **Noted.**
 - i) Proposed Temporary Closure Of B3071, Wool. An application from Wessex Internet to close B3071, Wool in two phases as listed: [i] Phase 1 will close B3071, Wool from junction with Breach Field to junction with Colliers Lane. The road will be closed from 9th Mar until 20th March; [ii] Phase 2 will close B3071, Wool from junction with Colliers Lane to junction with Wood Street. The road will be closed from 16th Mar until 27th Mar.
There has been no update about the East Stoke connection. **Action:** Clerk to obtain more information.
 - j) Storm Chandra Flood Warden Update. Residents need to report property flooding as close to the event as possible: <https://www.gov.uk/report-flood-cause> Environment Agency Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60. **Noted.**
 - k) PTAG Meeting & Newsletter. Latest newsletter from the Purbeck Transport Action Group. **Noted.**

14. Finance

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

	Amount
Miss E Maidment	£282.12
Dorset Council Pension Fund	£87.91
Re-imburse E Maidment for the S.I.D Key	£16.43
Lloyds Standing Charge (Direct Debit)	£4.25
HMRC (Direct Debit)	£20.00

- b) **Online banking additional authoriser**
A separate meeting will be organised to authorise this online.

15. Items for information or next agenda

None.

16. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5th March. Cllr Chris Evans sends her apologies.

With no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 19.24.

Chairman: _____ Date:.....