



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF EAST STOKE HELD ON
THURSDAY 8th JANUARY 2026 AT LONGTHORNS CAMPSITE

PRESENT	Cllr Rebecca Cady (Chair) Cllr Neill Child (Vice Chair) Cllr Chris Evan Cllr Graeme Langley Cllr Keith Evans
APOLOGIES	Cllr Barry Quinn Cllr Fenella Lewin
IN ATTENDANCE	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 Quinn and Cllr Lewin
- 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 December 2025**
The minutes from Thursday 4th December, were duly proposed as a true account and were duly signed by Cllr Rebecca Cady.
- 6. Matters arising from the minutes**
The Parish Clerk will ask for an update from Highways as to when the deer sign will be reinstalled.
- 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.
The Parish Council supports this application, contingent upon the implementation of the following conditions:
 1. To mitigate the risk of overnight camping, it is recommended that height barriers and width restrictions be installed.
 2. An assessment should be conducted to determine the feasibility of imposing time restrictions on parking, for example, a maximum duration of three hours.

Furthermore, clarification is requested regarding the party responsible for the management of the car park.
- 8. Update of Previous Applications or planning information**
None.
- 9. Dorset Council Report**
Dorset Councillor Wilson's report was circulated before the meeting.

- i) The primary focus for Dorset Council at the moment is the budget, which will be announced on Tuesday 13th January ahead of its submission to the Scrutiny Committee and, eventually, to the full Council in February.
 - ii) Dorset Council had approximately 100 personnel on standby for Storm Goretta to ensure key routes remain safe and clear. There was a question regarding whether these personnel would receive time off in lieu of their regular hours. Cllr Wilson explained that most of them were subcontractors, and contingencies for inclement weather are accounted for within the budget. **Action:** Cllr Wilson will gather more information.
- 10. To publicise the grounds maintenance tender**
Cllr Cady proposed that the tender should be revised to a duration of two years, with an option for a one-year extension. At the 18-month mark, the contractor will be contacted to see if they wish to continue for an additional year. The tender will also include strimming around the noticeboards at Holme Lane and Holmebridge. Each item will specify that the vegetation needs to be removed. These changes will be circulated via email and will be approved at the next meeting. **Action:** The Clerk will investigate the legalities of extending the contract.
- 11. Police issues to report or update on issues reported**
- i) Concerns have been raised regarding the numerous deer carcasses along the A352, and whether there have been any updates on the deer management report. One possible solution discussed is the installation of deer fencing along the road.
 - ii) With the upcoming implementation of the new speed limits outside the Farrer Estate, only the section of road between the Black Dog and the Woolbridge roundabout will remain a 60 mph zone. It has been suggested that Highways should be asked why this section cannot also have a lower speed limit, especially considering there have been fatalities from road traffic collisions in this area.
Action: Cllr Wilson to investigate both issues.
- 11. Highways Issues**
- a) **Update on issues**
No updates.
 - b) **Speed Indicator Device**
The SID is working well, and Cllr Quinn has requested 2 additional Allan keys. It was agreed that this should be purchased.
 - c) **Other Issues**
Water is accumulating again at the bend near Stokeford Cottages. **Action:** The Clerk to contact Highways to ask for it to be jetted out.
- 12. Consultations for consideration or New Items for Discussion/Consideration**
- a) Survey from Age Friendly Dorset.
<https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/adults/age-friendly-dorset-2025/>. Closes 30th January 2026. **Noted.**
- 13. Correspondence Received**
- a) The Jurassic Classic 2026 Event Plan. The event will take place on Saturday 16th May and will start and finish at the Tank Museum. **Noted.**
 - b) Camp Bestival 2025 | Parish Council Feedback. The meeting took place on 16th December. **Noted.**
 - c) Taxbase 2026/27. The Final Precept Notification form will need to be returned, electronically, by 31st January 2026. The Tax Base for East Stoke has decreased by -5%. **Noted.**
 - d) Statement relating to the Dorset Council Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans (2). Dorset Council will consult on a publication (regulation 19) version of the plan in the summer of 2026 before submitting the plan for examination by the end of 2026. It is anticipated that the plan will be examined and adopted by the end of 2027. **Noted.**
 - e) EV Charging Webinar Dorset Council - New Year Rollout. The webinar was held on Thursday 11th December. **Noted.**
 - f) Save the date - Winfrith SSG - Tuesday, 12 May 2026. Site Stakeholders Group meeting. **Noted.**
 - g) Dorset Community Transport Grant 2025-26. The aim of the Dorset Community Transport grant is to support Dorset residents with the continued cost of living challenge delivered by Dorset Council services and with our Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) partners. The fund aims to invest in the sustainability of Dorset's community transport network. Applications must be in by midnight on Thursday 15th January 2026.
The bus shelter at Stokeford was damaged by a storm a few years ago and has not

been replaced since. Cllr Quinn suggested via email that the Parish Council apply for a grant to replace it, noting that the deadline is tight. It was agreed that Cllr Quinn would submit the application on behalf of the Parish Council. There is also the East Stoke and Wool Community Chest, but money for this would not be allocated until November.

- h) Festive period service update, off shore wind port at Portland and much more. The Crown Estate is backing a study to explore whether Portland Port could become home to a new offshore wind port – the Channel Gateway. **Noted.**
- i) Wareham Arc Project: End of Secondment - new contact. The project team is currently in the Assurance Phase with DEFRA and are working towards the Implementation Phase. **Noted.**
- j) Citizens Advice in East Dorset & Purbeck Impact Report. During FY2024-2025, they have helped over 5,000 people with over 28,000 issues.
To be discussed at the April meeting
- k) Dorset Council Town and Parish Council Forums 2026: Planning and Building Control. The first scheduled one will be on Tuesday 3 February: in-person forum at the Corn Exchange, Dorchester 10am-12.30pm; and virtual forum (to cover the same updates) 2.30pm-4.30pm. **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	£312.72
Dorset Council Pension Fund	£87.91
T. Lee Landscaping September - November	£942.50
Royal British Legion	£50.00
Lloyds Standing Charge (Direct Debit)	£4.25

- b) To receive the Third Quarter Bank Reconciliation
The Receipts and Payments Cashbook balance was £36,059.95, which agreed with the reconciled bank balance as of 31st December 2025.
- c) To agree the Third Quarter Budget Report
The Third Quarter Budget Report was noted and £7794.67 has been spent in this financial year.
- d) To agree the Budget for 2026/27 and to agree the Precept.
Cllr Langley proposed reducing the precept from £9,750 to £9,250 and seconded it by Cllr Cady. The tax base for East Stoke has decreased by 5%, so the proposed amount would result in a £0.06 (0.15%) increase for a Band D property.
- e) **Online banking additional authoriser**
No update
- f) **To consider the Internal Auditor quote**
It was proposed by Cllr Cady and seconded by Cllr Child to have Paula Harding conduct the internal audit again, at a cost of £145.

15. Items for information or next agenda

None.

16. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5th February. Cllr Quinn and Cllr Keith Evans send their apologies.

With no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 19.45

Chairman: _____ Date.....