



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF EAST STOKE HELD ON THURSDAY
7th AUGUST 2025 IN THE OSGOOD MEETING ROOM, D'URBERVILLE CENTRE, WOOL

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

Due to the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the meeting was chaired by Cllr Quinn.

1. **Public participation period** for 15 minutes
None
2. **Apologies**
Apologies were received and the reasons were approved from Cllr Cady, Cllr Child and Cllr 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 3rd July**
The minutes from Thursday 3rd July, were duly signed by Cllr Keith Evans.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes**
There were no matters arising.
7. **Planning Applications or Planning Information received**
P/HOU/2025/03734 - Highwood Ferris Highwood BH20 6AR Proposed two storey gable extension to west of front elevation, demolition of existing conservatory and single storey east extension and replace with two storey gabled extension to east of front elevation. Associated landscaping to existing driveway and garden and provision of swimming pool. Conversion of existing garage into annexe. Provision of timber frame car port.
The Parish Council has no comments or objections.
8. **Update of Previous Applications or planning information**
 - a) Update on Suez Land.
The quarry has finished its extraction of minerals, largely due in part to a decline in demand. It was inquired whether the fields would be returned, and it was clarified that since this is additional land, there won't be a direct swap. Restoration of the quarry site is set to take place over the next couple of years. More information will be provided after the liaison meeting scheduled for next month.
 - b) East Stoke Village Hall Statement
The statement was circulated prior to the meeting and formally approved, confirming that the comments will be submitted to Dorset Council. The planning application P/FUL/2023/07467, which involves the use of land as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) with will be considered by the Eastern Planning Committee on 3rd September 2025. The meeting will take place at The Allendale Centre, Hanham Road, Wimborne.

Concerns were raised regarding the crossing to the SANG, as it was commented upon that

the island might give pedestrians a false sense of security. The MOD has now confirmed that there is enough space for their vehicles to pass through. There was also a question about how many people would actually use the SANG, especially since many local residents, including horse riders, currently use the common land.

Additionally, there are concerns that the village hall will not have enough parking spaces. It was explained that there will be more amendments at a later date, and that this is currently just an outline proposal. The first payment from the solar farm has been received by the village hall committee.

The cost estimates for the village hall need to be revised due to potential increases in furnishing and energy costs. There may also be a requirement to pay maintenance charges to the Farrer Estate, similar to what the Farrer Estate residents are required to pay. However, it was suggested that the hall will probably be exempt, given that it is a community asset.

It was agreed to meet up before the Planning Committee meeting to discuss these points. It was suggested that Cllr Keith Evans should attend.

9. Dorset Council Report

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

- a) A question was raised earlier by a councillor regarding the status of a business in East Stoke. Cllr Wilson found out that the business's license was suspended in February of this year. If the owners wish to change the use of the business, they will need to apply for planning permission. Furthermore, this change of use must be in effect for more than 10 years without any enforcement action before it can become immune to enforcement. It is essential to establish the timeline of when the business was last operational or advertised in order to determine the 10-year window.
- b) The Fire Investigation Officer who examined the fire at the Waste Group on Puddletown Road, which occurred on 19th April stated that after reviewing the onsite security footage, he concluded that the cause of the fire was accidental. He noted that the area of waste had not been touched for several days. Beyond ruling out arson, he was not able to narrow down the cause further. He remarked that waste fires at tips and recycling centres are quite common. In his experience, lithium batteries, such as those found in vapes, are often the cause of these incidents.
- c) The public consultation on the proposed Dorset Local Plan is due to begin on 18th August and will be open until 13th October.
- d) DAPTC is conducting a survey titled "Fresh Start" to gather information from over 130 Parish Councils across Dorset. The purpose of the survey is to understand the role these councils wish to play in the future, particularly in relation to the broader 'Wessex' devolution agenda. One option being considered is if they wish, Town and Parish Councils could take control of certain services.
- e) There have been two critical investigations into health and safety compliance work carried out by Dorset Council between December 2022 and October 2024. Police are now involved in the investigation. The Council is currently addressing the issues and ensuring that the appropriate delegations are now in place.
- f) The proposed booking system for Household Recycling Centres will no longer apply to all sites but will instead focus on four specific centres that have experienced issues with either long queues or cross-county usage. Dorset Council aims to evaluate the benefits of this approach before considering its implementation at other locations. Among the options being considered is the possibility of closing some sites for one day each week.

10. Any Police issues to report or update on issues reported

There were no issues to report, although it was commented upon that chainsaws could be heard at 2am on Sunday 3rd August. It was suggested that the noise was from work being carried out on the railway line.

11. Highways Issues

a) Update on issues

No updates.

b) Speed Indicator Device

This will be moved on Monday 11th August.

- c) **Camp Bestival**
The roads were busy on the Monday, but there were no major issues to report.
- d) **Approve signage for layby**
The cost to supply and erect one number signpost and fix an existing sign supplied by others would be £ 444.00 excluding vat. It was proposed by Cllr Langley and seconded by Cllr Evans to erect two signs in both of the laybys along the A352. Numerous antisocial activities have been reported at one of the laybys. It was requested to record details of the cars and their registration numbers, if possible. **Action:** The Clerk to notify Highways.
- e) **Other Issues**
None.

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

- a) Public consultation on two applications for environmental permits for the Winfrith nuclear site. Public notices are published EPR/CP3329LD/A001 & EPR/PB3898DC/V004. Comments to be received by 5th September.
The Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) is proposing to bury some of the demolition waste on site and some of this will be low level radioactive waste. The company is applying to change its Radioactive Substances Regulations environmental permit to allow this. The NRS is also asking for a new Deposit for Recovery Environmental Permit to allow it to deposit non-radioactive waste at the site.
- b) Invitation to participate in the Consultation on Dorset Council's Allocation Policy. The consultation will run until 24th August. It represents a significant opportunity to gather valuable insights and perspectives that will shape the future of housing allocation within our community. <https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/c-e/hac> **Noted.**
- c) Action Briefing - Parish Council Survey. It is an opportunity for Parish Council's views to be represented in planning for the future of local government in Dorset. The deadline for responses is 31st October. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LiveDAPTCPCSurvey> **Noted.**

13. Correspondence Received

- a) Proposed Temporary Traffic Management Order - Camp Bestival. The first Order will effect a safe traffic management plan for ingress and egress, and will minimise the disruption caused by the event on the highway network. This will create additional ingress route and temporarily reduce the speed limits. The second Order will temporarily close footpaths through the event site for safety and security reasons. **Noted.**
- b) MINUTES - Winfrith SSG Meeting - Tuesday, 13 May 2025. The Minutes of the Site Stakeholder Group can be found at NRS SSG Website - Home. **Noted.**
- c) Join the Climate Ambassador Scheme, major safety improvements in Dorchester and much more. Information on the revised recycling centre plans amid the current financial pressures. **Noted.**
- d) Dorset Local Plan – Parish and Town Council Engagement Event. This was held on 14th July. **Noted.**
- e) Proposed Temporary Closure Of A352 Wool Level Crossing, Wool. These works are programmed to commence between 19:00 and 23:59 on 16th September 2025. **Noted.**
- f) Information for residents, from Dorset Council's Environmental Enforcement team. As a householder, rubbish you've handed to someone else is still your legal responsibility until it is correctly disposed of. If someone - such as an unlicensed 'man in a van' found online - were to fly-tip that waste, you could end up paying a fine or being taken to court. **Noted.**
- g) Devolution bid takes significant step forward, free events and much more. The Wessex Partnership – which includes Dorset Council, BCP Council, Wiltshire Council and – Somerset Council - has set out new regional projects. **Noted.**
- h) Camp Bestival 2025 | East Stoke Railway Crossing & Diversion. Issues with the Holmebridge crossing weekend of 19th July. **Noted.**
- i) Age-Friendly Guide for Town and Parish Councils. The workshop took place on Wednesday 30th July. **Noted.**
- j) Tackling anti-social behaviour, the healing power of nature, what's on in Dorset and much more. They have introduced a camping ban on Studland Beach to protect this sensitive coastal area, and extended fire and BBQ restrictions to more heathland and forest areas due to wildfire risks. **Noted.**

14. Finance

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

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|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Miss E Maidment Salary | Amount £292.77 |
| Dorset Council Pension Fund | £85.19 |
| Re-imburse R Cady for cards | £5.50 |
| To note the direct debit | |
| Lloyds Service Charge | £4.25 |
| HMRC | £5.60 |

15. Items for information or next agenda

None

16. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 4th September. Cllr Barry Quinn sends his apologies.

With no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 19:58

Chairman:

Date.....