

Durweston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 28th April 2025 at Durweston Village Hall starting at 1900 hours.

Present: Councillors: C Newton (Chair), E Corry, H Galpin, J Hosford, T Marks, S Spiller.

In Attendance: Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk), 0 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Dorset Cllr Sherry Jespersen, Cllr T Hewson.

- 1. Declaration of Interests:** None received.
- 2. Granting of any Dispensations:** None received.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes from 20th February:** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 4. Democratic Period:** No members of the public present.
- 5 Dorset Councillor Report--**No current update.

6 Matters Arising:

-Noticeboards:

Cllr Spiller had removed the noticeboard from the layby near the post box. It is intended for this notice board to be positioned at the Village Hall, we await the permission of the VH Committee. Cllr Galpin to raise this for confirmation at the next VH Committee meeting.

The Chair has spoken to the Head of Durweston School to confirm that the noticeboard there will remain in situ and will be shared between the school and the PC.

-The notice board now positioned at the bus stop, still needs to be varnished.

7. Officers Report:

-Rights of Way:

-Cllr Corry confirmed that the footpaths are all currently clear and looking good.

-Highways:

-The PC had received notification of road closures planned through part of the village in July, the Clerk to write to DC to get confirmation of exactly where the road closures will be.

-Cllr Marks reported that there had been a further 2 accidents in the village, one vehicle had overturned late at night, and Durweston bridge has been hit again, this time by a learner driver, both the police and ambulance service attended the scene.

-Another car tip over 2 accidents this end just past layby, 10 days ago. Late at night

-Potholes in Milton Lane to be reported again on the DC website.

-Play Areas:

-Cllr Hosford had contacted a representative from Sovereign Play and consequently met him on site with Cllr Newton to discuss the rolling poles supporting the bucket swing.

The representative stated that this would not be covered by warranty as damage at the base of the pole had been caused by strimming but would offer a discount on new poles/ ratchets for the swing as they had only lasted for 10 years.

-To replace the poles would cost in the region of £1000. Whereas a new swing would start at £3,600.00 plus installation costs. It was agreed that the PC should explore the cost of supply and installing a metal swing rather than the wooden existing swing. It was agreed that the PC should have any new equipment installed by the supplier rather than try to cut costs and have equipment installed by villagers, for safety reasons and to secure warranties. Cllr Hewson to look at quotes for metal swing posts, the bucket seat is still in good condition.

-The PC proposed and approved that £3,000.00 additional funds be allocated to the Playing Field Fund from reserves as this is an area of high expenditure and responsibility for the PC.

-Cllr Newson has reminded Sam that the bench refurbishment needs to be finished.

-Cllr Newson to contact DC as the Jungle Mulch around the roundabout has moss growing through it.

-The mechanism for the net in the tennis court needs to be repaired – Cllr Newson to look at what needs to be done, and Cllr Hosford to contact Phillips Fabrications to request they quote to repair it.

-Cllr Galpin suggested that the Playing Field Committee be reconvened with a view to fundraising for the upkeep and maintenance of the play equipment. All agreed that this would be a good idea. It was also suggested that the PC look into attaining a Tesco's Grant.

-Cllr Hosford reported that there had been another bout of round up being sprayed around the village to kill weeds. It was agreed that villagers should be notified when this spraying is to take place, to prevent children and pets coming into contact with these chemicals. The DC rangers to be contacted.

-Village Hall

-The curtains in the VH have been fireproofed.

-The VH AGM is coming.

-The VH had received very positive feedback from a hirer who hired the hall for a 1st Birthday party.

-**DAPTC** – No update:

-**Allotments**- A padlock has been placed on the gate, to prevent dog walkers allowing their pets to foul in the allotment.

8. - Speed Watch update: A recent speed watch session had caught one driver travelling at 64 mph through the village 5pm.

9. - Finances.

- a. The following payments were approved for payment:

-Clerks salary (at agreed rate), Clerks PAYE. Dorset Council £322.92.

-The following grants were approved: £3,000.00 to the Play Area Account. St Nicholas Church Grant £500.00.

-The PC approved to ringfence funds for the following: £500.00 to the Tennis Court, £3000.00 towards tree maintenance.

-All payments were approved

10. Any Other Business:

-Colour Run: The Chairman wish to ensure that a planned Colour Run event for the school children on the 13th June, in the afternoon during school time. This is a fun event inspired by the Hindu festival of Holi, known as the Festiva of Colour. The children will be wearing white T-Shirts and will shower each other will different coloured non-toxic powders, this festival celebrates joy and community and is intended to be fun for the school children. The powder used washes away and will not stain. The PC were supportive of this event.

-Planting: Cllr Hosford suggested that crocus are planted around the trees into the village, all agreed that this would be a good idea, and some volunteered to plant the bulbs in September.

To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held on Monday 19th May 7pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed _____ Dated_____