

Durweston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 15th September 2025 at Durweston Village Hall starting at 1900 hours.

Present: Councillors: C Newton (Chair), H Galpin, T Marks, T Hewson, S Spiller.

In Attendance: Cllr Sherry Jespersen, Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk), 1 member of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr J Hosford, Cllr E Corry.

1. **Declaration of Interests:** None received.
2. **Granting of any Dispensations:** None received.
3. **Approval of the Minutes from 21st July 2025:** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. **Democratic Period:**

-The Chair of the Village Hall Committee raised the issue that when some people book the village hall for a function, they sometimes want to book the playing field too, is this possible, could there be booking system for it, can the village hall be tied in closer with the playing field?

-The Chair confirmed that it is not possible to book the playing field along with the village hall as it is a public space and if the football pitch or any of the equipment is being used by a member of the public, then it would not be possible to ask them to leave. The exclusive use of the field can not be guaranteed.

Only when there is a village community event would the playing field be booked out alongside the VH. A discussion was held whether a marquee could be used alongside a VH booking, it was deemed that other than community events, marquees would not be put up on the playing field, as usually these events fall on weekends or Bank Holidays when the local community are most likely to want to use the field.

5 **Dorset Councillor Report:**

-Dorset council local plan consultation – Cllr Jespersen explained that the current consultation, (open until the 13th October), is the first step to create the new Local Plan. It shows possible sites that have been put forward by landowners for future housing development. Fortunately none of these sites are in Durweston, but all should be encouraged to complete the consultation online (available on the DC website), as it is our opportunity to have a say on what infrastructure is required, bus services and sustainable communities in Dorset in the future. Dorset's housing targets have increased by 80%, and are over double the number that we have been building in recent years.

The consultation covers many areas, in particular the removal of settlement boundaries in villages, making it easier for planning applications to be approved in between villages.

-DPC resolved to have a separate meeting to compile their response to the Consultation.

All residents are encouraged to visit the consultation on DC website and make comment.

6 **Matters Arising:**

-Cllr Spiller confirmed that the noticeboard at the VH will be put up next week.

7. -Officers Report:

-**Rights of Way:** No current update

-**Highways:** Cllr Marks raised his concern that the white lines had been repainted at the bridge in the same position as before, despite him having discussed changes with DC Highways Officer Mr Skeats. Cllr Jespersen stated that the DC Bridges Team are working on a plan for the bridge to prevent so many accidents.

-It was reported that there is wire sticking out at the bridge, Clerk to report on DC website.

-**Play Areas:**

-**Bucket swing:** The bucket swing is to be removed until repairs have been organised.

-**DAPTC:** No current update.

-**Village Hall:** The Summer Fair scheduled for 30th August had been cancelled.

-The next pub night had been organised for the 26th September.

-The Harvest Supper will be held on October 25th.

-**Allotments-** No current update.

8. - Speed Watch update: There had not been any speed watch sessions due to poor weather. The Speed watch team are looking for local volunteers.

9. - Finances.

The Clerk had sent out the August Finance Report.

- a. The following payments were approved for payment:

-Clerks salary (at agreed rate), Clerks PAYE, Bank Charges £4.25, Wessex Ground Services £660.00

-All payments were approved.

10. Any Other Business:

-None raised.

To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held on Monday 20th October, 7pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.29pm

Signed _____ Dated _____