

Durweston Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 20th October 2025 at Durweston Village Hall
starting at 1900 hours.**

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

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

Apologies for Absence: Cllr S Jespersen. Cllr T Hewson, Cllr S Spiller.

- 1. Declaration of Interests:** None received.
- 2. Granting of any Dispensations:** None received.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes from 15th September:** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 4. Democratic Period:**
 - A resident raised her concerns regarding the safety of the school children using the play equipment in the playing field at play times, as the area is situated at an area farther away from the school with a low fence and no gate. The resident felt that the children were hidden away in this area and at risk of being snatched -as she feel the area is not fully supervised. The resident was requesting that a higher fence be installed with no gate. Cllr Galpin stated that further to the residents email stressing her concerns, the matter had been raised at the VH Committee meeting, after debate the committee resolved that the playpark could not be locked up as it is a public play area, and that the school provides at least 4 teachers/staff to supervise the children during the play times. It was stated that this is a safeguarding issue for the school, who should look into this and if necessary, provide specific adult supervision for that area of the play park. The Chair said that she would speak to the school and raise this issue with them. Perhaps all concerned – the village hall and parish council could contribute towards a new fence with a gate that can be locked when the school uses the field.
- 5. Dorset Councillor Report:** No current update.
- 6. Matters Arising:**
 - Cllr Spiller had confirmed to the Chair that the VH Noticeboard would be put up in the following week.
 - The Chair stated that new pads and battery needed to be ordered for the defibrillator. The Clerk to order the battery and pads.
- 7. Officers Report:**
 - Rights of Way:**
 - Previously the Clerk had contacted Marie Fisher regarding having a kissing gate installed where there currently is a stile on their land. The Clerk to write again to Marie Fisher to ask for permission for the Kissing gate to be installed by DC Ranger, and also to request that they reinstate a gate to their boundary where there is currently a gap, this is a potential H&S risk as children could enter their property through the gap, where there is a pool.
 - Highways:**
 - Cllr Marks raised his concern that the hedge on the main road from Durweston Bridge, is overgrown causing lorries to travel further out in the road, which is hazardous. Cllr Marks to speak to the landowner to request that this is cut back.

-The A350 will be closed from the Stourpaine side of Durweston Bridge up to Bushes Rd, in Stourpaine between the 17th-21st November.

-Cllr Marks is obtaining a quote from a contractor to obtain a 'price per cut' quote for cutting the village verges.

-It was reported that the 20mph sign in Milton Lane is covered by overgrown bushes. Clerk to report on DC website.

Play Areas:

-Bucket swing:

-The Chair and Cllr Hosford had obtained quotes for the replacement of the bucket swing, which had come out at £5.5K for a steel replacement and £7.5K for a stainless steel replacement from Mort Sport and Play. The PC felt that this was too expensive and would explore other options. One suggestion that a different piece of equipment be selected to replace the swing. Cllr Hosford was exploring the possibility of having the villager who made the original wooden play equipment make a new swing, this could only be an option if the bespoke equipment was built to the correct building and safety regulations. The Chair to investigate whether this would be a viable option, by contacting the current insurers and the Play Inspection Company.

-Meanwhile the rotten swing would need to be removed and disposed of Cllr Hosford to look into who may be able to assist with this.

-The goal posts in the play area need to be moved along as there are hole/dips in the ground through usage, which need to be filled with topsoil, rolled and returfed. The Chair proposed that the goal posts be removed for the time being whilst this work is being completed. Cllr Marks offered to assist with the removal of the posts and storing them at his premises where a group of volunteers could rub down and repaint the posts. Cllr Marks also to assist with a temporary barrier solution to prevent the children from playing on the newly turfed/seeded areas. The Chair to purchase lids to cover the current sockets whilst the goal posts are not in situ.

-The tennis net needs repair, it has been suggested that it needs to be bolted together to prevent it breaking in the middle, Cllr Hosford to approach Gary Sutherland to see if he is able to carry out this work. A new net is required, Cllr Hosford to see if any of the surrounding schools are able to donate a new net, if this is not possible a budget for a new tennis net will need to be agreed.

-The PC would like to thank Mark Wadey for his prompt action in removing the damaged tree in the play area, also the PC would like to thank the Hosfords farm for removing the brash from the tree.

-The Beech tree overlooking the zip wire is overhanging and needs some attention, Cllr Hosford to see if Brendon from the farm can carry out the necessary work to the tree.

-The Bench in the field is still to be repaired.

DAPTC: No current update.

Village Hall:

-The Harvest Supper is to be held on October 25th tickets we believe the tickets are sold out.

-Halloween themed pub night – 31st October.

-The School will be holding their Christmas Fair in the VH for the first time on:
6th December 11am-3pm

-Allotments- No current update.

8. - Speed Watch update: No current update.

9. - Finances.

The Clerk had sent out the September Finance Report.

-The following payments were approved for payment: Clerks salary & PAYE(at agreed rate), Bank Charges £4.25, Wadey Trees £300.00, Village Hall Hire £16.00 -All payments were approved.

-The Clerk confirmed that she would be beginning to work on the budget for next year.

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 17th November, 7pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business the meeting closed at pm

Signed _____ Dated_____