

Durweston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 15th June 2026 at 7pm in the Meeting Room at Durweston Village Hall

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

In Attendance, Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk) 7 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen.

1. Declaration of Interests: None declared.
2. Granting of Dispensations: None received.
3. Democratic Period: See Item 5 below.
4. **Approval of the Minutes from 18th May 2026:** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Wessex Internet:** Notices have been posted around the village by Wessex Internet concerning 4 telegraph poles that they plan to erect in the village, 3 in Haycombe and 1 at the playpark, these poles will support superfast full fibre broadband providing new full fibre connections to the homes in Haycombe. Zara (a representative from Wessex Internet) was in attendance to explain further as there had been concerns raised by villagers who wanted to know why the existing BT poles could not be used, or why the cables could not be installed underground, as it was felt that the poles would have an affect on the appearance of the village as Haycombe currently does not have any street furniture. It is intended to have a public meeting with Wessex Internet (date to be arranged, so that all villagers will get the opportunity to see the plans and ask questions). The following points were raised in discussion with the parishioners present.
 - Zara explained that these builds are part of a government funded incentive to bring full fibre to rural areas under project Gigabit, BT are retiring the existing network of copper phone lines. Zara stressed that the existing poles are not suitable to use for this purpose, they currently supply internet to the left-hand side of Haycombe but cannot service the right-hand side.
 - The Chair asked why existing cables which service the school cannot be used, and why can the new cables be put underground? Zara stated that she did not believe that it would be feasible to out the cables underground but would go back to WI and ask if they would consider this, the school cables would not be compatible with the new fibre cables.
 - Residents stated that no one is against improving the internet in the village but are keen that it is done in a sympathetic way for the village and the proposed poles are very high and wide. Zara stressed that the poles are high so that they are not in the eyeline from the windows of the properties and are carefully positioned so that they are not directly in front of the houses. Zara also pointed out that Wessex do not connect to BT sources at all.
 - Zara also stressed that the installation of the poles was not about signing up new customers to WI but ensuring that the future infrastructure is sufficient as the current copper is not fit for purpose.A date for the public consultation meeting will be confirmed and advertised around the village.
7. **Dorset Councillor Ward Report:** No current update.
8. **Matters Arising:** None raised.
9. **-Officers Reports:**

-Rights of Way: Thank you to George Hosford for mowing and clearing the footpath behind Haycombe.

--Highways: Cllr Marks to send the Clerk photos of the sign that has rotted and fallen onto the verge, and also the trees that are leaning over the main road, so that she can forward them to DC Highways and request action.

-Clerk to write to Cllr Jespersen to request temporary speed limits on the main road, as has happened in other villages whilst the C13 is closed.

-Concerns have been raised by residents regarding the children crossing the main road to catch the bus to school, Clerk to write to DC Highways to establish whether anything can be done.

-Play Areas:

-The limb of the tree by the zip wire needs to be removed.

-Den Corry will soon be commencing work on the multi-play equipment as agreed at the May meeting. He will then start work on the zip wire.

-There is a dead tree on the verge halfway along the fence at the top of the playpark, Clerk to contact DC Highways.

-DAPTC:

-Cllr Wicks reported that there is a survey to be completed concerning a Community Emergency Response Survey. It is advisable for a village to have a set Community Response strategy should anything happen, that may impact the village, ie. Flooding, severe hot weather or strong winds etc. This to be discussed further to devise an official Emergency Response Plan, Cllr Wick to complete the survey and return to the DAPTC.

-Village Hall: The VH Committee wish to thank the PC for the proposed grant of £250.00 towards advertising events to bring more revenue into the VH. The Clerk needs an email from the VHC before she can pay the grant.

-Cllr Hewson to contact Simon Spiller regarding putting up the noticeboard in the VH. **10. -**

Allotment: The Allotment Committee have given permission for access to 2 Glebe way to replace the fence.

10. - Speed Watch update: No current update.

11. - Finances: The Clerk had sent out the May Finance Report.

-The following payments were approved: Clerks wage at agreed rate/ HMRC PAYE/ Bank charges £4.25.

12. Any Other Business:

Date of the next meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting will include the Annual Parish Meeting, and will be held on Monday 20th July, 7pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business the meeting closed 8.29pm Signed _____

Dated _____