

Durweston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 20th 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, Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk) 12 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence:

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 15th June 2026:** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Wessex Internet:

-The Chair gave the following update regarding the Wessex Internet, full fibre installation in Haycome and the rest of the village following a meeting with WI representatives and subsequent correspondence.

It had been requested that the WI investigate the possibility of trenching in the new fibre cables in Haycombe and also for them to give further details of their plans and how they proposed to bring full fibre to the rest of the village.

-The Chair also corresponded with DC Planning department to check the legality of the application to install 3 posts in Haycombe, DC confirmed that this application was legal under Permitted Development. The DC Planning Office confirmed that they would not be able to review the decision as it is Permitted Development.

-There was an option put forward by WI, that if 80% of residents were to take up a new WI package, that it would justify the very costly additional expenditure of trenching in Haycombe.

-DPC wishes to thank Chantelle, a resident of Haycombe to went to survey the resident's views. Feedback received suggested that of those residents that they managed to speak to, a third were not worried about the poles, and two thirds of residents were opposed to the poles being erected. It was confirmed by WI that if the 80% target of residents taking up the proposal was not reached then trenching would not be an option as it would not be commercially viable, this work would not be carried out as part of a Government contract, or under the voucher scheme. It was stressed by the Chair that Openreach, or the Gigabit project are not currently looking to bring full fibre to Durweston and as WI are not obliged to install full fibre to the village they may decide not too if opposition to their proposals is too great.

-One resolution put forward for Haycombe, is that on the left hand side of the road (provided that residents agree), that potentially existing cables that run behind the houses might be upgraded and utilised, this would mean potentially mean that cables are installed into one garden and then using a clip system are connected to other properties via small grey boxes and flatter cables. This would still mean that poles would have to be installed on the right hand side of the road. The size of the poles is 9 metres high with a 35-centimetre diameter.

-The Glebe: permission would need to be sought from Sovereign Housing

-St Nicholas Gardens: The ducting is already there and can be utilised.

-Church Road: Existing poles will be used.

-Milton Lane, where meets with Church Road: Coils behind residents could be used, subject to the agreement of residents.

-Barrack Row: Currently there is an application for a pole to be installed. Further investigation into other options is ongoing.

-Rapsons Lane – to the War Memorial: Suggested pole potentially would cross over gardens, further information regarding this to be obtained.

-Main Road - to The Mill: can be moled through the fields without cables or poles.

-Water Lane: There is an electricity cable to the rear of properties creating an issue – the potential resolution would be to trench the cables on the right-hand side of Water Lane. This would need further consultation.

Questions were invited:

-What happens if the residents do not take up the offer of this installation? At present none of the other companies have shown interest to install full fibre to the village. It is possible that WI might decide not to install in the village, only at a later date be called back to the village to install due to other options being discontinued, and then they would charge for the installation of the cables/posts, etc.

-It was stressed by a resident that the installation of cables to houses would only take place once the order for the service had been placed by a resident.

-Most questions raised were of a technical nature, requesting further information about the methods of installation. It was decided that as the PC does not have the answers to the questions that a further public meeting with WI would be requested, and that details of the questions that would be asked be forwarded to WI prior to the meeting to ensure that they can answer the questions raised. The Chair invited those with questions to email them to her or to the Clerk, so that they can be sent to WI.

DPC will advise residents of the date and time, once it has been established that WI will attend a further meeting.

6. -Dorset Councillor: Cllr Jespersen firstly, thank the Chair, Christine Newton and the PC for all of the work that had been done to resolve the issues with WI.

-At the June meeting it had been raised by the PC to Cllr Jespersen that there had been an increase in traffic through the village since the closure of the C13 and questioned why a temporary speed limit through the village had not been applied to Durweston when other villages had temporary received speed restrictions. Cllr Jespersen had raised this concern with DC who stated that they did not have any data to confirm the increase in the traffic and therefore would be looking to survey the main road to attain the necessary data. This information will be useful to the PC to continue their campaign to have the speed limit reduced to 30mph on the main road.

7. -Matters Arising: See Item 6 above.

8. -Officers Reports:

-Rights of Way: No current update.

-Highways: Cllr Marks to obtain photos of the rotten speed sign that is lying in the verge just past the layby on the main road, also of the trees that are leaning over at that stretch of the main road. The Clerk to write to DC Highways to request that they carry out an inspection of this part of the highway.

-Concerns have been raised regarding the difficulties and the dangers that the school children face crossing the main road to go to and return from school. DPC to request a meeting with DC Highways officers, in September when the schools have returned, at the point where the children cross the road and at the time of day that they cross the road.

-Play Areas:

-There is a dead tree that need to be removed.

-zip wire work and repairs to the multi-play area are still to commence.

-DAPTC: All councillors are reminded that they need to re-complete their Register of Interests.

-Cllr Wicks had planned to attend a DAPTC meeting on 15/07/26, which was cancelled.

-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.

-Pub night – last Friday of the month.

-There is a cricket match planned for August, further information to come.

9. -Allotment: The Allotment Committee have given permission for access to 2 Glebe way to replace the fence, the PC has confirmed this to Sovereign.

10. - Speed Watch update: More volunteers are required to ensure that the speed watch sessions in the village continue. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested in becoming a speed watch volunteer.

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

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

12. Any Other Business:

-The handle to the phone box, (Book swap), has broken, Cllr Wicks has ordered an new handle and awaits delivery.

-The noticeboard that was planned to be placed on the outside of the VH, has been damaged, alternatives are being looked at. Meanwhile the PC will request that are allowed to share the VH noticeboard.

Date of the next meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting, and will be held on Monday 21st September, 7pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business the meeting closed 8.pm

Signed _____ Dated_____