

**[REDACTED] of Piddle Valley Parish Council**

**Tuesday 27 May 2025**

**Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Ebdon (Chair), Lock, Abbott, Cox, Latimer, Larden, Howard, Murray & Dorset  
Cllr Haynes

**Apologies:** Cllr Bishop

**Democratic Period:**

Dorset Cllr Haynes attended the meeting and gave an update on the following.

- Housing Strategy, 300 people per month are registering as homeless in Dorset – transition housing needs to be sought rather than using B & B's. Housing shortage for single occupancy is high.  
A proposal has been made for 100 properties to be purchased in the next financial year. A further proposal has been made for 400 properties to be purchased per year for the next 5 years.  
In order to fund this, Council assets will need to be sold and there is concern that with no resource these won't move fast enough.
- Our Future Council is in process and this is looking at how front facing staff deal with the public. As part of the savings, a review of jobs and how people are working is taking place. A better IT system is being created which includes AI work and this improvement will cost £11,000,000 which is already within the budget.

Cllr Ebdon asked how holiday lets/Air B'n'B properties that have been through planning with no mention of these intentions, are handled by Dorset Council. Dorset Cllr Haynes advised that Dorset Council have a database of these properties and are being diligent in their investigations. Holiday lets will be paying appropriate business rates and second homes will be liable to double council tax, which may make a difference to the number of second homes in time. The problem is the empty properties that are only used occasionally.

Cllr Lock asked about the properties which aren't registered. Dorset Cllr Haynes confirmed that diligent checks are being carried out and also confirmed that the intentions of properties being used as holiday lets doesn't need to be included in planning applications.

Dorset Cllr Haynes advised that the Planning enforcement team has improved although a current recruitment freeze has impacted this. Some internal changes are taking place to improve this situation.

**53/2025 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Latimer & Ebdon declared an interest in item 11, Policy documents.

## **54/2025 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 29 April 2025**

It was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Latimer that these minutes should be accepted as a true record of the meeting. All agreed.

### **55/2025 Action points from last minutes**

- a) 45/2025 Cllr Ebdon to arrange training for the defibs - COMPLETE
- b) 50/2025 – Clerk to place Social Housing posters in noticeboards at Piddletrenthide & Alton Pancras
- c) 51/2025 – Clerk to issue new Playground rota - COMPLETE

### **56/2025 Planning Matters**

- a) Enforcement matters

Cllr Ebdon advised on a response from Dorset Council regarding Little Puddle Farm Storage Container expansion which stated that it only became apparent that the proposal was retrospective upon their site visit and the only works that had taken place were to infill and make level the former slurry lagoon, to make it fit for the storage of containers. There is no departure from what was originally proposed.

Cllr Murray requested Willowbank Rare breeds at the top of Lackington Drove is reported to Enforcement to confirm if there is a licence in place or if one is required.

Cllr Murray also reported the field shelter at Lime Tree Cottage which hasn't ever moved and now has an extension, needs to be reported to enforcement.

Action: Clerk to report these matters to enforcement and chase storage container business at Camp

### **57/2025 DAPTC meeting & training update**

Dorset Local Plan – Parish and Town Council Event to find out more about the consultation, which starts in August. The information and engagement event will take place on: Monday 14 July 2025 at: Dorchester Corn Exchange. There will be a morning and a afternoon session and 2 x Cllrs can attend. Cllrs Ebdon and Lock agreed to go.

Big Transport Conversation - Dorset Council are holding this event on 18 June, 7-9pm, Corn Exchange, Dorchester. Local councillors will be able to come along and join in the conversation on the night.

### **58/2025 Defibrillator Working Group update**

Cllr Ebdon advised he has booked the training, 2-hour session covering Primary survey, CPR, AED, Choking & Bleeding and requested the information to be included on the website and social media.

Action: Cllr Murray & Clerk

### **59/2025 Financial Matters**

#### **a) Bills for payment**

|                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Clerk's expenses – May                | £21.60  |
| Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall         | £27.50  |
| Mrs K. Brown – Internal audit         | £75.00  |
| DAPTC – subscription                  | £659.58 |
| Dorset Council – Church Hill bollards | £948.00 |

It was proposed by Cllr Abbott and seconded by Cllr Larden that these payments are made.  
All agreed.

#### **b) Audit**

The Annual Governance Statement & Exemption for 2024/25 was agreed and signed by the Chair & Clerk.

### **60/2025 Highway Matters**

The following defects were reported:

- 30mph repeater sign still hasn't been replaced since the wall was demolished
- Blocked drains throughout the Valley

### **61/2025 Policy Documents Review**

The Policy Working Group met to review the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct documents and these were circulated to all Cllrs ahead of the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Murray and seconded by Cllr Larden that the Standing Orders are adopted. All agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr Larden and seconded by Cllr Lock that the Code of Conduct is adopted. All agreed with 2 abstentions.

### **62/2025 External communication**

The Clerk advised the Cllrs of an FOI request received concerning the new bollards at Church Hill and is waiting for specialist advice regarding this and another request received. However, the installation of the bollards is within our statutory powers and duties as a Parish Council.

### **63/2025 News & Information**

Nothing to raise.

#### **64/2025 Playing Field & Playground**

- a) Plan for Playground – Motion to accept quote to replace fencing – MOTION  
WITHDRAWN

#### **65/2025 Items for next agenda**

Complaints Policy  
Fencing quotes  
Grass cutting contract  
Piddlehinton Bus shelter

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2057 with notice that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 July 2025, 7.30pm at Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall.

  
 1/7/24