

Draft Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council

Tuesday 1 July 2025

Piddlehinton Gym

Present: Cllrs Ebdon (Chair), Lock, Abbott, Cox, Latimer, Bishop, Howard, Murray

Apologies: Cllr Larden

Democratic Period:

The Clerk informed the meeting of an email received earlier in the day from a Planning agent who was asking the following regarding the installation of bollards at Church Hill.

1. The minutes record that Dorset Council arranged and installed the bollards (and was paid £948). Under what formal delegation or agreement did Dorset Council act on behalf of the parish? In other words, did Dorset Council install the bollards under its own highway powers, or was a specific service agreement/delegation made with the parish?
2. The minutes assert the bollards fall within the Council's 'statutory powers and duties. Which specific legislative power or duty is being cited - is the Council treating the bollard installation as a traffic-calming measure, and if so, is it relying on Highways Act 1980 s.274A?
3. The May 2025 AGM minutes record that 'the bollards on Church Hill are added' to the council's inventory. Does this mean the Parish Council now considers itself the owner and is fully responsible (for maintenance, insurance, liability) of these bollards? If not, how is ownership and liability formally arranged with Dorset Council?
4. The £948 payment for the bollards was approved at the May 2025 meeting, but the item was not listed on the meetings published agenda. Could the Parish Council explain how approving a payment that wasn't on the agenda complies with the legal requirement for giving the public advance notice of items to be decided?
5. Finally, in relation to the Council's decision to approve the installation and payment of the Church Hill bollards, may I ask why Cllr Ebdon did not declare a personal or non-pecuniary interest, given his active involvement in the Community Speed Watch group? Additionally, can the Clerk clarify whether she considered it appropriate to declare an interest, as she is understood to be employed by Dorset Council's Highways Department, which quoted for and installed the works? I raise this in the context of transparency and good governance, as it is essential that councillors and officers are seen to act impartially and disclose any interests that could reasonably be perceived to affect decision-making.

Cllr Abbott raised concern with the new recycling centre arrangements. Cllr Murray advised that there has been a change in the proposals, only 4 of the centres, one being Dorchester, will be operating a booking system.

In response to the questions being asked about the bollards on Church Hill, a parishioner enquired what the issue is with them. The Clerk advised that through any correspondence received from the planning agent, they haven't specifically stated what the issue is with them, it appears to be the process of having them implemented.

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65/2025 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Abbott expressed an interest in item 7a.

66/2025 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council AGM held on Tuesday 30 May 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 with one abstention.

67/2025 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 30 May 2025

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

68/2025 Action points from last minutes

- a) 56/2025 - Clerk to report enforcement matters and chase storage container business at Camp - COMPLETE
- b) 58/2025 – Cllr Ebdon/Clerk – book Defib training and include on website – COMPLETE

69/2025 Planning Matters

- a) Planning Consultations

P/FUL/2025/03034 – Higher Southcombe Farm, Cerne Abbas - Erection of agricultural building to cover existing slurry separator

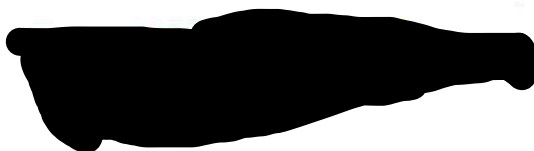
Cllrs Murray & Ebdon presented this application advising the following.

- The proposed development is within the existing concreted farmyard
- The proposed development is required to reduce rain and surface water ingress to the existing slurry infrastructure ensuring the business can effectively manage slurry and foul water on the unit to comply with regulation of the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.
- The proposal sits lower than the existing elements of the agricultural unit and is screened by existing landscaping to the north.
- The proposal will have limited effect on the surrounding landscape due to its context to the existing farm buildings
- ROW S36/26 (BOAT) which runs from the end of Church Lane Piddletrenthide to C12 passes close to the site
- The site lies within the National Landscape (AONB)

It was proposed by Cllr Ebdon and seconded by Cllr Murray that this application is supported. All agreed with one abstention.

P/LBC/2025/03390 – Muston Manor - Replacement of damaged pitched roof tiles to main house and granary, installation of new lead flashings to chimneys. Replacement of roof insulation. Woodworm treatment to roof timbers.

Cllr Lock presented this application and advised that the proposals are necessary repairs to the roof to protect the fabric of the listed building.



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It was proposed by Cllr Lock and seconded by Cllr Cox that this application is supported. All agreed.

b) Enforcement

i) AN/2025/00138 Unit 2 Gasgoines, Church Hill Piddlehinton

A response has been received from the enforcement officer which confirmed the use of the building as a garage constitutes a Change of Use from Class B1 to Class B2 for which Planning permission would be required.

The occupant has been informed that if they wished to continue in this use then Planning permission would be required.

The enforcement officer will send an update once a response from the occupant has been received.

Cllr Lock expressed concern with the vehicle movements in and out of this business.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Planning asking why there is such a delay on planning applications being decided.

Action: Clerk to contact Planning

ii) Update on responses on issues raised.

70/2025 DAPTC meeting & training update

No update

71/2025 Defibrillator Working Group update

Cllr Ebdon gave an update on the recent CPR/Defib training.

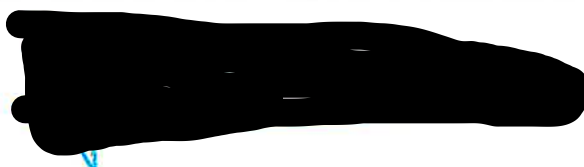
10 attendees 9 of whom are registered as VETS volunteers, 6 of whom are newly recruited. Excellent and comprehensive first aid training.

Cllr Ebdon confirmed that all defibs are up to date.

72/2025 Financial Matters

a) Bills for payment

Clerk's expenses – June	£22.50
Piddlehinton Gym	£27.50
Whitehorse Training (Defib)	£360.00
Piddle Valley First School – Grounds maintenance contribution	£1082.00
Play Safety – Annual Inspection	£96.00



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It was proposed by Cllr Latimer and seconded by Cllr Bishop that these payments are made. All agreed.

b) Audit

The Clerk advised that the exemption has been accepted by the external auditor.

73/2025 Clerks Review

Cllr Ebdon informed the meeting that the Clerks review has taken place and a motion will be included on the July agenda for any increment increase.

Action: Cllrs Ebdon/Cox/Latimer

74/2025 Highway Matters

a) Fingerpost restoration

The Clerk advised of some information received from a group who refurbish finger post signs.

Action: Clerk to circulate to all Cllrs

b) Defect responses

None received.

c) Defects to report

Sunken drain in middle of carriageway – Alton Pancras at junction of road to Old Vicarage

Safety mirror at Piddlehinton Cross in need of cleaning and vegetation cutting back

Action: Clerk to report to Highways

75/2025 Piddlehinton bus shelter

Cllr Lock advised the meeting that the bus shelter is in need of some maintenance. It was agreed that a motion is put forward at the July meeting.

Action: Cllr Lock

76/2025 External communication

a) FOI request – Request to Inspect Accounting Records

This request isn't a FOI; it is a request as part of the Notice of Public Rights period.

The Clerk will respond to this request following advice received from an expert.

b) FOI request - Bollard Installation at Church Hill, Piddlehinton – Internal review requested.

- c) Concerns Regarding Accuracy of Minutes, Freedom of Information Request and Additional Concerns – Internal review requested

For items b & c above relating to an internal review, the Clerk advised that she has a call booked in with an FOI expert later in the week which she will be discussing these requests with. However, the requests are from the same person/s that have submitted complaints to the Monitoring Officer at Dorset Council against all Cllrs, excluding Cllr Murray, and therefore no Cllrs felt that they could be considered independent to carry out the requested internal review.

In relation to item c, Cllrs Cox and Ebdon confirmed that they had referred to notes, meticulously transcribed policies and previous decisions relevant to the application. Both Cllr Cox and Cllr Ebdon confirmed that their notes had not been shared with other Cllrs before the meeting, and all Cllrs confirmed they had not received any pre-prepared notes before the meeting in question.

- d) Planning Application P/HOU/2024/06120 - Sunnydale White Lackington Piddletrenthide

An invitation to speak at a Committee Meeting on 8 July regarding the above application has been received. It was agreed that as the Parish Council had no objections to the proposals, it was not necessary to attend.

77/2025 News & Information

Nothing to raise.

78/2025 Playing Field & Playground

- a) Fencing quotes – Cllr Cox/Larden – next agenda
b) Grass cutting agreement – Clerk to circulate ~~contract~~ *agreement*
c) Tennis court lease – Clerk advised that a response from the landowner is expected.

79/2025 Items for next agenda

Piddlehinton Hall invoice
Piddlehinton Bus shelter motion – Cllr Lock
Grass cutting contract
Playground fencing – motion to recommend contractor

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2033 with notice that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 July 2025, 7.30pm at Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall.



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