

## **Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council**

**Tuesday 29 July 2025**

### **Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Lock, Abbott, Cox, Latimer, Howard & Dorset Cllr Haynes (Democratic Period)

**Apologies:** Cllr Ebdon, Larden, Bishop, Murray

#### **Democratic Period:**

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

- The recent media coverage on the audit carried out on the Asset & Property service at Dorset Council – the 11 officers reported were not Dorset Council officers, they were consultants and agency staff. The reason these were taken on was due to an increase in assets since 2019 when Dorset became a unitary authority. A budget was agreed but the individuals worked around the budget and spent around £13,000,000. The Monitoring Officer at Dorset Council instructed South West Audit and this is now a result of that. Any future agency staff taken on will all be taken through a training process internally which is more cost effective. There is an ongoing police investigation.
- The Local Plan consultation commences on 18 August 2025; this will be difficult due to the increase of property demand being included.

Cllr Latimer informed the meeting of the recent inspection of the accounts by a parishioner. Following this the parishioner has written to the external auditor requesting a Public Interest Report is issued. An acknowledgement has been received by the external auditor advising it will be looked at.

#### **80/2025 Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **81/2025 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 1 July 2025**

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

Page 5, 78/2025 b) – replace contract with agreement

#### **82/2025 Action points from last minutes**

- a) 69/2025 bi) Clerk to contact Planning regarding length of time for planning decisions – COMPLETE – The Clerk advised that Planning have responded stating that the outstanding applications are under Officer Consideration -The Clerk has responded repeating the original question of why the decisions are taking longer than 3 months.

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- b) 73/2025 – Cllrs Ebdon/Cox/Latimer – to have motion on and increment for Clerks salary
- c) 74/2025 a) – Clerk to circulate finger post sign information to all Cllrs – COMPLETE
- d) 74/2025 c) – Clerk to report highway defects – COMPLETE

### **83/2025 Planning Matters**

- a) Planning Consultations

P/HOU/2025/03180 – The Long House, London Row, Piddlehinton - Proposal: Erect single storey extension to existing detached Garage.

Cllr Lock presented this application and advised the neighbours have no concerns with the proposals.

It was proposed by Cllr Lock and seconded by Cllr Cox that there are no objections. All agreed.

- b) Certificate of Lawfulness

P/CLE/2025/03990 – 3 Rectory Road, Piddlehinton - Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness to continue use of land as residential garden

Received requesting any further evidence – nothing to submit.

### **Planning Decisions**

P/PABA/2025/04215 - Land And Buildings Bookham Farm Bookham Lane Alton Pancras - Erect extension to agricultural building. - Decision: Prior Approval Not Required - Decision Date: 23/07/2025

P/HOU/2024/06120 - Sunnydale White Lackington Piddletrenthide - Demolish store and erect a two Bay Garage / Workshop. - Decision: Granted - Decision Date: 10/07/2025

P/LBC/2025/03390 - Muston Manor Lane To Muston Manor Farm Piddlehinton - Proposed works to main house and granary roofs. - Decision: Granted - Decision Date: 16/07/2025

### **84/2025 DAPTC meeting & training update**

No update

### **85/2025 Defibrillator Working Group update**

No update

### **86/2025 Financial Matters**

- a) To approve schedule of payments as attached

It was proposed by Cllr Abbott and seconded by Cllr Latimer that these payments are made. Agreed.

20/08/25

b) Motion:

Following the successful completion of the Clerk's annual review, the Council resolves to approve the recommendation of the Working Group that the Clerk's salary be increased, with the revised rate backdated to 1 April of the current financial year.

Proposed by Cllr Cox

**This motion was withdrawn due to limited number of Cllrs present.**

**87/2025 Highway Matters**

a) Defects to report

Chase previous request for Safety mirror at Piddlehinton Cross in need of cleaning and vegetation cutting back

Chase previous request for 30 repeater sign missing by damaged wall on B3143 near Poachers

Railings at Alton Pancras damaged

Loose manhole cover outside Old Rectory on High Street, Piddlehinton

Action: Clerk to report to Highways

**88/2025 Piddlehinton bus shelter**

Motion: to approve spend of up to £100 + VAT to cover the costs of fence paint, timber treatment for the roof and brushes to preserve the bus shelter. Work to be undertaken by volunteers.

Proposed by Cllr Lock and seconded by Cllr Abbott. All agreed.

**89/2025 External communication**

i) Plush Trustee for Buckland Newton Charities

An email has been received asking whether Piddle Valley Parish Council wished to re-appoint a parishioner as the Trustee for Plush for 'The United Charities of Buckland Newton'.

This was agreed and the Clerk will respond.

Action: Clerk

**90/2025 News & Information**

Nothing to raise.

**91/2025 Playing Field & Playground**

a) Fencing quotes & recommendation for contractor – Cllr Cox

Cllr Cox advised that the three quotes below have now been received, these were discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Latimer that the lowest quote should be accepted. All agreed with one abstention.

Quote 1 – KOT Building Contractors - £5736.30+VAT

Quote 2 – Mintern Fencing & Sheds –

Option 1 – Fencing and 3 new gates - £4672.32 including VAT

Option 2 - Fencing and 1 new gate

Quote 3 – Carron Brown - £2,784.00 including VAT

b) Grass cutting agreement

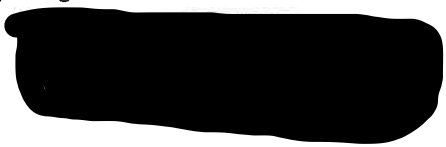
A discussion took place regarding the agreement and the percentage of costs the Parish Council could contribute. Cllr Cox confirmed that the current agreement states 33% but the actual percentage being paid is 36%. It was agreed that Cllr Cox will bring a motion to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Cox

**92/2025 Items for next agenda**

No additional to those actions already identified in the minutes.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2100 with notice that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 August 2025, 7.30pm at Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall.



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## Piddle Valley Parish Council Schedule of Payments

July 2025

| Payee                     | Description       | Amount |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Mrs Paulley (Clerk)       | Expenses          | £22.50 |
| DAPTC                     | Mailbox extension | £47.75 |
| Piddlehinton Village Hall | Hall Hire         | £20.00 |



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