

Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council

Tuesday 30 September 2025

Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs Lock, Abbott, Latimer, Ebdon (Chair), Larden, Murray

Apologies: Cllrs Cox, Howard, Bishop & Dorset Cllr Haynes

Democratic Period:

A parishioner attended the meeting to express concern regarding the fence between their property and the Memorial Hall and asked if the Parish Council would consider contributing towards the cost of a new fence.

Cllr Abbott advised that the fence is the responsibility of the Memorial Hall committee and the resident should contact them.

The Clerk will forward the residents email to the committee.

The Clerk informed the meeting of an email from Dorset Volunteer centre who are requesting contact details of any local groups who could spend some time with a parishioner in Alton Pancras for some company.

Cllr Murray suggested they contact the social prescriber at Cerne Abbas surgery.

Action: Clerk to respond

Cllr Latimer advised the meeting that a decision has been made regarding a code of conduct complaint against him which was made earlier in the year regarding a planning matter. He has also received an apology from the Dorset Council for the time it has taken.

Cllr Larden raised concern on behalf of a parishioner regarding the Japanese knotweed along the path from Cerne Hill.

Action: Clerk to report to Highways

107/2025 Declarations of Interest

None

108/2025 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 26 August 2025

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

109/2025 Action points from last minutes

- a) 91b)/2025 Cllr Cox to bring motion for grass cutting contribution – next agenda
- b) 97/2025 – All Cllrs to review DAPTC survey - COMPLETE
- c) 99b)/2025 – Clerk to contact insurance and remove one SID – COMPLETE

- d) 100a)/2025 – Clerk to discuss missing repeater sign with Highways – next agenda
- e) 100b)/2025 – Clerk to report defects to Highways - COMPLETE

110/2025 Planning Matters

- a) Planning Consultation

P/HOU/2025/04887 - Narn Farm B3143 From Henley Farm Henley To Holcombe Dairy Lane, Henley - Erect single storey side extension.

Cllr Abbott presented this application and has spoken to the applicant.

It was proposed by Cllr Abbott and seconded by Cllr Latimer that no comment is submitted to Planning. All agreed.

- b) Exemption Certificate

P/CSC/2025/05124 - Renewal of CL: Tom Marsh, Rock Pits Farm, Plush

Cllr Ebdon advised the Certificate has been granted for camping of up to, and not exceeding, 10 tents and 5 caravans. Granted only for the use of Woodlands Champions Club members and only valid with a current DBS certificate.

- c) Decision Notices

P/CLE/2025/03990 - 3 Rectory Road Piddlehinton - Certificate of lawfulness to continue use of land as residential garden - Decision: Granted - Decision Date: 29/08/2025

- d) Local Plan Consultation – PVPC Response

Cllr Ebdon presented this item informing the meeting that Dorset Council has itself said that the government's annual target of 3246 houses a year, 55,000 over the 17-year term of the plan, is an unrealistic and unachievable basis for the Dorset Local Plan.

This is nearly twice the previous target and almost three times Dorset's average rate of house building of around 1,300 houses per year.

Dorset Council are well aware any Local Plan based on excessive housing numbers will not be delivered and so will fail the government's Housing Delivery Test, leading to a developer-led free-for-all and loss of local planning control.

Cllr Ebdon presented the stand out items of the plan and these were discussed and agreed these should form the response of the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to submit comments

111/2025 DAPTC meeting & training update

- a) Parish Council Survey

DAPTC and NALC are asking opinions of Town and Parish Councils on taking on more responsibilities, a possible implication of what devolution will mean for town and parish

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

29/10/25

councils. Cllr Ebdon led on the discussion on this survey for the Cllr responses and advised that some sections are for the Clerk to complete.

Responses were agreed.

Action: Clerk to submit response

b) Invitation to Fresh Start event – Devolving Dorset – 30 October 2025

An invitation has been received for Chairs and Mayors to attend this event. Cllr Ebdon agreed to attend.

112/2025 Defibrillator Working Group update

Cllr Ebdon advised that all Defibs are ok and some maintenance is required on the phone box at South View.

113/2025 Financial Matters

a) To approve schedule of payments as attached

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

b) Air Ambulance donation

Next agenda

114/2025 Highway Matters

a) Defect responses

None received

b) Defects to report

Bollards on Church Hill have been knocked over.

Signs required at either side of the road at Cerne Hill where the bridleway crosses, warning of pedestrians.

Pothole opposite Mulletts

Action: Clerk to report to Highways

115/2025 External communication

Cllr Ebdon advised of correspondence he has had from Planning regarding the business being run at Gascoignes, Church Hill. This correspondence is ongoing as the business is still operating.

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29/10/25

Cllr Ebdon advised that he is in correspondence with Wessex Water regarding the Groundwater Management Plan and will update once confirmation has been received.

116/2025 News & Information

Nothing to raise.

117/2025 Playing Field & Playground

- a) Grass cutting agreement

Next agenda

118/2025 River clearance

Date for this year's river clearance has been agreed, Saturday 18 October 2025 at 10am

119/2025 Wessex Internet activity in Piddlehinton

The recent works in Piddlehinton have raised several concerns which Cllr Ebdon raised with Dorset Cllr Haynes who Informed the Programme Manager of the Connectivity team at Dorset Council who advised the following.

It was a condition of the permit that a letter drop was undertaken and that access for residents is maintained. As these conditions weren't adhered, we will follow up with a fixed penalty notice for non-compliance. These issues were escalated to Wessex Internet once we were made aware with Wessex Internet then maintaining access and correcting signage. We have asked that our inspector visits the site also.

From the Digital Place perspective, we attend regular Project Gigabit contract meetings with Wessex Internet and BDUK. We will raise the above at our next meeting to discuss what measures are in place and actions arising to avoid repetition in future.

120/2025 Items for next agenda

Grass cutting agreement
Air Ambulance donation
Traffic Calming – Cllr Murray

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2105 with notice that the next meeting will be held on TBC, 7.30pm at Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall.




29/10/25