

Draft Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council

Tuesday 31 March 2026

Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall

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

Apologies: Cllr Murray & Dorset Cllr Haynes

Democratic Period:

Cllr Abbott reported the verge opposite The Manor, Piddletrenthide needs reinstating.

Cllr Cox reported the debris from potholes is along the footway in Piddletrenthide.

Cllr Ebdon advised of the most recent police report stated there had been 2 reports from Plush — theft of tractor on 30/01/2026 and theft of motorbike 03/02/2026

172/2025 Declarations of Interest

None received.

173/2025 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2026

It was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Abbott that these should be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Agreed with three abstentions.

174/2025 Action points from last minutes

- a) Democratic Period – Clerk to request further information from Environment Agency – COMPLETE
- b) Democratic Period – Cllr Ebdon to contact Wessex Water – Cllr Ebdon circulated email to Cllrs on 28 February with their response as follows: "It's not practicable to tanker the main sewer as we wouldn't be able to sufficiently empty it. So we are focusing on providing properties with nrvs to keep them in service. The ground water levels are finally beginning to drop now so we should begin to see improvements in the catchment."
- c) Democratic Period – Clerk to report street light on Village Hall to SSE - COMPLETE

175/2025 Planning Matters

- a) Notice of Planning appeal

P/FUL/2024/07467 - Muston Down Farm Birch Lane Druce - Retention of 1 No. rural worker's dwelling for a temporary period of 3 years.

Cllr Ebdon advised that a full corrected reason refusal has been provided by Dorset Council on 20 March based in addition to the reasons previously provided as follows:

The nitrogen budget calculation clearly demonstrates that additional nitrogen will be generated, for which no mitigation is proposed. The proposal therefore fails to accord with the provisions of the Habitats Regulations 2017 and paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework and is therefore refused

b) Decision Notices

P/LBC/2025/07640 - West House Piddletrenthide - Repair of two roof faces, requiring removal of existing tiles, re-felting and the refitting of all viable tiles with some replacement where tiles missing / broken. Replacement tiles will be of similar style to existing roof and reclaimed. Ridge and hip tiles to be reciting and replacement. Decision: Withdrawn - Decision Date: 02/03/2026

P/LBC/2026/00164 - Chapel Access to Lyscombe Farm Piddletrenthide - Carry out repairs to ruined Priest's House - Decision: Granted - Decision Date: 12/03/2026

P/FUL/2025/06779 Muston Farm Lane Proposal: to Erect 3 no. dwellings (demolish 3 no. residential dwellings) Withdrawn 17/02/26

176/2025 DAPTC meeting & training update

a) DAPTC AGM – Statement of Reasonable Expectation

Cllr Ebdon explained why the Statement of Reasonable Expectations (SoRE) has been created. It is a shared understanding of: what parishes and town councils can reasonably expect from Dorset Council, and what Dorset Council can reasonably expect from parishes and town councils.

The statement aims to foster better working relationships, enhance democratic representation, and ensure effective service delivery for the benefit of local communities around 5 areas:

1. Mutual Respect and Recognition
2. Communication and Engagement
3. Support and Capacity Building
4. Collaborative Working
5. Transparency and Accountability

To support constructive engagement and a smooth decision-making process ahead of the AGM, councils are asked to provide feedback on suggested alterations, how it will be measured and whether we support it.

Action: All Cllrs to read ahead of April meeting/Clerk to circulate

177/2025 Defibrillator Working Group update

Cllr Ebdon advised of the following.

- A spare set of pads to support all defibs was ordered 25 February
- Alton Pancras defib was mobilised on 6 March and replacement pads ordered
- No pads received from Community Heartbeat Trust who advised in early March that they are 'out of stock'.
- The fact that the Alton Pancras defib is out of service is logged with the South West Ambulance Trust

178/2025 Financial Matters

- a) To approve schedule of payments as attached

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

b) Appointment of internal auditor

It was proposed by Cllr Ebdon and seconded by Cllr Lock that Barker-Fox Associates is appointed to carry out the 25/26 Internal Audit. All agreed.

179/2025 Highway Matters

a) Traffic Calming – Cllr Murray

The Clerk advised that a letter of support from the Parish Council is required before Dorset Council will consider any options.

Cllr Murray to raise motion for next meeting.

Action: Cllr Murray

b) 30mph extension – Cllr Lock

The Clerk advised that a letter of support from the Parish Council is required before Dorset Council will consider any options.

Cllr Lock to raise motion for next meeting.

Action: Cllr Lock

d) Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) Application Alton Pancras Parish

Application to add a BOAT at the end of definitive bridleway S5/10 eastwards along Ripps Lane to the main road in Alton Pancras.

180/2025 News & Information

No updates.

181/2025 Playing field & Playground

a) Grass cutting agreement

Cllr Ebdon reminded the meeting that a motion was passed at the last meeting for the Clerk to contact the school to request them to provide more information on projected costs, and to confirm that Piddle Valley Parish Council will continue its obligations under the contract to pay 33% of total annual cost of grounds maintenance, as specified in clause 5.1 of the agreement. The Clerk advised no response yet but will follow this up.

The Clerk has contacted Buckland Newton to ask for information relating to their contract they have with Dorset Council as a comparison.

Action: Next agenda

b) Notification of playground inspection

The Clerk advised that notification of this year's inspection has been received and will take place during May.

182/2025 External Correspondence received

- a) Notification has been received advising of a case acceptance note from the Information Commissioners Office
- b) An email has been received challenging the statutory notice requirements not being met for this meeting as per the requirements set out in Standing Orders under 15b (Proper Officer actions) and 3b and c.

The Proper Officer has confirmed that the meeting has been lawfully convened and will proceed as scheduled.

183/2025 Items for next agenda

Grass cutting agreement
Traffic Calming
30mph extension
Reimbursement of plaque for the Playground
The Manor verge/activities
End of year accounts

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2019 with notice that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 April 2026, 7.30pm at Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall.