

Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council

Wednesday 29 October 2025

Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall

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

Apologies: Cllrs Murray, Howard, Abbott

Democratic Period:

A parishioner asked if the shop in Piddletrenthide has been sold as a residential or business, Cllr Larden understands it was marketed as residential.

A parishioner raised ongoing concern about the Pavilion on the playing field and the offers of free maintenance being turned down. It is in need of tidying up, graffiti needs clearing and the gullies are leaking. The parishioner advised he has tidied up around the edges to prevent further damp getting in.

Cllr Cox advised this is the responsibility of the school as it forms part of the Academy. It is understood that grant has been applied for. Cllr Cox agreed to discuss with the school again.

Action: Cllr Cox to discuss with school

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Cox for organising this year's river clearance. A pavement clearance was suggested as there is a lot of debris which needs clearing.

Cllr Bishop raised concern with a recent road closure at Plush which was meant for Wessex Water works but no work was carried out, just the closure put in place.

Dorset Cllr Update

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

- The Devolving Dorset conference being held by DAPTC on 30 October 2025 has been organised with no input from Dorset Cllrs other than the Leader of the Council.
- Community resilience – this is a subject being promoted amongst Parish's to ensure those vulnerable in the Parish are attended to in the event of severe weather conditions etc. It is suggested that a review of this should be carried out.
- A review of changing Cllr wards and number of Cllrs will be carried out based on Parish boundaries, ready for the 2029 elections.
- Cllr Haynes has attended a webinar regarding land supply and Dorset no longer have a 5-year land supply and won't until the Dorset Local Plan is adopted at the end of 2027. This means the Planning Inspector could be obliged to approve appealed decisions.

Police report

The following were included in the last report.

- 15/09/2025 People throwing rocks at passing vehicles. Under investigation.

25/11/25

- 21/09/2025 Young people knocking elderly people's door. Youths will be identified and spoken to about their behaviour.

121/2025 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Latimer, item 6a

122/2025 Minutes of Piddle Valley Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 30 September 2025

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

123/2025 Action points from last minutes

- a) 91b)/2025 - Cllr Cox to bring motion for grass cutting contribution – Agenda item
- b) 100a)/2025 – Clerk to discuss missing repeater sign with Highways - COMPLETE
- c) 110d)/2025 – Clerk to respond to Local Plan consultation – COMPLETE
- d) 111/2025 – Clerk to respond to DAPTC survey – COMPLETE
- e) 114/2025 – Clerk to report defects to Highways – COMPLETE
- f) September Democratic period – Clerk to respond to Dorset Volunteer Centre regarding a parishioner in Alton Pancras, advising them to contact Cerne surgery for the Social Prescriber – COMPLETE

123/2025 Planning Matters

- a) Planning Consultation

P/VOC/2025/06129 – Cottage Park Farm to Brace of Pheasants, Plush - Conversion of barn to single dwelling. (With Variation of condition 2 of planning permission P/FUL/2023/03135 to amend approved plans).

Cllr Bishop presented this application and advised of the following:

- Concerns with access as very tight
- Neighbours are concerned with vehicles not being able to turn although this hasn't changed since the original planning consent
- Propose a turning circle is made
- It will be disruptive

Cllr Ebdon advised of the following:

Variation relates to a change in the approved plans.

- the accommodation has been re-designed, so the bedrooms are now contained over two floors in the converted building, and the living and kitchen areas are contained in the modern extension. There are some fenestration changes to the host building as well as the addition of a dormer window to the south elevation.
- The applicant has sought pre-application advice. The advice concludes the following. 'The proposals appear to be acceptable in principle'.
- The size of the extension is greater than that previously approved, the historical context is that there were rural buildings along the length of the northern boundary
- Addition of ~5.5*6.3m extension to the SW of the previously approved extension

- Policy 11 of the Neighbourhood Plan for the re-use of redundant farm buildings as dwellings states it will be supported, provided that a number of criteria are met, including the building would not need to be substantially rebuilt or extended.
- Local Plan Policy SUS3 also indicates that the adaptation and re-use of rural buildings will be permitted where it would not need to be substantially rebuilt or extended
- The existing outbuilding consists of 2 stores approx. 10.4*5.44m (56m²).
- The newly proposed extension is ~77m² – more than doubling the footprint
- The original extension had a flat roof; the new proposal has pitched roofs. Unclear if the walls will need to be increased in height to accommodate the bedroom but the new proposal includes the addition of a dormer window replacing roof lights.

It was proposed by Cllr Ebdon and seconded by Cllr Lock that the variation is opposed as it is contrary to Neighbourhood Plan policy 11 and Local Plan Policy SUS3 as it requires significant extension. Concerns around access and road safety and height of the roof. All agreed with one abstention.

Decision Notice

P/HOU/2025/04887 - Narn Farm B3143 From Henley Farm Henley to Holcombe Dairy Lane, Henley - Erect single storey side extension. Granted 7/10/25

124/2025 DAPTC meeting & training update

Cllr Ebdon is attending the Devolving Dorset conference on 30 October 2025

125/2025 Defibrillator Working Group update

Cllr Ebdon advised all Defibs are working fine, although the Alton Pancras Defib battery will be monitored.

126/2025 Financial Matters

- a) To approve schedule of payments as attached

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

- b) Air Ambulance donation

A discussion took place regarding this year's donation and it was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Bishop that £100 should be paid. All agreed with one abstention.

127/2025 Highway Matters

- a) Defect responses

The following responses have been received'

- Pedestrian sign request at bottom of Cerne Hill at either side of where the bridleway crosses – no signs will be erected due to budget restraints
- Pothole on B3143 opposite Mulletts has been repaired

b) Defects to report

London Row – drains blocked

All drains throughout the Valley in need of clearing

Action: Clerk to report to Highways

c) Church Hill bollards

Cllr Ebdon advised of recent email exchange with Dorset Council's SID representative, who suggested we could either look at installing something more robust, like a concrete post, it would get expensive and we would need to get the Road Safety Team to look into whether we are allowed to use them in this area or move the SID post at a cost of around £500+VAT.

Cllr Ebdon responded to this stating that as the Parish Council paid for a speed survey in 2019 which justified the need for a SID on Church Hill and the current location is the 'optimum' position to inform drivers of their speed, and it does so well as vehicles enter the 30mph limit. It does not seem reasonable that the parish council would have to spend more money with no guarantee that people would not park in front of it in the new position unless more bollards are installed.

The SID is an important road safety device. In the 2019 survey 79% of vehicles were speeding on Church Hill with the 85th percentile speed 42.9mph. It is the worst location for speeding and traffic Volume in the Piddle Valley.

Dorset Council agreed to liaise with Dorset Police for their advice and their response is there is nothing they can do as there is no evidence as to who did it. Our only options at this stage are reinstatement of the bollards, and hope for the best, or relocation of the SID post.

It was agreed that the Parish Council requests that the bollards are reinstated.

Action: Cllr Ebdon to contact Dorset Council

d) Traffic Calming

Next agenda due to Cllr Murray giving apologies for this meeting.

128/2025 External communication

Cllr Ebdon advised of email exchange with Wessex Water concerning the plans to deal with excess groundwater in the Valley this Winter as no response has been received since the representative attended a parish council meeting earlier this year.

Wessex Water also requested land for nature-based solutions to deal with flooding which they were going to send further communications about but to date nothing has been received.

Cllr Ebdon received a reply copied to 2 other individuals in Wessex Water to follow up with him on 1st October but nothing has been received from either of those contacts. Cllr Ebdon has escalated to Edward Morello MP.

129/2025 News & Information

Nothing to raise.

130/2025 Playing Field & Playground

a) Grass cutting agreement

Cllr Cox advised the meeting that the current contribution made towards the grass cutting is 30%. The school only uses this field once a month due to safety concerns with the river and road.

Cllr Cox proposed the parish council pays 80% of the cost.

Cllr Latimer requested that a full motion should be included on the agenda for such an increase.

Cllr Ebdon queried if the riverbank was fenced off could the school use it more.

Cllr Cox responded stating it can't be fenced off as the riverbank needs maintaining and this would cause difficulty. Cllr Ebdon enquired whether the school still wanted the use of the field and, if not, whether the Parish Council still wanted the field.

Cllr Cox to bring motion to next meeting.

Action: Cllr Cox to raise motion

131/2025 Items for next agenda

Grass cutting agreement – understanding between the Parish Council and landowner – discussion how to use it

Traffic Calming – Cllr Murray

30mph extension – Cllr Lock

Wessex Water – Cllr Ebdon

Pavement clearing along Piddletrenthide

Code of Conduct – Cllr Latimer

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2048 with notice that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 November, 7.30pm at Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall.