



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF EAST
STOKE HELD ON THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2025 AT
LONGTHORNS CAMPSITE

PRESENT	Cllr Rebecca Cady (Chairman) Cllr Barry Quinn Cllr Fenella Lewin Cllr Graeme Langley
APOLOGIES	Cllr Chris Evans Cllr Neill Child Cllr Keith Evans
IN ATTENDANCE	Dorset Cllr Ben Wilson Liz Maidment (Parish Clerk)

1. **Public participation period** for 15 minutes
None
2. **Apologies**
Apologies were received from Cllr Keith Evans, Cllr Chris Evans and Cllr Neill Child
3. **Granting of Dispensation**
No applications for a dispensation had been made.
4. **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of interest were made.
5. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2025**
The minutes from Thursday 8th January 2025 were duly signed by Cllr Cady.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes**
Cllr Lewin attended the Purbeck Transport Action Group meeting. One of the proposals is to extend the Wareham Shuttle bus to include tourist attractions in Corfe, Norden and the Blue Pool.
7. **Planning Applications or Planning Information received**
 - a) **P/CLE/2025/00343 - The Old Post Office Holmebridge, H20 6AF.** Certificate of Lawful Use Existing. Dorset Council, with the agreement and cooperation of the property owner, seeks to clarify that the existing use of this property is residential and that it has not been abandoned in planning terms.
The Council Tax has been paid and is classed as residential. **Action:** The Clerk to write to planning advising that any future use of this site must remain residential, meet housing needs, preserving a similar character and volume.
 - b) **P/NMA/2024/07529 - Solar Farm Stokeford Farm.** Non material amendment - to allow amendments to the layout of the development and to increase the height of CCTV posts from 2m to 3.5m to planning permission 6/2020/0158 (variation of conditions 2, 3, 6, 9, 12, 13 & 15 of planning permission 6/2015/0516 (Construction of a solar photovoltaic park with ground mounted photovoltaic arrays and ancillary equipment including substations, inverters, fencing and security cameras) to revise the layout and the drainage scheme, and increase the period of operation to 40 years and 6 months). **No comments or objections**
 - c) **TPO/2025/0002 - Land at Highwood Ferris, Highwood, BH20 6AR.**

Chairman's Initials

2025-2-337

Tree Preservation Order for 8 Oaks, 1 Sycamore and 1 Birch. **No comments or objections.**

8. Update of Previous Applications or planning information

- a) **P/NMA/2024/07598 - Willowbank Bindon Lane, BH20 6AS.** Non material amendment to change the material finish to planning permission P/HOU/2024/02429 (Proposed demolition of existing outbuilding and construction of replacement outbuilding). **Granted. Noted.**
- b) **P/HOU/2024/06563 - Highwood Ferris, BH20 6AR.** Erect a two storey gable extension to west of front elevation, demolition of existing single storey extension and replacement with two storey gabled extension to east of front elevation with balconies on south & east elevations. Associated landscaping to the existing garden and construct swimming pool. Conversion of existing garage into annexe ancillary to the main dwelling. Erect of two timber frame car ports. **Refused. Noted.**
- c) **P/HOU/2024/06713 - Rowan Lodge, Hethfelton. BH20 6HJ.** Erect extension to existing first floor dormer with new dormer roof. New doors to rear elevation and internal alterations. **Granted. Noted.**

9. Dorset Council Report

- a) The Government has confirmed that Wessex will not be included in the first round of the Devolution Priority Programme. The Councils are concerned that this may put the area at a disadvantage in future funding applications.
- b) The Dorset Council budget is set to be approved on Tuesday 11th February. Council Tax is set to increase by 3%, with an additional 2% increase allocated for adult social care. Due to the second home premium, some parishes have seen an increase in their tax base, which has allowed increases in many council tax bills to be a lot smaller.
- c) The public inquiry for the Bournemouth-Swanage Toll Review took place at Poole Harbour's Commissioners Terminal. There has been an agreement to offer residents in the BH19 postcode a pass for £5 a year, as well as for those living within five miles of the ferry office in the BH20 postcode.
- d) A site meeting was held at Middlefield with the local Councillors, the landowner and a representative from Aster to discuss flooding issues. Many properties have built walls along their boundaries to prevent flooding, and there was a discussion about whether it would be beneficial for all properties to implement similar measures. However, this scheme may be challenging due to many of the properties being privately owned. There is a French drain, but it has been clogged over the years with garden waste. Additionally, the manhole cover is quite full, and a camera will be used to assess the level of blockage. The field behind has been grassland for over a decade, so has therefore not contributed to the flooding. It was agreed that Aster will conduct a drainage survey.
- e) The SANG for the Farrer Estate development will go to committee later this month.
- f) A telegraph pole was knocked over in a RTC, leaving local households without a broadband connection for six weeks. Councillor Quinn contacted various individuals at Openreach, but no action was taken until he filed a complaint with the Chief Executive. Thankfully, the households are now back online, and Councillor Quinn has been thanked for his hard work.

10. Any Police issues to report or update on issues reported

None.

11. Wessex Internet Meeting

The meeting will now take place on Wednesday 19th February at D'Urberville meeting room in Wool between 18:30 and 19:30. The project area covers 70 properties in Binnegar and Stokeford but does not include the Farrer Estate. Wessex Internet have said that other parts of East Stoke are covered by another provider. The company will be advertising the event by undertaking a leaflet drop.

12. Churchyard Maintenance

ML Pest Control & Countryside services based in Woolbridge were thanked for providing a free treatment for removing the moles from the Churchyard.

13. Historical Society

Some years ago a lottery grant was awarded to the Historical Society but as they did not have a bank account it was ringfenced in the Parish Council one. The booklet is currently being written and Cllr Child said that he is happy to help.

14. Highways Issues

a) Update on issues

There have been no more updates from the resident about the layby. Dorset Cllr Wilson asked that it would be useful to have the details of the vehicles.

b) Speed Indicator Device

The Speed Indicator Device was checked after the one in West Lulworth was vandalised when someone cut the wires. It was confirmed that the East Stoke one was functioning properly.

c) Trees

Cllr Quinn submitted a request to Highways to inspect the trees along the southern side of A352 between Stokeford and Woolbridge roundabout. Many of these trees are dead, diseased, or overhanging the highway at dangerous angles. The Arboricultural Officer has now contacted the Jim Cronin Charity. Some of the trees are on the edge of the bank so there is not a lot of room for the roots.

d) Other Issues

Cllr Lewin explained that a large-scale drone survey will be conducted in March. This survey will serve as the basis for a review of the culling policy. The landowners present at the meeting she attended supported this initiative.

13. Consultations for consideration or New Items for Discussion/Consideration

- a)** Children's Centres Consultation - Dorset Council would like to hear your views about how they are planning to develop our offer of information and support to families across the Dorset Council area and if you agree with our plans, they will formally notify the Department for Education of the changes they are making to some of our children's centres to help us offer improved support to more families. <https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/fh/cc/consultation/intro/> Consultation closes 21st February.

This will be published on the village Facebook page.

- b)** Citizens Advice EDP update and Request. Donation request from Citizens Advice

The request for this and the Purbeck Film Festival will be added to the next month's agenda.

14. Correspondence Received

- a)** DAPTC e-News Latest Edition. VE Day 80th Anniversary 8th May 2025. **Noted.**
- b)** Dorset News. The latest on our budget, waste collections, new rules and much more. Dorset Council has set out proposals for a £416 million budget for 2025/26. This marks a £39 million increase in spending from last year. **Noted.**
- c)** Purbeck Rights of Way changes. The new Rights of Way Officer will now be Graham Stanley. **Noted.**
- d)** Fw: Bournemouth-Swanage Toll Review Public Inquiry - Draft Inquiry Programme. The Public Inquiry will commence on 21st January. **Noted.**
- e)** Flood Warden Newsletter Winter 2024-25. Newsletter from the Environment Agency. Various Lunch and Learn sessions will take place throughout 2025. **Noted.**
- f)** Dorset News. BCP joins devolution proposal, options for North Quay and Weymouth Bowl, the Dorset Unstoppables and more.. BCP Council has confirmed their interest in joining the proposed mayoral strategic authority for Wessex as part of the Government's Devolution Priority Programme. **Noted.**
- g)** PCR - Purbeck Shuttle 200 (formerly 2RN Shuttle) 27 January at 11 am. The Purbeck Community Rail Partnership are leading this new project to continue a Shuttle bus, from Wareham Station to visit the Blue Pool, Norden Farm and Purbeck Park as well as Arne RSPB. **Noted.**

- The Chair accompanied by the Clerk will be nominated.