



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF EAST STOKE HELD ON
THURSDAY 3rd APRIL 2025 AT LONGTHORNS CAMPSITE

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

1. **Public participation period** for 15 minutes
None
2. **Apologies**
Apologies were received from Chris Evans, Graeme Langley & Ben Wilson
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 6th March 2025**
The minutes from Thursday 6th March 2025 were duly signed by Cllr Cady.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes**
There were no matters arising.
7. **Wessex Internet**
There will be a Wessex Internet publicity pop up event on the Middlefield Green on Saturday 26th April from 10 to 12. Aster has been notified and the event will be advertised in the newsletter.
8. **Planning Applications or Planning Information received**
P/VOC/2025/01591 - Solar Farm Stokeford Farm. Variation of conditions 2, 3, 6, 9, 12, 13 & 15 of planning permission 6/2015/0516 (Construction of a 12 MW 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 (with variation to conditions 1 & 8 of planning permission 6/2020/0158 to increase height of CCTV posts from 2m to 3.5 m and an increase of 44 camera posts in place of the approved 31 camera posts).
The Parish Council has no comments or objections.
9. **Update of Previous Applications or planning information**
 - a) **P/CLE/2025/00343 - The Old Post Office, Holmebridge, BH20 6AF.** In line with the policy of encouraging owners to bring empty properties back into use as homes, 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. **Granted.**

The plans of what Dorset Council will do with it is unknown as it has not happened before in the Parish. The property has been classed as residential.
 - b) **Farrer Estate Update.**
 - i) All application information has now been submitted, and we are awaiting a decision

regarding the need for a review by the planning committee. It is likely that a review will take place, despite Cllr Wilson's communication to Dorset Council Planning, stating that, in agreement with the Parish Council, this review is not necessary. The Planning Department is exploring the possibility of including a Section 106 agreement clause to commit to the earlier delivery of the village hall, before the full completion of the development; however, this has not yet been confirmed. The village hall could be constructed when the development is 75% complete, but the Parish Council would like clarity on this matter. It was discussed that the site may be built in three sections, and it was agreed that it would be preferable to construct the village hall after the completion of the first stage.

- ii) There is no further update on the SANG application, although new information has been submitted to the planning portal. We are currently waiting for an update from Dorset Council Planning. Over the years, the Parish Council has expressed concerns about the dangers of a crossing on A352. The Parish Council has stated it would be preferable to have the SANG located on the same side of the road as the development. However, Natural England opposed this proposal, as they do not want a large number of people accessing the heathland. It was noted that there are already access points from Farrer Estate to the common land, which people have been using for recreational purposes.

10. Dorset Council Report

- a) Actions have been identified regarding the drainage survey at Middlefield. Aster will need to liaise with the householder. It was suggested that a solution to the problem would be to build a wall in the affected back garden.
- b) The Binnegar Liaison meeting took place on 18th March and was attended by Cllr Wilson and Cllr Quinn. The quarry is in the final phase and has only a few weeks of operation left. Raymond Brown is currently developing updated restoration plans that need approval from SUEZ before submission. Once approved, these plans will be shared with local stakeholders.
- c) Dorset National Landscape has explained that the date for the deer survey drone results is still unknown. The focus is on fostering cooperation among landowners regarding appropriate deer management approaches.

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

- a) There was a Community Contact Point (CCP) event at Holme for Gardens on Friday 4th April. Other events will be published through Dorset Alert.
- b) On Wednesday 2nd April, part of the A352 at Hethfelton Hollow was coned off due to a tree protruding onto the carriageway. It has now been cut back.

12. Spring Newsletter

The Spring Newsletter will be ready by the end of next week. An article by the Wareham Arc team is currently being written. Cllr Child and Cllr Lewin offered to help with deliveries of the newsletter and Easter gifts.

13. Highways Issues

- a) **Update on issues**
No updates.
- b) **Speed Indicator Device**
This will be moved week commencing 7th April.
- c) **Trees**
Tree work on Binnegar Lane is scheduled to commence on 9th June. The local landowner met with the Tree Officer on 2nd April to identify two trees that require attention opposite Stokeford Cottages.
- d) **Other Issues**
No other issues to report.

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

Dorset Open Land (Number 2) Anti-social Behaviour Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2025. Is a new Order which is intended to tackle issues of Anti-social Behaviour arising from the starting of fires in grass, heathland and forest areas. <https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/c-e/olpspo/> Consultation closes 20th April.

Due to recent dry weather, there is now a high risk of heath fires. This Protection Order grants Rangers the authority to confiscate barbecues from individuals. Information regarding the fire risk will be included in the newsletter.

15. Correspondence Received

- a) Join us for our budget special Facebook Live, hear from one of our Ukrainian refugees and much

- more... The Facebook Live session took place on Wednesday 5th March. **Noted.**
- b) Join us for an update on the Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan, how we are marking the Covid-19 Day of Reflection and much more... The Covid Day of Reflection was on 9th March. **Noted.**
 - c) Welcome to our new style e-News. New style e-newsletter from DAPTC to be published every Tuesday. **Noted.**
 - d) Purbeck Area Committee Meeting - Weds 19 March 2025 at 7pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18 June 2025 7pm (Hybrid). **Noted.**
 - e) Grants - Community Energy Projects / Spaces - closes 20 March 2025. This funding is run by OfGem. Closed 20th March. **Noted.**
 - f) Reported damaged litter bin Holmebridge. The bin has been removed and the Place Services Team are looking at ways to replace it. **Noted.**
 - g) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Temporary Closure Of A352 Dorchester Road, Wool. All vehicles will be prohibited from proceeding along A352 Dorchester Road, Wool from junction with Burton Cross Roundabout to a point 460 metres to the west (in both directions). It will come into operation on 31st March and remain in force for 5 days, but it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 1st April. **Noted.**
 - h) Great UK WaterBlitz 25-28 April 2025. The Great UK WaterBlitz is a biannual campaign calling on everyone to go out and test the quality of their local freshwater including rivers, streams and lakes. **Noted.**
 - i) Join us for an update on Council Tax, parking permits and our budget. Information about discounts, exemptions and ways to pay the Council Tax are available on the Dorset Council website. **Noted.**
 - j) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Temporary Traffic Management Notice, Temporary Closure Of Holme Lane, East Stoke. Roadworks 18 to 21st March. **Noted.**
 - k) AGM announced and AGAR links issued. The DAPTC AGM will be on 21st November. **Noted.**
 - l) BDO LLP. The deadline to submit the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)and supporting information is Tuesday 1 July 2025. **Noted**
 - m) Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for the Parishes of Bere Regis, East Stoke and Arne. Between 10th and 25th June 2025 for surface dressing. Puddletown Rd will be carried out under a road closure with a 10mph speed restriction with diversion. The works on the B3070 between the railway and Holme Lane will be carried out under a temporary speed restriction of 10mph with convoy working under Stop and Go. Working times will be between the hours of 5am and 5pm, works will not take place at night, over the weekend or on Bank Holidays. This will be publicised in the newsletter.

16. Finance

- a) **The following payments were duly approved and will be paid electronically. Cllr Cady and Cllr Quinn to approve the payments**

	Amount
Miss E Maidment Salary	£292.77
Dorset Council Pension Fund	£85.19
T. Lee (Grounds Maintenance to March)	£942.50
Re-imburse B Quinn for Tung Oil	£15.29
Re-imburse E Maidment for Water2Business (Standpipe in Churchyard)	£33.12
Citizens Advice (Purbeck)	£50.00
Purbeck Film Festival	£50.00

- b) **Domain renewal** 123.reg for a 1 year term for eaststokedorset.org.uk £12.99. (autorenewals 7/4/2025) HugoFox provides a .gov.uk domain for free but the process takes 3-6 weeks. It was agreed to continue with 123.reg due to the length of time it would take to obtain a gov.uk domain.

17. Items for information or next agenda

- a) Next month, we will have the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) and the Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM). It has been agreed to start the APM at 7 PM, followed by a short break with refreshments before commencing the APCM. Wareham Arc has offered to give a presentation. **Action:** Cllr Quinn will bring a projector screen, and the Clerk will contact Longthorns to check the availability of the marquee.

- b) On 16th March, there was a power cut that affected a large area, caused by a swan flying into a power line. It was noted that the number of swans is increasing each year, and the water in the fields is not draining.

18. Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 1st May

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 19.56

Chairman:

Date.....