

DRAFT

PIMPERNE PARISH COUNCIL

**The Minutes for the above Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 12th February 2025.
7.00pm at Pimperne Village Hall.**

PRESENT: Cllrs P Slocombe (Chairman), A Argles, C Beckford, S O'Connell, M Richley, M Strange, J Tanner.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk) 17 Members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None received

3. To consider granting dispensations as required: None required.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2024.

-The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. HILLFORTS WARD REPORT:

-Cllr Jespersen arrived late to the meeting and answered residents questions in the Democratic Period rather than deliver a report.

6. DEMOCRATIC PERIOD:

- A resident raised that an increase in work being carried out on the Blandford Bypass, many vehicles are using Pimperne as a cut through to avoid the temporary lights. More volunteers are needed to carry out Community Speed Watch sessions. An appeal for volunteers will be included in the Spring edition of The Village News.

-A resident enquired whether there were any plans for toilets to be installed at the Instavolt charging site, as she had seen someone urinating on the site and had felt this was inappropriate considering the sites proximity to the Archway Nursery. The Chairman stated he will write to Instavolt. **Chairman/Clerk**

-A resident reported that there has been a spate of vehicles left outside houses, the vehicles were not taxed or insured and had eventually been reported to DC, clamped and removed. The resident thought that a local business is leaving the vehicles in the village rather than having them parked on their forecourt. Clerk to write to DC Enforcement. **Chairman/Clerk**

-A resident commented on the new Wyatt Homes application (see planning below) to build an additional 33 houses in the village on the piece of land adjacent to the property called Bolney in Letton. He asked whether it was worth objecting to this application as previous objections made regarding the larger Wyatt Homes application adjacent to this site had been ignored as well as the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Jespersen and the Chairman stated that everyone has the right to object and urged those who wish to object to this application to do so. **Chairman**

-Cllr Jespersen was asked about DC Finances, a resident asked if DC would be selling some of their assets to cover any shortfalls in their budget. Cllr Jespersen responded whilst it is true that DC have many assets in the form of properties, many of them used to belong to Weymouth council and are homes of multiple occupancy which need complete refurbishment to bring them up to a sellable standard, this would cost a lot of money. The properties that are up to standard are leased out. **Cllr Jespersen.**

-A resident raised concerns regarding the speed of traffic at Letton and travelling from the roundabout down towards the village. Cllr Jespersen explained that we had already approached DC Highways to have the speed limit reduced to 40mph all the way to the 30mph entrance to the

village, however this had been refused. Cllr Jespersen stated that this would be something to be revisited once the new houses had been built in this area and the new slip roads/roundabouts have been installed.

-The Chairman introduced Andy Jeffery has taken over Pimperne Sport Society. Andy is the founder of the Pimperne Youth football club. Andy is looking to raise funds to make improvements to what was called the pavilion and now is referred to as the Club House. One of the most urgent needs is for the flooring to be replaced for which he is obtaining quotes. The club house kitchen needs refurbishment, and the door is hanging off, and interior/exterior painting need to be done. Jackie Vacher has planned a Bingo event on the 26th to raise funds, and Andy has set up a GoFundMe page. The PC confirmed that it would offer financial support to the Sports Society, it would look at increasing the amount of the annual grant. Mr Jefferys to send quotes to the Clerk.
Chairman/Clerk

7. MATTERS ARISING:

8. URGENT MATTERS:

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a) New Applications:

-P/FUL/2024/06927: Proposal: Erect 33 dwellings with garages and parking, form vehicular access from Salisbury Road, associated infrastructure and public open space. Carry out site preparation and ancillary works. Location: Land South of Bolney, Salisbury Road: The Clerk has acquired an extension to the deadline for comment on this application and it is now 21st March 2025. The PC along with the Cranborne Chase National Landscapes will be lodging the strongest objection to this application, and request that it is taken to DC Planning Committee as it is contrary to the Pimperne Neighborhood Plan. PPC voted to employ Dorset Planning Consultant Jo Witherden (for 1 day's work) to prepare our objection. Cllr Jespersen stated that Dorset's housing targets have doubled since the new Government came into power.

-P/FUL/21021/05709: The Long House, Land at Salisbury Road Pimperne, DT11 8FX: Application went to DC Planning Committee on 4th February 2025. At Planning Committee this application was deferred at short notice. PPC will make their objection to this application at the next Planning Committee meeting.
Chairman

b) Approved Application: None.

c) Outstanding Applications:

P/VOC/2024/07289: Sunrise Business Park and North of the A350 Blandford Bypass- Development of waste management centre. PPC objected to the commencement of excavation, until the results of the archaeological dig have been published.
Clerk

-P/FUL/2020/00411 Franwill, Erect 15 houses, 40% affordable with vehicular access. This application is now moving ahead towards an agreement S106 where the mix of dwellings and access has been finalized. They propose to create a public footpath to the school.
Clerk

d) Other Planning matters:

-Woodbury/ Former Methodist Chapel:

-Due to the lack of action by DC Enforcement regarding the state of this site, Cllr Jespersen advised that the PC should write to The Director of Place.
Chairman/Clerk

-S106 Homefield –The schedule of monies outstanding to be sorted out in the next couple of months with DC officer Andrew Galpin.

Chairman/Clerk

-Franwill Site S106: No current update.

Chairman

-EV charging station: No current update regarding landscaping.

Chairman

e) Tree Applications: None received.

Cllr Strange

-10. Former School Field:

-The newly formed working group met to discuss the possible future uses of the Former School Field on 24th January. It was agreed that this area should be considered as a village green space, with additional trees planted, and the hedgerow maintained. The group will meet again to discuss the hard standing areas. An article to be published in the Spring Village News inviting villagers' ideas.

Cllr O'Connell

11. Finance:

a) The Clerk had circulated the financial report for December 2024.

b) Payment Approval: The Parish Council approved the following payments.

Clerks Salary:	At agreed rate.
HMRC PAYE	£ 112.00
DC SID Deployment and maintenance	£ 120.00
Viking Direct Printer Ink	£ 89.44
DC Election charges	£ 1,327.34

-All the above payments were unanimously approved.

12. Brief Update:

a) Tree Warden

-We were lucky in late January that storm Eowyn tracked north and missed us and Storm Herminia although windy and wet we had no reports of fallen trees. Cllr Richley has a Horse Chestnut sapling which Cllr Strange proposed that it is planted on the patch of grass in the corner of Church Rd/Bushes Rd currently being used for parking by parents picking up or collecting children from school. Cllr Strange expressed concern that vehicles parked at this point pose risk to other road users as they navigate the corner. The sapling would need to be protected by a substantial structure which would deter drivers from parking there. This sapling could grow into a statement tree at the entry/exit to the village. The Clerk to ask DC Highways if the tree can be planted at this site.

Clerk

Trees have been felled recently in Parr Grove, Paul Baker's Lane and Church Road which shows the importance of us planting more trees in the village.

-At previous meeting it had been discussed that the hedgerows around the former school field are cut back, whilst the height of the hedgerow should be capped we must ensure that the hedgerow is not grubbed out and be mindful of 'The Hedgerows Regulationa 1997: A Guide to Law and Good Practice' published by DEFRA which states that permission is required before a hedgerow is removed. Cllr Strange has arranged for the Wilder Communities Officer from Dorset Wildlife Trust to visit the site on Monday 24th February to offer us advice and recommendations.

Cllr Strange

b) Rights of Way-

-We need to examine the footpath in Yarde Lane to the camp.

Cllr Argles

c) Flood Warden:

Paul Bakers Lane's watercourse has continued to flow strongly. The springs along the A354 towards Salisbury have not broken onto the pavement or into the road. Water is flowing along the bed of the stream along New Field though not as strongly as one would expect given the weather. At the bridge over the A354 the water level has until now only varied by a few inches.

Sandbags have been ordered.

Cllr Tanner

d) Highways:

- Anvil Road will be closed for works from 24th Feb- the work was unfinished and abandoned in 2024, due to the high-water table. The Chair had advised them that the water-table was still high.

-The White Gates: the signage has been redesigned to include the words: Pimperne A Cranborne Chase National Landscape Parish.

-Cllr Strange had requested that the PC purchase additional hedgehog signage: Cllr Strange to looking into costing and the number of signs required.

Cllr Strange

-The PC had received a letter advising that the trial for the Auto Speed watch Camera had finished, the camera had met expectations and has now been withdrawn.

Chairman

-Cllr Jespersen reported that DC and the Police have confirmed that they now share information regarding non-injury collisions so that data on high non-injury accident spots can be collated.

Cllr Jespersen encouraged all to report all accidents to DC or the Police.

Cllr Jespersen

e) Village Hall: No current update.

Chairman

-f) DAPTC: The Northern area Committee had been cancelled, Cllr O'Connell to attend an upcoming Exec meeting and will report back after that meeting.

Cllr O'Connell

g) Transport Officer:

-NORDCAT (North Dorset Community Accessible Transport), the Sturminster based charity that has provided transport services to elderly and isolated residents for over 2 decades, has announced it will cease operations on 14th February due to financial difficulties.

-We still wait for DC to provide the new bus stops and road markings.

h) Community Officer.

-Cllr Beckford had issued a full report

Cllr Beckford

13. Speedwatch/ Homewatch.

-Appeal for more people to join the speed watch team the mobile van was in the village church road, early afternoon.

Chairman

14. Property checks

a) General: Cllr Beckford had issued a full report stating that there are not any issues with the benches in the village, she had also checked all of the grit bins

Cllr Beckford-

b)-Play areas:

-Cllr Beckford had checked the play areas and reported that all fencing was safe and secure, the gate in the Junior play area needs to be adjusted as it is not closing properly. Due to the recent wet weather there are small puddles, and some area are muddy. New bark will be required soon in the multi-play areas. A post on the log walk is starting to rot. Cllr Beckford had picked up litter in both areas.

Cllr Beckford.

-The Chairman had received a quote from Wicksteed for repairing the subsidence to the surrounding area to the Trampoline £2608.00. The quote to repair the trampoline bed came to £3600.00.

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The PC felt that this was excessive and would consider what action to be taken at the next meeting.

Chairman

15. PC had put forward a request for a crossing to be installed on the A354 to assist people to gain access to the Archway Nursery and the Bus stop: DC Highways requested that we give the numbers of people crossing the road, which the Chairman has supplied to them, we await a response.

Chairman

16. Sport Society request for additional funding: See Democratic Period above. Mr Jeffery to obtain quotations for various items of work needed to the Club House.

Chairman/Clerk

17. Items for the next Agenda:

-Defibrillator Training.

-Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd April in the VH.

Chairman

-Date & time of next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.00pm – The Village Hall. Meeting closed: 8.30pm.