

PIMPERNE PARISH COUNCIL

**The Minutes for the above Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 11th June 2025.
7.00pm at Pimperne Village Hall.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Sherry Jespersen, Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk) 8 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr C Beckford.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None received

2. To consider granting dispensations as required: None required

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2024.

-The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman

4. DEMOCRATIC PERIOD:

-There have been further reports of laser lights being directed up into the Lime tree in the Garden of The Old Rectory which has been disturbing and distressing the Rooks that are nesting in the tree. There has been a video recording of the incidents, and the police have been informed. The rooks have been in the village for many decades and residents are upset that they are being frightened in this manner. Pimperne Parish Council condemn this action and will support any police action that takes place. Residents are encouraged to report any further incidents to the police.

-A resident had cut down overgrown shrubbery that had grown across three gardens in Berkeley Road from the Woodbury site.

5. HILLFORTS AND UPPER TARRANTS WARD REPORT:

-Cllr Jespersen reported that the draft of the Dorset Local Plan will be coming out for consultation on the 18th August for 8 weeks. There will be briefings for town and parish councils, a roadshow in Blandford and Cllr Jespersen will be holding a meeting for the North Dorset parishes. This is an important consultation as it will highlight proposed sites that are allocated for development, this is the last chance for objections to be raised, and comments made on the allocation of the sites. The plan will not go forward or 'made' until 2027 and will not carry weight until it has been presented to the inspectorate.

-The Chairman asked whether Cllr Jespersen thought that the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan should be revised again, she felt that it would be beneficial to look at this again next year. North Dorset local plan where areas of Pimperne were included – will these be included in the new Dorset Local Plan?

-Cllr Jespersen stated that the policy of ruling that larger villagers must only fulfil local housing needs no longer applies with the new housing targets allocated to Dorset by the Government, therefore the Neighbourhood Plan would be our only tool to assist objecting to any unwanted development.

6. MATTERS ARISING: None raised.

7. URGENT MATTERS: None raised.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a) New Applications:

-P/HOU/2025/02698: White Lodge Down Road: Erect first floor front extension and balcony to rear elevation. Erect summer house and new electric gates. PPC supports DC Highways in objecting to the positioning of the gate. **Clerk**

P/VOC/2025/02848: Proposal: Planning application to change use to holiday accommodation to be operated in conjunction with occupation of main dwelling (variation of condition 2 of planning permission: P/FUL/2021/02848 to amend approved plans) Location: Berkeley House, Church Road.

-PPC objected to this in 2021, the difference with this new application is the new vehicular access, turning space and a footpath diversion. PPC object to the vehicular access, turning circle and especially the diversion of the Queens Walk historic footpath which is valued and used daily by many residents. This footpath has been in its current position for hundreds of years, the Old Rectory was at one time gifted to Catherine Parr by King Henry VIII, and this footpath runs adjacent to that property. PPC wish to suggest that the original plan for access and parking be reinstated and this amendment not to be deemed acceptable, the Queens Walk should remain as it has been for hundreds of years.

b) Approved Application: None received.

c) Outstanding 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: PPC Planning objection has been submitted. We still await a date for the Planning Committee meeting.

-P/FUL/2020/00411 Franwill, Erect 14 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. **Chairman/ Clerk**

d) Other Planning matters:

-Woodbury/ Former Methodist Chapel:

-PPC are going to re-submit the application for a Section 215, dilapidation order for the site at Woodbury and the former Methodist Chapel. We have received 4 letters of complaint from residents living around these sites, which we forward on to DC in support of the application for the S215 order. The Clerk will also take photographs to be used as evidence. **Chairman/Clerk**

-S106 Homefield –The Chairman and the Clerk have received 2 quotes for the completion of the basketball court, we await a 3rd quote from Wicksteed, the Chairman will meet with them on site. When quotes have been received, we will apply for s106 funds. **Chairman/Clerk**

-Franwill Site S106: No current update. **Chairman**

EV Charging site:

-Clerk to take photographs to show the weed growth and state of the trees on the site that should have been landscaped. **Chairman/Clerk**

e) Tree Applications:

-P/TRC/2025/02713: felling of Cotoneaster tree at White Lodge: Consent was given stating that whilst removal of a T1 will result in some loss of amenity, it is not of a quality whereby its retention can be secured via TPO; therefore, no objection was raised. They are not required to replace the tree **Cllr Strange**

-9. Former School Field:

-Cllr O'Connell reported that the group had meet earlier this week and have now booked the Main Hall in the VH on 23rd July 4pm-7pm for the community to come and put forward their ideas for the field. Dorset Wildlife Trust Officer will be in attendance to offer advice. Cllr Strange has obtained 2 enlarged aerial photographs of the site and those attending will be invited to write on post-it slips onto the photograph where the areas where they would like to see, for example: Wild flower areas/ picnic tables etc. **Cllr O'Connell/ Cllr Strange**

-Further complaints about areas of the boundary to the field being overgrown with brambles – PPC are in the process of trying to find a contractor to remove the brambles. **Chairman/Clerk**

10. Finances:

a) The Clerk had circulated the financial report for May 2025.

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

Clerks Salary:	At agreed rate.
HMRC PAYE	£ 112.00
Microsoft Annual Subscription	£ 104.99
St Peters Churchyard Grant	£ 800.00
Annual Internal Audit	£ 100.00
Viking Supplies – Printer Ink	£ 91.19

-All the above payments were unanimously approved.

c) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024-2025 was approved by PPC and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO. **Chairman/Clerk**

11. Brief Update:

a) Tree Warden:

-Cllr Strange has requested an update of the status of the enquiry raised in respect of the dead branch overhanging the A354. **Cllr Strange**

-Churchyard Trees: One Cherry tree has been felled, and 2 Yew trees require attention. DC have advised that written notice should have been sought as soon as work had become necessary. The landowner has a duty to plant a replacement tree of an appropriate size and species at the same place. Any works to the Yew trees will require the submission of a Section 211 notification giving 6 weeks' notice of intended work.

-We received an email asking advice on the falling of a tree in the conservation area, the resident would not give his address but has been advised to contact DC.

-Hedgehog Signage: Cllr Strange had attended a DC meeting in support of Denise Montague who is chair of Blandford Hedgehog Group. The question was raised regarding the administration fee of £300.00 from DC in respect of the implementation of hedgehog awareness signs. The outcome of this meeting was that DC stated that the £300.00 fee is non-negotiable, any requests for signage must be submitted by the Clerk, and a DC would then survey the village for suitable sites for the signs. They would not be permitted to be placed on the new 20mph posts due to wind resistance issues. DC have records that detail every highway pole in the county in regard to its construction and the state of its foundations, which is why they would need to assess suitability. PPC have purchased Hedgehog awareness signs that they will seek to have place on private property rather than DC poles. **Cllr Strange.**

b) Rights of Way:

-Cllr Argles reported that the footpath to the camp is overgrown and needs to be cut back, he had contacted DC Ranger. **Cllr Argles**

c) Flood Warden:

-The Stream is currently dry. The only concern of flooding in the village would be flash flooding on the A354. **Cllr Tanner**

d) Highways:

-White gates: The Chairman has a meeting scheduled with DC Highways and DC Sign Shop. **Chairman**

Bus stop markings: DC Highways have responding these should be completed in July 25.

-We have received permission to plant a tree at the corner of Church Rd and Bushes Road.

The Chairman to ask Mr King about a guard to be placed around the new tree. **Cllr Strange**

-Permission has been granted to put the Tommy memorial on the grass verge close to where the main PPC noticeboard is in Church Rd. **Chairman**

e) Village Hall: The VH Committee has issued instruction to replace the double-glazed windows that have blown. New curtains for the stage have been made and will be hung in the next 2-3 weeks. **Chairman**

-f) DAPTC:

-The DAPTC AGM will be held in November when they will become a Ltd company. They will be inviting Cllrs to join them on the board. **Cllr O'Connell**

g) Transport Officer:

-There bus service between Blandford and Sturminster Newton has been upgraded to include Saturdays. **Cllr Richley**

-Cllr Richley to resume communications with Wiltshire council regarding the extension of route 20 bus to Salisbury Station. **Cllr Richley**

12. Speedwatch.

-The Speed watch team will be out in Church Rd on Friday afternoon. **Chairman**

13. Community Officer Property checks:

Cllr Beckford had carried out a full inspection on the 9th June.

-DC have mown the grass around the benches on the A354 leaving them clear of vegetation.

-The former school field has been mown and the bench clear of vegetation. **Cllr Beckford**

-Clerk to establish whether we are fully covered by out insurance for the trampoline. **Clerk**

14-Play areas:

-Cllr Beckford had carried out checks on both play areas, the equipment in both were inspected, the swings in the multi-play area need to be cleaned. Cllr Beckford had removed litter. **Cllr Beckford**

15. Items for the next Agenda:

-Litter Pick date: 6th September 2025

-Date & time of next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday July 9th, 2025, at 7.00pm – The Village Hall.

Meeting closed. 8.26 pm.