

DRAFT

PIMPERNE PARISH COUNCIL

**The Minutes for the above Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.  
7.00pm at Pimperne Village Hall.**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dorset Councillor Sherry Jespersen, Mrs J O'Connell (Clerk), 18 Members of the public.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None Received.

**Declarations of Interests:** None received.

**2. To consider granting dispensations as required:** None required

**3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

-The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Chairman**

**4. DEMOCRATIC PERIOD:**

**-Due to the recent flooding in Pimperne the following points were raised by residents:**

-It was requested that the Parish Council arrange a public meeting with representatives from Wessex Water, the Environment Agency and Dorset Council to discuss the recent issues caused by the flooding and to create an action plan to ensure that this does not happen in the future. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would do all that they could to facilitate such a meeting by contacting all of the above-mentioned agencies.

-Concerns were raised regarding the untreated sewage in the flood water, this is a health hazard, a danger to humans and animals potentially causing sickness. It was expressed that the drainage system is inadequate and should be upgraded.

-Residents of Priory Gardens had experienced flooding in their gardens as the flood water made its way to the A354 from Church Road. The water was also close to flooding the garages. This problem was exacerbated by a heap of debris creating a blockage which needs to be removed. This would be the responsibility of the residents in Priory Gardens. The Chairman stated that he would research and come back to the residents.

**-Other matters raised in the democratic period:**

-It was requested that the Clerk contact the Speed Team at DC to find out why the SID has not been moved from the Blandford end of the village for 10 weeks.

**Clerk**

-A resident requested that additional signage be placed between the Anvil Bend and the Salisbury end of the village to remind motorists that the speed limit is still 30mph. Clerk to write to DC Highways to request roundels be painted on each side of the road.

**Chairman/Clerk**

-It was suggested that as the new white gate nearest to Blandford of the village does not give any indication that you are entering the village, that a planter be placed in front of the gate with Pimperne written on the side of it. It was suggested that this could be maintained by the Garden Club.

**Chairman**

-A resident stated that the village was looking untidy and that it would be a good idea for a working party to meet a couple of times a year to tidy the village. It was confirmed that the brambles and the debris in the stream is the responsibility of the riparian owners.

**Chairman**

-A resident asked how should pill blister packs be recycled as Boots the Chemist will no longer take them and they cannot go into the recycling bins. Cllr Jespersen confirmed that at present they should be disposed of in the household waste, and that DC will advise when any other arrangements are made.

**Chairman**

-It was raised that Pimperne residents are not receiving regular postal deliveries, some of which are time sensitive. The Chairman stated that the PC will be writing a letter of complaint to the Blandford office.

**Chairman/Clerk**

#### **5. Hilltop Ward Report:**

**-Dorset Council Annual Budget.** DC has put together a "balanced" budget as required by law. However, I am not confident that there are sufficient measures in place to prevent the same overspend as in this current year. The funding for services in the Place directorate, specifically highways, greenspace and waste has been cut which will inevitably impact on services. I will continue to argue for sufficient funding for these services, not least in the light of the current flooding crisis. Council Tax will rise by 4.99% as expected. At the DC budget meeting it was resolved that some additional funds will be set aside for flooding issues. Cllr Jespersen urged the PC to apply for some of these funds to make necessary repairs to culverts etc, to avoid future problems. This application will need to be submitted quickly as all villages will be applying and there are only limited funds. The Chairman confirmed that this will be done urgently.

**Chairman**

#### **6. MATTERS ARISING:**

-The sink hole to the footpath adjacent to Church Lodge has now been repaired; it was caused by a collapsed culvert. The Chairman asked the Clerk write to DC Highways to request the return of the metal barriers and cones that belong to the VH.

**Chairman/Clerk.**

#### **7- URGENT MATTERS:**

-PPC had requested that Pimperne Sports Society look at their records to see if they have a copy of the deeds for the Pavilion and the Sports Ground to clarify ownership. Representatives from PSS were present and handed over documents that they had found. Clerk and Chairman to continue to work on this.

-Cllr Tanner and the Chairman had visited the Sports Field and congratulated them on their work. They had inspected the premises and confirmed that the kitchen doors need replacing, amongst other repair and maintenance work that need to be done, they emphasized that the PC supports the SS and would aim to see a time when they are more sustainable and when their fundraising is to support the sports activities rather than to pay for repairs.

-The PSS are preparing an article which will appear in the Spring Village Newsletter and are still looking for volunteers to help out manning the tuck shop amongst other duties.

#### **8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

##### **a) New Applications:**

**P/HOU/2026/00275:** 37 Frampton Road, Raise the ridge of the roof to convert loft space to form bedrooms with large rear dormer: PPC Objects to this application on grounds of residential amenity as the rear dormer will overlook and overshadow the neighbouring property creating loss of privacy and light.

**Clerk**

##### **b) Approved Application:**

##### **c) Outstanding Applications:**

-P/ADV/2025/07004: Proposal: Retain 4.no. non illuminated double-sided signs attached to existing lamp posts. PPC Objects

**Clerk**

-P/ADV/2025/0651; Hyde Farm: Retain 2 no. non-illuminated 2m high signs. PPC Objects.

**Clerk**

-P/ADV/2025/06508: Hyde Farm: Retain 2 no. non illuminated 3.8m high sign. PPC objects

**Clerk**

-P/FUL/2020/0041: Erect 14 houses. 40% Affordable.

**Chairman**

##### **d) Other Planning matters:**

**-Primitive Methodist Chapel and Woodbury Site:** No current update.

**Chairman**

**-S106 Homefield** –Chairman and Clerk obtaining quotes for these funds.

**Chairman**

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

**Chairman**

**-EV Charging site:** No further update

**Chairman**

-The Chairman reported back on the DC Town and Parish Council Forum in Dorchester that he had attended on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

**Chairman**

**e) Tree Applications:**

-P/TRC/2026/00275: Hathorne Cottage, Whitecliff Mill Lane: Sycamore Fell. PPC no objection. -

**Cllr Strange**

**9. Pimperne Community Field:**

-The Clerk had received a response from Abigail Brooks who confirmed that she had drafted the letter of permission to plant the community orchard from DC, she was awaiting a response from the Arb Team to ascertain whether they had any specific instructions re: the tree planting. **Clerk**

-Cllr Strange has attained more saplings from the Woodland Trust, due to arrive late February, these will replace the hedgerow removed backing onto Boyte Rd. **Cllr Strange**

**10. Finances:**

a) The Clerk had circulated the financial report for January 2026.

**Clerk**

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

Clerks Salary:	At agreed rate.
HMRC PAYE	£ 112.00
Bank charges	£ 4.25
DAPTC Training:	£ 35.00

**11. Brief Update:**

**a) Tree Warden Report: See Community Field: Item 9.**

-The Chairman advised that confirmation was awaited from the Forestry Commission that tree felling in Pimperne Wood had been carried out in accordance with the licence. **Chairman**

**b) Flood Warden:**

-Sewerage has ceased being emitted from the manholes in lower Church Road.

-WW was contacted on the first morning of the emergence of the sewage from the manholes and they arrived within 2 hours as they are aware of the previous incidents of this nature as they have been logged on file. Testing has taken place daily to determine the level of pollution which was quite low due to the level of groundwater, rainwater and infiltration into private pipes before entering the communal system. These results were sent to the EA. Cllr Tanner was told that if the ingress of water did not take place there would be no outflow of sewerage because the amount of effluent does not vary from summer to winter, no emergence of sewage takes place in summer. If the sewer network was not transporting flood water away from the village, flooding may be increased.

This has been the third bad flood since the year 2000. Church Road became a river as it the A354 for a while. Water reached the top arch of the bridge over the A354 and emerged from the stream to convert the nearby path into another stream and hence across the A354. Cllr Tanner placed his Flood Warning sign to warn motorists and called DC to alert them of the situation. DC placed Road Closed signs but very few motorists took notice. The Police were called but were not interested and referred Cllr Tanner back to DC. An accident occurred on the A354 when a manhole cover became dislodged. A one lane system was in place for several days. Sandbags were supplied to 3 households in the village, a bag of sand and sandbags was deposited at the end of Church Rd and villagers alerted to the location of the supplies. Cllr Tanner expressed his gratitude to Mr Alan Lukins for his assistance in transporting sand and sandbags and collecting additional sand from Blandford at short notice. PPC to write to Mr Lukins to thank him.

DRAFT

-Many houses were affected with toilets that would not flush, other drainage difficulties, gardens flooded, and one house with water coming up through the floorboards. Residents would be advised to consider the installation of pumps.

Pimperne had an extensive coverage of flooding on BBC news in the South.

Postings were made on social media to inform residents of the situation as it developed.

Wessex Water advised Cllr Tanner that tinkering due to flood levels would not stop the emergence of sewage from the manholes. Still to be on flood alert as the ground water level at Iwerne Hill Farm was rising and well above the normal level.

Cllr Tanner requested that DC remove Flood Warning signage when flooding subsides.

**Cllr Tanner**

**c) Highways:**

-The flagstones supporting the retaining wall on the pathway/cycle path at Letton in need of some attention, one is leaning outwards and potentially a dangerous trip hazard. Clerk to report this matter again to DC Highways.

**Clerk**

-We await a response from Mr Cirio regarding bus stop markings on the road outside of the former Farquharson Arms. The Clerk to request a date for completion.

**Chairman**

**d) Village Hall:**

- There are still some issues that need to be resolved regarding the VH Carpark agreement between the PC and Hamwic Academy. Cllr Tanner and the Chairman to go through the agreement over the coming weeks.

**Chairman**

**e) DAPTC:** Cllr O'Connell had attended a training session on changes to the NPPF, National Planning.

**Cllr O'Connell**

**f) Transport Officer:** No current update.

**Cllr Richley**

**12. Community Officer Property checks:**

-Thank you to Cllr Beckford for her full report:

-The door to the telephone box needs to be repaired. Mr Harper has kindly offered to look at this and the rotting paintwork.

**Chairman**

-The noticeboard near to the Willows needs a new back board, Mr King to make necessary repair.

-The grit bins have been checked and some need refilling, the Chairman to provide shovels to those bins reported to be without.

**Chairman/ Cllr Beckford**

-The bench outside of the church has been swept

**Cllr Beckford**

-The bus shelter has been swept

**Cllr Beckford.**

**-Junior Play Area:** A section of the wood capping the chain link fence is missing on the small gate side.

**Chairman**

**-Multi-Play Area:** The surface under the swings need attention.

**Chairman**

Mr King who usually carries out our repairs will shortly be having an operation and will be unavailable for a while whilst he recovers. PPC wished him well for his operation and a speedy recovery.

**13. Speed Watch:**

-Due to poor weather conditions, there has not been any speed watches in the past few weeks, they will resume as soon as the weather permits.

**Chairman**

**14. Items of the next Agenda**

-New Parish Council email addresses.

-Date for the Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.40pm.

**-Date & time of next Parish Council meeting:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7pm.