

PIMPERNE PARISH COUNCIL

**The Minutes for the above Parish Council Meeting held Wednesday 16th September 2026.
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), 4 Members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

1. Declarations of Interests: None received.

2. To consider granting dispensations as required: None required

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2026.

-The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman

4. DEMOCRATIC PERIOD:

-A resident requested that there are more 20mph roundels in Church Rd.

Chairman

5. Hilltop Ward Report:

-Cllr Jespersen reported that DC Highways are having new software installed – logging non-urgent enquiries onto the system will not be available between the 15th and 22nd.

-Cllr Jespersen held a Planning Meeting in Pimperne VH on the 5th September highlighting changes to the planning system and the NPPF. One of the changes will be that smaller planning applications will no longer go to planning committee and will be decided by the case officers at DC. This means that PCs will only get one opportunity to put a case forward to object to an application.

-The Boundary Review: The Boundary Commission (who are independent of local government), are reviewing council wards to ensure that each councillor has an equal number of residents in their wards. The proposed ward changes for Pimperne will be a new ward titled, Pimperne and the Tarrants – which will include Pimperne, Stourpaine, Durweston and the Tarrants down to Tarrant Crawford. Cllr Jespersen felt that this was a good proposal and encouraged PPC to respond positively to the consultation regarding these changes which will be open until 9th November. The proposed changes would not take place until the next local elections in 2029.

6. MATTERS ARISING:

-Stonewater: The Clerk had contacted Stonewater, who stated that they would send their surveyor to look at the overgrown hedge at Yarde Farm Cottages.

Clerk

-Planning Changes: The Chairman had attended Cllr Jespersen's meeting as well as a Planning meeting in Dorchester on 8th September, which stressed that Dorset would not meet its housing targets as set by the Government of 3426 per annum as the current figures being built are only 1160. Also changes to the NPPF were highlighted, the Chairman recommended that all councillors should read the presentation that had been circulated by the Clerk.

Chairman

-Neighbourhood plans: Would still be observed by Planning Officers provided they were kept updated, the Chairman stated that he would contact the Planning Consultant Jo Witherden to find out what her fees would be to update the Pimperne NP when needed.

Chairman

-Woodbury and former Primitive Methodist Chapel – The Chairman reported that this site is in a dreadful and deteriorating condition. DC are not prepared to take on any legal matters regarding this site; the PC have contacted the landowner numerous times without any response.

7- URGENT MATTERS:

-Cllr Tanner enquired when the remainder of the resurfacing would be carried out on the A354, and when would the cats-eyes be reinstated. The Clerk to write to DC Highways also requesting whether the work could be carried out overnight.

Chairman/Clerk

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a) New Applications: None received.

b) Approved Application:

-P/HOU/2026/03061: Proposal: Erect a single storey side extension & raised decking Location:20 Frampton Road. The Parish Council had no objection to this application.

-P/FUL/2020/0041: Erect 15 houses. 40% Affordable.

Chairman/Clerk

c) Outstanding Applications: None

d) Other Planning matters:

-S106 Homefield –The PC had submitted applications for funding which have been successful. – all the work quoted for is due to go ahead as follows:

Multi-play area – Remainder of the basketball court to be surfaced, and a goal area the same as the existing to be installed (currently on 8–10-week order) resurfacing of area beneath swings and lengthening the chains of the swings.

Chairman/Clerk

Junior Play Area: To have new perimeter fencing – (PPC voted the colour to be green), a new roundabout to be installed where the trampoline had been, and resurfacing. This work will be carried out by Infinity Playgrounds.

-Franwill Site S106: No further update:

Chairman/Clerk

e) Tree Applications: None received.

Cllr Strange

9. Pimperne Community Field:

-A working party organised by Cllr Strange and the Chairman have been watering the trees and the saplings, mown the path and will be planting more saplings from the Woodland Trust (to replace those that have not taken) and a further 18 fruit trees when the ground is softer.

They will be looking at starting the wild-flower area in the next month. **Chairman/Cllr Strange**

-S106 funding: Has been secured to purchase benches and picnic tables. **Chairman**

10. Finances:

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

Clerk

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

Clerks Salary:	At agreed rate.
HMRC PAYE	£ 161.44
Bank charges	£ 8.50
Microsoft Sub	£ 19.99
ICO Subscription	£ 52.00
Azets Payroll	£ 264.60
Mr King	£ 242.00
Gallagher Insurance	£ 781.10

c) PPC needs to purchase of a new noticeboard to replace the one close to the telephone box. Cllr Tanner to look at the Greenbarnes website to search for an appropriate replacement.

Chairman/Cllr Tanner

11. Brief Update:

a) Tree Warden Report:

-19th July, reported to DC fallen tree limbs from the dead beech tree at the Old Rectory, the limbs overhanging the road were removed.

-8th September – Report of a fallen Cherry Tree in Portman Road onto a resident's car, the carriageway and the footpath. Reported to DC, the tree was removed and chipped onsite.

Cllr Strange

-Community Field – A small band of resolute volunteers have had a hard and hot time, keeping the newly planted fruit trees and saplings alive with regular watering. With the change in the weather the attention has now turned to clearing the vegetation from around the hedge saplings. This will identify any gaps that can be filled with the new saplings when they arrive in November.

Cllr Strange

-Non-tree related: Cllr Strange wanted to recommend that anyone who has not seen it, to view the Peoples Emergency Briefing, it is 50 minutes long, a sobering and thought-provoking film about climate change: <https://www.nebriefing.org/the-film>

Cllr Strange

-Tree guard to be placed around the tree at the corner of Church Rd and Bushes rd. **Cllr Strange**

b) Flood Warden:

-The long dry and hot spell of weather has ended. Unsettled weather is presently the norm. Time to check out the ditches and gullies and any flood plan that people may have. The ground water level is still in the normal range. We still await a report on the Flood Resilience meeting held in March. I have requested that Cllr Jespersen remind our MP that we await the report. **Cllr Tanner**

c) Highways: -Church road - Culvert repair.

This work will not be completed until the end of October as it has to be done in small sections to protect the adjacent listed wall.

Chairman

d) Rights of Way:

- The footpaths have been kept clear during the summer.

Cllr Argles

-Cllr Argles enquired who would be responsible for cutting back overgrown weeds and foliage which is blocking the pavements? Cllr Jespersen stated that it was the responsibility of Dorset Waste Services. Cllr Argles to contact DWS to ensure our pavements are on the schedule.

Chairman/Cllr Argles

d) Village Hall:

-The new Car Park Licence has been finalised and signed between the PC and Hamwick Education Trust – their solicitors have agreed to cover the legal expenses. **Chairman/Clerk**

-The VH Committee will be purchasing new benches for outside of the village hall. **Chairman**

-The new Hallmaster booking system is not yet up and running as they have not agreed with our preferred method of booking and payment. **Chairman**

-f) DAPTC:

-PPC authorised Cllr O'Connell to attend the DAPTC Autumn Conference to be held on 22/10/2026 at the George Albert Hotel.

Cllr O'Connell

g) Transport Officer:

-The new Dorset Local Transport Plan recently published does not affect North Dorset.

-DC has agreed to replace the timetable display unit in the bus shelter, Cllr Richley will remind them in 2 months' time if this has not happened. **Cllr Richley**

-The flag at the bus stop at Letton currently reads, 'Blandford Forum, Letton Lodge' Cllr Richley to check whether this should be Pimperne, rather than Blandford. **Cllr Richley**

12. Community Officer Property checks: Cllr Beckford

-Junior Playground:

- Fence post is loose on side adjacent to village hall
- Post loose to right hand side of large gate
- One of the balance beam posts is rotting

-Multi-Play Area:

- Hedges need to be cut back – the sign at the entrance is not visible

-Benches:

- No issues detected

-Bus Shelter:

- The bus shelter has been inspected vegetation around the area needs to be cut back.

Cllr Beckford/Chairman

13. Speed Watch:

- Next speed watch will be carried out on Monday 21st September.

Chairman

14. Any other business –

- The Clerk enquired if anyone knew who had removed the 20mph banner from the rail outside the VH.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.38pm.

-Date & time of next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday October 14th, 2026, at 7pm.