

MINUTES OF THE DEWLISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 23rd JUNE 2025 AT DEWLISH VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 7.30PM

Present: Cllrs W Britton, D Crossman, M Claydon, A Barnett and C Lowis

Chair: Cllr M Fell

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: 5 members of the public

1. Period of Public Participation

25.045 Dog mess continues to be an issue throughout the village but especially by Moats Cottages. More signs will be arranged.

Two styles need repairing at the top of Greenways. In addition, the first step to get over the style is too high. There are also two at Langhams that need to be repaired. It was noted that the broken styles can also be reported online.

The Parish Reports have not been appearing in the magazine. The Clerk reported that they are being submitted.

2. To receive apologies for absence

25.046 Apologies had been received from Cllr Josh Booth and Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes.

3. To receive declarations of interest

25.047 No interests were declared.

4. To agree the Election of a Vice Chair

25.048 Cllr Barnett has said he will be stepping down from the Parish Council at Christmas so did not wish to renew the role of Vice Chair this year. Cllr Lowis nominated Cllr Crossman for the role. This was seconded by Cllr Fell and agreed unanimously. Cllr Crossman signed the Acceptance of Office in the presence of the meeting.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 227th May 2025

25.049 A copy of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting had been issued to all members. Cllr Britton proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meetings. This was seconded by Cllr Lowis and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

6. Matters arising for report only

25.050 VE Day – The balance of donations taken at the event held amounted to a £99.39 profit and this has now been passed to the Parish Council. It had been previously agreed that this money would be used to make improvements to the bus shelter and surrounding area.

7. Finance

25.051 To agree the payment of accounts

The following payments had been requested:

Lloyds	Account charges 10/4 to 9/5/25	DDR7/25	4.25
PlusBus	Donation	BACS071	350.00
Barker-Fox	Internal audit fee 2024/25	BACS072	100.00
Lloyds	Account charges 10/5 to 9/6/25	DDR8/25	4.25
HMRC	June 2025 PAYE	BACS073	43.20
A Crocker	June 2025 salary	BACS074	225.15

The total amount requested from the Precept is £726.85.

Cllr Barnett proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Britton and agreed unanimously.

It was noted that income received since the last meeting was as follows:

VE Day donations	£99.39
Account interest	£14.70

25.052 To accept the Reconciliation of Accounts and position against budget for June 2025

Copies of both reports were issued with the agenda. Cllr Lowis proposed the reports are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Barnett and agreed unanimously.

25.053 To accept the Internal Audit report for the year 2024/25

A copy of the report had been issued with the agenda and is available on the website.

The following recommendations were made:

1. That Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are uploaded to the website. This has been done.
2. The correct Risk Assessment is uploaded to the website. This has been done.
3. The insured amounts are reviewed to ensure they are relevant to any replacement values. Replacement values will be included on the asset register and the website updated.
4. The Village Green is added to the asset register, if the Parish Council owns it. The current situation has been explained to the auditor.
5. A CIL report is created and uploaded to the website. A CIL report does exist but will be amended and uploaded to the website.
6. The Clerk's contract is updated to reflect the new hours and SCP rate. A letter is help on file covering this but the auditor has requested that it added as an addendum to the Contract of Employment.
7. The Asset Register is published on the website. This has been done.
8. The dates of the Public Rights period are minuted at the same time as the agreement of the AGAR. This is noted for future years.

Cllr Crossman proposed the Internal Audit report is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Fell and agreed unanimously.

25.054 To confirm the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights for the 2024/25 accounts

The notice was included with the agenda. The proposed dates are from Wednesday 25th June 2025 to Tuesday 5th August 2025. Cllr Lewis proposed the dates are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Britton and agreed unanimously.

8. To receive reports on the following matters and agree actions

25.055 Planning and Housing

There were no planning applications at this time.

25.056 Police, Traffic and Roads

The May Police report had been issued with the agenda. No comments were made.

Milborne Wood – The Clerk reported that the Highways Officer has been in touch and the survey will be undertaken during July. The stretch of road does not fit the necessary criteria for double white lines, so this will not be possible. However, ‘slow’ signs on the road, together with a sign warning of pedestrians may be possible. Residents are asked to make sure they report any collisions no matter how minor.

25.057 Parish Amenities and Rights of Way

The stile coming out of Langhams, together with the one further along on the same path needs to be repaired and the step is too high. These are thought to be the responsibility of Dewlish House. Cllr Fell will check the map to determine ownership and then the landowner will be informed.

To consider moving the bin and undertaking repairs to the bus shelter – Any costs incurred will be offset by the income from the VE Day event. Cllr Barnett reported that he has some stain and some paint for the inside of the shelter. Part of the felt roof has started cracking and the guttering needs to be repaired. A working party will be put together to undertake the work. Cllr Lewis will organise this. The bin will be moved to the other side of the salt bin.

ACTION: CLLR LEWIS

Moats Cottages seat needs to be repaired. Some of the wood needs to be replaced and the seat restrained.

The posts around the war memorial need to have some teak oil put on them.

Update on the Green fence – Still pending. This will be transferred to the July agenda.

To consider the installation of planters at the village boundaries – The question was raised as to who would look after planters once they were installed. Cllr Crossman said that the idea was for a water trough containing drought resistant plants so there would be very little need for maintenance. It may be possible to set up a rota for deadheading the plants and strimming around the container.

It was noticed that the finger post on the crossroads has been cleared but there are several over finger posts that also need clearing. A list will be drawn up of the finger posts and signs that need to be maintained and kept clear. Cllr Crossman will look into this.

ACTION: CLLR CROSSMAN

9. To consider possible future village events

25.058 It would be necessary to meet with the Village Hall Committee and see what could be planned. The VE Day event was so well received and members thought it would be nice to keep the momentum

going. Cllr Barnett said the problem was trying to get people to help and volunteer to assist at events. Cllr Crossman said the idea was to be in step with the village hall. There is a village event scheduled which members were unaware of at the time the idea was raised. Cllr Fell suggested representatives from the Parish Council meet with the Village Hall to discuss what events are planned and what might be planned in the future. A copy of the minutes of the Village Hall meetings can be sent to the Clerk.

10. To receive reports from Parish Councillors

25.059 Cllr Lowis highlighted the issue of dog mess through the village. It is known that a resident is letting their dog loose in the field near Moats Cottages and not clearing up after them. Cllr Barnett will check to see if we have any more signs.

ACTION: CLLR BARNETT

The hedge on the bend to Cheselbourne is overgrown and making it difficult to see oncoming traffic. Such issues can be reported via the Dorset Council website.

Cllr Lowis reported that members of the Farmer’s Co-operative were out testing the water quality of the stream this evening. The quality was looking to be okay.

11. Date of next meeting

25.060 The next meeting will be hold on Monday 28th July, commencing 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.20pm.