

# DEWLISH PARISH COUNCIL

WARDEN HILL FARM, LONG ASH LANE, DORCHESTER, DORSET, DT2 9PW  
Amanda Crocker, Clerk      Tel: 07855 396073      Email Dewlish@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Dewlish Parish Council on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 commencing 7.30pm at Dewlish Village Hall.

**Amanda Crocker, Clerk**

17<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## AGENDA

1. Public Participation
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declaration of pecuniary and other interests
4. Minutes of previous meeting dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025
5. Matters Arising from previous minutes for report only
6. To receive the Dorset Councillor's report - attached
7. Finance:
  - (a) To authorise payment of accounts
  - (b) To receive the reconciliation of accounts and position against budget
  - (c) To consider the transfer of reserves for the year end
8. To receive reports on the following matters and to agree actions
  - (a) Planning – no applications at the time of the agenda
  - (b) Police, Traffic and Roads – to consider the Police report received – attached
  - (c) Parish Amenities and Rights of Way
  - (d) Parish Surgeries
9. To receive the update Councillor responsibilities
10. To receive an update on the VE Day celebrations
11. To consider a response regarding the Dorset Hill Rally 2025
12. Open Gardens 2025 update and to agree the Parish Council's contribution
13. To receive an update on the .gov.uk email addresses
14. Parish Councillors' reports on items not covered in the agenda
15. Agenda items for the next meeting
16. Date of Next Meeting - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Report to the parish council 7/2/2025

### Cllr Jill Haynes Chalk Valleys Ward

Dear Clerks, councillors and members of the public,

January always seems a long and depressing month and it felt the same way at the council!

There have been numerous overview and scrutiny meeting looking at different parts of the new budget proposals for 2025/26 as well what changes will need to be made through the Our Future Council programme to make the savings needed going forward. In truth there is very little wriggle room and the changes made by Central Government last December have hit the council hard, in addition we have heard that there is a freeze on Environment Agency spend and so no money for the urgent works on both West Bay and Weymouth harbour walls. (A potential cost to the council of £5M.) Meanwhile our demand continues to grow in Adult Social Care and Children's services despite some excellent prevention work.

Therefore, coming to Full Council next week will be the administration's proposals to cut costs and provide additional income to close the current £49M budget gap. The papers set out a total budget of £416M and this will put an additional £40M into those demand services but requires cuts elsewhere to cover the increase.

It is proposed to take the full Council tax and Adult Social Care increases which come to 5% and will mean the cost for a band D property will be £2101.05 pa. Out of 186917 households 71% are bands A-D. Nearly 22000 receive council tax support and a surprising 60,000 homes receive the single person discount. With the two figures above the council income is greatly decreased but on the plus side we do have very good collection rates.

This figure puts Dorset Council in the top three most expensive council tax authorities, but we also receive some of the lowest Government funding. This year our Revenue Support Grant from central government is just £179K down from £700K last year. If you compared us per head of population to the support given to the likes of Liverpool City Council we would be receiving a staggering £100M, the formula for the grant is so unfair.

Dorset Council share of Business rates is £48M. (the remainder go to central Government) There is also a budget contingency of £13M to cover some of the variables we need to manage. For example, pay – a 1% variation on what we predict will cost the council plus of £1M. We don't negotiate the pay deals this is done nationally, and you will have seen already some of the pay deals agreed by the current government! Also a business rate growth of 6% has been included but with the current drop in business confidence this may be a big ask, hence the contingency. Looking at some of the cuts and changes proposed it is likely that there will be a reduction of about £600,000 in our highways budget. There will be a review of held vacancies but the bulk of these will be removed. The proposals show £14.4M in cuts, it will also mean that there will be likely redundancies across the council although there is always potential for redeployment as teams and workloads are reviewed.

You will remember Dorset Council is now charging extra council tax to second home owners and at the time this was agreed there was an amendment to have 40% of this additional money ring fenced for affordable housing. (Predicted to be £1.4M pa) I am shocked to understand that the bulk of this money is going towards existing staff costs in the housing section. While they do a great job supporting people to stay in their homes and filling up empty properties this is not what I thought would happen to the money, their costs should be in the base budget. I was hoping that we would use this to support the actual building of properties through Community Land Trusts.

There appears to be a considerable drive on asset disposals to cover the budget shortfall, but I always have concerns about selling off the family silver. Disposals will need to be carefully reviewed to ensure we don't save more money by repurposing them because once their gone they are gone!

There is a proposal to charge for overnight parking in all our car parks. This could potentially bring in £200K but that is before the enforcement costs. It seems to me a very small amount of

money for a lot of angst in our towns, with the current high costs that families are experiencing where are people supposed to park?

It is also proposed to half the £200K youth grant to £100K. This money supports our youth clubs and activities for young people in our communities and seems a strange and shortsighted thing to cut when it has such a positive impact.

I have looked closely at the budget report and there does not appear to be a budget line for the Climate and Nature emergency. If the administration are reducing the councils net zero date to 2035 then there will be a cost to do this, but funding does not appear to have been allocated. This will be a question for full council next week.

Finally, we heard this week that the council was not successful in the application to Government for a devolution deal. We have been working with Wiltshire, Somerset and BCP to create a Combined Authority. As I explained in my last report this does come with the extra bureaucracy of an elected mayor and their office but had the potential to bring in infrastructure funding to the area. On the whole I feel it is probably a good thing that we are not in the first wave of these combined authorities and will give us time to learn from the mistakes of others.

## Payments Requested - February 2025

Date	Payee	Comments	Folio	Precept
28.01.25	DAPTC	NPPF update	BACS058	8.75
	Hugo /Fox	Webhosting - March 25	DDR	11.99
	Hugo /Fox	Email address support	DDR	20.99
16.02.25	A Crocker	February 2025 salary	BACS059	229.88
16.02.25	HMRC	February 2025 PAYE	BACS060	43.00
<b>Total amount requested</b>				<b>314.61</b>

## Reconciliation of Accounts

Balance b/fwd		From 31.03.24		20355.27
	Add:	Income year to date		6328.68
	Less:	Expenditure to date		6197.25
<b>Balance as at 16.02.25</b>				<b>20486.70</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>				
	Deposit account	00260298	1038.96	
	Current account	01230392	19729.37	
				20768.33
<b>Add:</b>	Uncleared Income			
				0.00
	DAPTC	NPPF update	8.75	
16.02.25	A Crocker	February 25 salary	BACS059	229.88
16.02.25	HMRC	February 25 PAYE	BACS060	43.00
				281.63
<b>Balance as at 16.02.25</b>				<b>20486.70</b>
Difference				0.00

**Dewlish Parish Council**

**Budget Monitoring for the year ended 31st March 2025**

<b>Description</b>	<b>2024/25 Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	-		
Account Interest	75.00	203.68	128.68
Precept	6,125.00	6,125.00	0.00
CIL receipts		0.00	0.00
Misc income		0.00	0.00
VAT refunded		0.00	0.00
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>6,200.00</b>	<b>6,328.68</b>	<b>128.68</b>
			0.00
<b>Payments</b>			
DAPTC Subs. + other subs	100.00	159.34	(59.34)
Insurance	730.00	721.65	8.35
Training	50.00	307.25	(257.25)
Wages - Clerk	2,795.00	2,369.40	425.60
Clerk Expenses - mileage	50.00	97.74	(47.74)
Office costs	150.00	88.24	61.76
Stationery & postage	50.00	4.60	45.40
Computer costs- web hosting	145.00	27.48	117.52
Telephones		225.92	(225.92)
Venue hire	200.00	0.00	200.00
Grass cutting	250.00	0.00	250.00
Audit fees	70.00	71.00	(1.00)
Honorarium	50.00		50.00
Defib Maintenance	130.00	0.00	130.00
Contingencies	100.00	82.09	17.91
Election costs	50.00	50.00	0.00
Grants	500.00	383.73	116.27
Bridge upgrade		570.00	(570.00)
Asset maintenance	700.00	855.38	(155.38)
VAT		183.43	(183.43)
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,120.00</b>	<b>(77.25)</b>
			0.00
Balance b/fwd from 31.03.24	20,355.27		Monies held in bank 20,768.33
Income to date	6328.68	26,683.95	
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>			Add:
Election costs	400.00		Income not cleared
Training	(157.25)		Less:
Venue hire	400.00		
Grass cutting	500.00		
Audit fee	74.00		
Telephone box maintenance	200.00		Cheques not cleared (281.63)
Upgrade of The Green	4,430.00		
CIL receipts	2,390.01		
General asset maintenance	902.96	9,139.72	Earmarked funds (9,139.72)
Expenses for current year to date	6,197.25		
		<u>6,197.25</u>	
<b>Balance available not yet committed</b>		<b><u>11,346.98</u></b>	<b>General Reserve <u>11,346.98</u></b>
			0.00

**Reserves Held****Earmarked Reserves**

Election costs	400.00	
Training	(157.25)	
Venue hire	400.00	
Grass cutting	500.00	
Audit fee	74.00	
Telephone box maintenance	200.00	
Upgrade of The Green	4,430.00	
CIL receipts	2,390.01	
General asset maintenance	902.96	9,139.72

General Reserve	11,346.98	
<b>Total Reserves Held</b>	<b>£20,486.70</b>	

## Dorchester Rural East Neighbourhood Policing Team Crime Report

January 2025

Dear Councillors,

Below is a breakdown of crimes/incidents that have occurred in your areas during the month of January.

**N.B.** Any crimes/incidents of a sensitive nature are not in this report, e.g., of a personal nature or which may identify individuals. Road traffic incidents are also not included in this report.

- We continue to patrol all areas and are using social media to keep members of the public apprised of our actions.

Dorchester NPT website address is [Dorchester | Your area | Dorset Police | Dorset Police](#)

Our Face Book Page address is: [www.facebook.com/DorchesterPolice/](http://www.facebook.com/DorchesterPolice/)

Our Twitter Page is: <https://twitter.com/DorchesterPolice>

Our Instagram Page is: <https://www.instagram.com/dorchesterpolice/>

Dorset Alert messaging system registration to receive messages is:

<https://www.dorsetalert.co.uk/pages/2451/1/Register.html>

Contacting Dorset Police (non-emergency)

Do it Online: [Contact us | Dorset Police](#)

Telephone: 101 \*(Calls to the **101** non-emergency number from both landlines and mobiles are free)

To report information to the police with 100% anonymity, contact the independent charity

Crimestoppers online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) or call Freephone 0800 555 111

### **DFCA**

#### **Broadmayne Parish Council:**

No Reports made

#### **Knightsford Parish Council (Tincton/West Knighton/West Stafford/Woodsford):**

17/01/2025 West Knighton – theft of vehicle – recovered.

21/01/2025 West Knighton – burglary – under investigation

### **DFCB**

#### **Crossways Parish Council:**

08/01/2025 Theft of fuel from new building estate.

10/01/2025 Youths playing “chicken” on Dick O’ The Banks Road – unable to identify youths involved.

28/02/2025 Male drove into open parked car door – arrested and under investigation.

\*\*\*Concern over the increased reports of youths in the remote areas around Crossways and risks involved around possible drug use, climbing the hay bales and crossing the railway lines. This has been under reported and it would be useful if members of the public could report when seen. This could indicate a pattern and identify the best times to patrol to engage and take any necessary positive action with the youths. \*\*\*\*\*

**Osmington Parish Council:**

13/01/2025 Removal of sign from closed coastal path

**Owermoigne Parish Council:**

No formal reports made but information supplied that youths were hanging around a barn late at night (23:30) at Gallows Hill.

**DFCC**

**Cheselbourne Parish Council:**

12/01/2025 Out of control beagle type dogs.

**Dewlish Parish Council:**

No Reports

**Puddletown/Tolpuddle/Athelhampton/Burleston Parish Council:**

03/01/2025 Puddletown - (Occurred between 27/12/2024 16:30 – 01/01/2025 21:00) – car handle forced open. Nothing stolen.

08-01-2025 Warren Hill - Theft of Quad Bike

14/01/2025 Tolpuddle – theft of tools from garage

18/01/2025 Tolpuddle – report of vehicle acting suspiciously in area, no vehicle registration seen, no make/model supplied. Described as having a cage on the back like a jeep and was driving up and down the road, stopping outside different houses.

25/01/2025 Piddlehinton – hunt in area

**DFCD**

**Buckland Newton Parish Council:**

No Reports

**Melcombe Bingham Parish Council:**

No Reports

**Piddle Valley Parish Council:**

18/01/2025 Bourne Park – theft of waste tank

18/01/2025 Bourne Park – report of suspected illegal hunt

**COMMUNITY CONTACT POINTS**

The scheduled Contact Points are:

07-02-2025 Puddletown – Spar Stores 16:30 – 17:30

**There is no scheduled Community Contact Point in March 2025 as I am on annual leave for the whole month.**

A Community Contact Point is a pop-up event where you can speak to me to discuss an issue and receive crime prevention advice. You can also report a crime (incident) or discuss any issues affecting you or your community.

This is a drop-in style event with no need to make an appointment.

There may be additional Community Contact Point other than shown above and these will be advertised by Dorchester Police on the Dorset Police website and the Dorchester Police Facebook Page.



## **CYBER CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 Crossways Library 13:00 – 14:00. This will be a drop-in style event and the Cyber Crime Protect and Prevention Officer, Hannah Bird, will be in attendance.

Hannah is knowledgeable on the subject and is willing to answer any technical questions that attendees may have.

If this is a success, it may be possible to arrange a similar event in other villages, please let me know if your villages are interested and provide me with a contact point so that I can discuss with them. The Cyber Crime events can be done as a drop-in style of a more formal presentation with a Q & A session.

## **IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING INCIDENTS**

Please report any incidents either via 101 or online via the Contact Us Section on the Dorset Police Website:

[Contact us | Dorset Police](#)

Dorset Police does not have the ability to monitor Community social media groups and valuable intelligence is missed.

In addition, if there is an ongoing problem, for example anti-social behaviour, I am unable to seek support for additional police resources to address the issues.

Regards

PCSO 6500 Alison Donnison

Dorchester East Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team