

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 Full Council Meeting of the Dewlish Parish Council to be held on **Monday 25th March 2024 commencing 7.30pm** at Dewlish Village Hall.

A Crocker.

Amanda Crocker, Clerk

AGENDA

1. Public participation period
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declaration of pecuniary and other interests
4. Minutes of previous meeting dated 26th February 2024
5. Matters Arising from previous minutes for report only
6. To receive the Dorset Councillor's report
7. To receive reports on the following matters and to agree actions
 - (a) Planning There were no applications at the time of this agenda
 - (b) Police, Traffic and Roads – No new report received
 - (c) Parish Amenities and Rights of Way
 - (i) To receive an update on the grants for tree planting
 - (ii) To receive an update on The Green, including land registration
 - (iii) To receive an update on the Volunteer Working party
8. To authorise the payment of accounts and confirm the reconciliation of accounts and position against budget
9. To receive an update on the D-Day commemoration and confirm the limit of any financial liability if the events do not break even
10. Parish Councillors' reports on items not covered by the agenda
11. To consider future number of Parish Council meetings
12. Agenda items for the next meeting
13. Date of Next Meeting - 22nd April 2024 at 7.30pm

Report to the Parish Council February 2024

Cllr Jill Haynes. Chalk Valleys Ward

Council Tax Premium on Second homes and empty houses in Dorset

I was pleased to present the paper to full council on this matter and to have received the support of fellow councillors at full council.

For those properties classified as Long-Term Empty and Unoccupied a 100% premium will, from 1 April 2024, this will be applied after one year rather than the existing 2 years.

The introduction of the 100% council tax premium on second homes will come into effect on 1 April 2025, making a total council tax charge of 200%. Unlike empty dwellings, there is no requirement for a property to have been used as a second home for a fixed period of time before the premium can apply so it becomes chargeable from day one that a property is considered a second home (or dwelling periodically occupied).

Where exceptions are provided for in law and once final regulations have been provided, Dorset Council will adopt and apply such exceptions. The council website will be updated as soon as this information is available.

The additional funding will be distributed to all precepting authorities and Dorset Council are looking to spend a percentage of the new monies on affordable homes.

Voters encouraged to get their ID ready ahead of this year's local elections

Residents are reminded that they will need be registered to vote and show an approved form of photo ID when they go to the polling stations on 2 May to elect for Dorset Council councillors as well as Town and Parish Councils.

The Police and Crime Commissioner elections also takes place on the same day.

Following the Elections Act 2022, photographic identification is a mandatory requirement for everyone voting at polling stations.

Residents will also need photo ID to vote at parliamentary general elections, expected to be called sometime this year.

Various forms of photo ID are accepted, including a driving licence, passport, Older Person's Bus Pass, a blue badge or Disabled Person's Bus Pass. The full list of accepted ID can be found [here](#).

Residents can also use an expired ID as long as the photograph is still a good likeness.

For those without accepted photo ID, a [free Voter Authority Certificate can be obtained online](#). Applications must be submitted by Wednesday, 24 April to be processed in time for the 2 May elections. The Voter Authority Certificate is valid for 10 years and is valid for all elections.

If you need further guidance, you can also contact the Electoral services team on:

Email: elections@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01305 838299

To cast your vote in the upcoming elections, you must be registered by Tuesday, 16 April, 2024. If you're not already registered, you can complete the process on the [Government's website](#). Voters only need to register once, unless they have changed their name or address.

Postal votes:

There is no need for people to provide photo ID if you vote by post, but you will need to give your National Insurance number and date of birth.

Once your [postal vote](#) is set up, whenever an election, referendum or poll at which you are entitled to vote is called, you will be sent a postal poll card giving details of the forthcoming election, referendum or poll. This will be followed by a postal vote pack.

Bike It Plus

More children are now cycling to school in Dorset thanks to the success of the Bike It Plus project, says a [new report](#).

Bike It Plus, which is funded by Dorset Council and run by the charity [Sustrans](#), has been working with schools across Dorset to help encourage more young people to walk, cycle or wheel to school. In the past year, the project has supported over 36 schools to deliver fun and engaging activities that boost the skill levels of young people in walking, wheeling or cycling. Giving children and their parents the confidence and ability to travel to and from school actively.

The sessions have proven to be very popular and last year were attended by over 15,000 children, staff and parents. As a result, over 470 children in the county have been supported to learn how to ride a bike or improve their cycling skills. According to the project, this has led to an increase in the number of children now travelling to school by active means.

The team recently surveyed schools supported through the project and over 65% of respondents said they had seen a rise in the number of pupils now using an active mode of transport to get to school.

Council approves a balanced budget

Dorset Council's budget of £377 million for 2024-25 has been approved by councillors at the Full Council meeting on 13 February. This continues the council's commitment to maintain frontline services, without the need for cuts to balance the budget.

This year's budget setting exercise once again took place against a national background of extreme pressures for councils. These pressures include the high level of inflation which affects the cost of delivering council services, and also the continued growth in need for services that we provide to some of our most vulnerable residents.

Dorset Council provides around 450 different services to just under 380,000 residents. While Dorset Council is not in the same financial position as many other councils across the UK, council tax will increase next year by just under 3 per cent and the adult social care precept by 2 per cent this is essential to ensure that services are not cut. The increase is equivalent to £1.82 extra per week for a Band D property.

**Dewlish Parish Council
Payments Requested - March 2024**

Date	Payee	Comments	Folio	Precept £
19.03.24	HMRC	March 2024 PAYE	BACS027	40.60
19.03.24	Mth12	A Crocker March 24 wages	BACS028	231.14
Total amount requested				271.74

**Dewlish Parish Council
Reconciliation of Accounts**

Balance b/fwd		From 31.03.23		11135.50
	Add:	Income year to date		13950.72
	Less:	Expenditure to date		4568.95
Balance as at 19.03.24				20517.27
Funded by:				
	Deposit account	00260298	335.34	
	Current account	01230392	20453.67	
				20789.01
Add:	Uncleared Income			0.00
19.03.24	HMRC	March 2024 PAY	BACS027	40.60
19.03.24	A Crocker	March 2024 salary	BACS028	231.14
				271.74
Balance as at 19.03.24				20517.27
Difference				0.00

