

NETHERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

22 JULY 2025 at 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr. Richard King (Chair), Cllr. Peter Bailey, Cllr. Luke Larder, Cllr. Ryan Strong, Cllr. Kevin Goodfellow, Cllr. Yvonne Dyke, Cllr. Clare Handford, Cllr. Chris David, and Cllr. Mark Roberts.

ATTENDANCE: Cllr. Neil Eysenck (Dorset Council), Helen Cudmore (Acting Clerk). There was one member of the public in attendance. The meeting was held in St. Mary's Church, Netherbury.

1. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bowditch and Rogers and from PCSO Alex Bishop and approved by the Council.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS – TO REVIEW AND APPROVE

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 27 May 2025 were confirmed as a true record, unanimously approved by the Council and duly signed by Councillor King.

4. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTION LIST UPDATE

a. Tower Hill carriageway edge collapse, Netherbury

The Acting Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Edward Morello MP, with a reply received from Ian Newport at Dorset Council offering a site meeting. Councillor King expressed disappointment with the response. Councillor Eysenck reported he had also written to Ian Newport, copying in key figures, raising concerns about poor communication, including the ongoing Tower Hill issue. He read the response from Ian Newport, who acknowledged the concerns, agreed communication needs improvement, and welcomed further discussion. It was agreed that a further letter be sent to Edward Morello MP expressing disappointment in the response from Dorset Council and a separate letter be sent to the Chief Executive of Dorset Council.

b. The Weir, Netherbury

Following on from the meeting with Dorset Council and the Environment Agency, it was agreed to arrange a meeting between the Parish Council and the owner of the Mill House in August to discuss this matter further. The Acting Clerk reported that Dorset Council had agreed to repair the handrail and step leading down from the Church to the Weir.

c. Removal of broken bench and purchase of replacement bench

The Acting Clerk reported a quote of £585 + VAT for a replacement bench. Councillor David noted two unused benches outside Melplash Village Hall that may be suitable. It was agreed

Councillor Bailey would ask the Lengthsman to assess them for relocation. Councillor Bailey also confirmed a quote of £60 had been received from the Lengthsman to rotate the speed indicator device (SID). A member of the public expressed interest in volunteering. Councillor David to explore potential new volunteers, and the Acting Clerk agreed to contact current volunteers to check how often the SID is rotated.

Himalayan Balsam

The Acting Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Symondsbury Parish Council seeking partnership working to help eradicate Himalayan Balsam from the River Simene and its tributaries, potentially with support from the Brit Valley Project. As an invasive species, Himalayan Balsam harms river ecosystems and contributes to soil erosion and reduced water quality. Symondsbury Parish Council would be interested in attending a future Parish Council meeting or arranging a smaller meeting with Councillors to discuss next steps. It was agreed to extend an invitation to the September meeting.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

6. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT, COUNCILLOR NEIL EYSENCK

Councillor Eysenck presented his report to the Parish Council.

Household Recycling Centre Booking System: Partial roll-out confirmed; Bridport excluded for now. Main driver is financial efficiency, including cross-boundary charging and trade waste control. General acceptance from Dorset Council that communications were poor.

Ward Boundaries: Dorset Council to request electoral review by the Boundary Commission and establish a cross-party task group.

Audit & Governance: Procurement issues under investigation; significant control failings identified. Media interest likely once further details are public.

Councillor Bailey thanked Councillor Eysenck for providing clarity regarding the C18 closure (Dottery to Mead Farm), as residents had raised concerns that the displayed notices only stated a full two-week closure, with no mention of morning or evening access or other arrangements for affected properties. This has led to significant confusion over property access during the works.

7. DORSET POLICE REPORT

The Acting Clerk read aloud the report from PCSO Bishop which in summary stated that a suspicious male was reported on a property in Waytown on 2 July. No further incidents, but residents are urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to Dorset Police or call 999 if a crime is in progress. Councillor King reported that PCSO Bishop had responded regarding the syringe found by the Church and that he had agreed to speak to colleagues, monitor the area, and keep an eye on nearby laybys in case of drug dealing.

8. ACCOUNTS

a. To receive and approve the Finance Report

The Acting Clerk presented the Finance Report and stated that the current balance as of 8 July was £22,038.90. There were no questions.

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Handford, seconded by Councillor David and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved the Finance Report.

b. To approve payment of £400.00 for Bridport and District Citizens Advice (Grant)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bailey, seconded by Councillor Handford and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payment 8b.

c. To approve payment of £728.08 for DAPTC (Annual Subscription)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Strong, seconded by Councillor Handford and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously approved payment 8c.

d. To note payment of £36.00 for CB Reid (Payroll May 2025)

e. To note payment of £170.00 for HMRC (NI)

f. To note payment of £495.00 for H Cudmore (Clerk Support)

g. To note payment of £39.00 for Netherbury Village Hall (Reading Room Hire)

h. To note payment of £36.00 for CB Reid (Payroll June 2025)

Resolved: Proposed by Councillor Bailey, seconded by Councillor Handford and agreed by a show of hands, the Council unanimously noted payments 8d to 8h.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications received and circulated for consultation

None.

b. Other Applications

Councillor King reported that a planning application for 85 houses at Parnham House, mostly in North Park, but some to be located on the other side of the river is expected to be submitted to Dorset Council in August. Ed Grant, Senior Project Manager had requested to attend the July meeting, but due to short notice and the matter not being on the agenda, Councillor King confirmed that he has invited him to the September meeting. If the consultation deadline falls before then and no extension is granted, an extraordinary meeting or public meeting will be convened to allow parishioners the opportunity to comment and ask questions. Councillor Handford will attend a meeting at Parnham House on behalf of the Parish Council the next day. A public meeting will be held on 29 July in Beaminster, where plans will be on display. Although North Park is outside the Parish, the Acting Clerk confirmed with Dorset Council that Netherbury Parish Council will be consulted as an adjacent parish. Councillor King stated that the proposed application is based on 'enabling development'.

c. Results

None.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Acting Clerk reported that the next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 23 September at The Reading Room, Netherbury.

11. CLOSE

The meeting of the Parish Council was formally closed at 8.39 pm, Councillor King thanked everyone for attending and for their participation.

DRAFT