

CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
Wardon Hill Farm, Long Ash Lane, Dorchester, DT2 9PW
Tel: 07855 396073 Email: clerk@cheselbourneparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.cheselbournepc.org.uk

Dear Councillor,

25th February 2025

I hereby give notice that the next meeting of Cheselbourne Parish Council will be held at **7.00 pm on Monday, 3rd March 2025** at Cheselbourne Village Hall

All members of the Council are summoned to attend for the purpose of considering and resolving the business to be transacted at the Meeting as set out in the agenda. Members of the press and public are welcome.

A Crocker

Amanda Crocker
Clerk to the Parish Council

AGENDA

1. Public participation
2. To receive apologies for absence
3. Declarations of Interest.
4. Approve minutes of the meeting held 6th January 2025
5. Matters arising from those minutes for report only
6. Dorset Council Councillor's report – report attached
7. PCSO's report – report attached
8. Finance
 - (a) To agree the payment of accounts
 - (b) To accept the reconciliation of accounts and position against budget – report attached
 - (c) To consider the transfer of underspent budgets to Ear Marked Reserves
9. Planning Applications
 - (a) P/FUL/2025/00050 3 Brook Green – Continue use of land as garden. Retain existing retaining walls & structures, erect additional retaining wall and associated works – 12.02.25 – Objection submitted due to loss of privacy for neighbouring property, also assurance sought for future permitted development. 12.02.25. The date for comments has been extended to 3rd March 2025.
 - (b) P/HOU/2025/00330 Doe Cottage, Streetway Lane – Widening vehicular access and erection of new gates and fence – Closing date 12th February 2025 – Support submitted, no comments 04.02.25
 - (c) P/FUL/2024/07615 Nettlecombe Farm – Erect 1 dwelling & car port & associated landscaping. Change of use of land from agricultural to residential – Closing date 4th February 2025 – Support submitted with comment in respect of the Dorset Council dark sky initiative 04.02.25
 - (d) P/FUL/2024/06549 Lyscombe Farm - Change of use and conversion of farm building to form a dwelling (use class C3). Conversion and demolition of vacant farm buildings to form a volunteer hub and car park. Demolition of modern farm buildings and change of use of agricultural yard to meadow – To receive an update on site meeting.

10. Parish Councillors' reports

11. To receive an update on the PlusBus initiative

12. To receive an update on the EV Charging points

13. To receive an update on the 20mph speed limit reduction

14. To receive an update on the play park :

(a) Play park inspections – to consider any work necessary

15. To receive an update on the new .gov.uk domain and emails

16. To consider a Social Media Policy and how best to use existing social media

17. To consider items for the Annual Parish Meeting

18. Date of next meeting – 6th May – this will be the Parish Council Annual Meeting and will follow the Annual Parish Meeting

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 as 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 goes 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 they are 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.

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/

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 or call Freephone 0800 555 111

DFCA

Broadmayne Parish Council:

No Reports made

Knightsford Parish Council (Tincleton/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 21st 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

Item 8 (a)

Payments requested March 2025

Payments requests - March 2025

Date	Pay Ref	Payee	Description	£
10.12.24	BACS079	A Wallis & Son	Christmas Treet	60.00
22.01.25	DDR	Hugo Fox	Web hosting	11.99
22.01.25	BACS080	DAPTC	Budget training 12.11.24	35.00
28.01.25	BACS081	DAPTC	NPPF update 23.01.25	8.75
28.01.25	BACS082	DAPTC	NPPF update 23.01.25	70.00
24.02.25	BACS083	HMRC	Jan/Feb25 PAYE	86.20
24.02.25	BACS084	A Crocker	Jan/Feb25 salary	395.20
Total payments requested				667.14

Item 8 (b)

Cheselbourne Parish Council Reconciliation of Accounts

Year ending March 2025

Balance b/fwd	From	31.03.23	3997.45	
Add:	Income year to date		7582.87	
Less:	Expenditure to date		7332.69	
Balance as at 24th February 2025			4247.63	
Funded by:				
Deposit account	00127318	3607.07		
Current account	00335425	1191.21		
			4798.28	
Add:	Uncleared Income			
				0.00
Less	Uncleared cheques			
	Dorset Tree & Garden	Grass cutting - play area and green		
22.05.24	Care		200.00	
22.01.25	DAPTC	Budget training 12.11.24	35.00	
28.01.25	DAPTC	NPPF update 23.01.25	8.75	
28.01.25	DAPTC	NPPF update 23.01.25	70.00	
	DAPTC	Whole councillor training	-244.50	To be refunded
24.02.25	HMRC	January/February 2025 PAYE	86.20	
24.02.25	A Crocker	January/February 2025 salary	395.20	
			550.65	
Balance as at 24th February 2025			4247.63	
	Difference		0.00	

**Cheselbourne Parish
Council
Budget Monitoring for the year ended 31st March
2025**

Description	2024/25 Budget	Actual	Balance	
<u>Receipts</u>	-			
Account Interest	60.00	37.33	(22.67)	
Precept	5,818.00	5,818.00	0.00	
			0.00	
Play park income		85.88	85.88	
Donations		159.73	159.73	
Grants		0.00	0.00	
VAT refunded		1,481.93	1,481.93	
Total receipts	5,878.00	7,582.87	1,704.87	0.00
<u>Payments</u>				
DAPTC Subs. + other subs	135.00	249.32	(114.32)	
Insurance	300.00	585.22	(285.22)	
Training	200.00	437.25	(237.25)	
Wages - Clerk	2,600.00	2,531.40	68.60	
Mileage	60.00	72.73	(12.73)	
IT	300.00	316.87	(16.87)	
Administration	150.00	618.41	(468.41)	
Venue hire	72.00	72.00	0.00	
Grass cutting - village	550.00	250.00	300.00	EMR
Play park	500.00	1,170.00	(670.00)	
Christmas tree	60.00	50.00	10.00	
Wreath	25.00	0.00	25.00	
Defibrillator	126.00	0.00	126.00	
Village maintenance	200.00	85.44	114.56	EMR
Grants	100.00	0.00	100.00	EMR
Environmental Services	50.00	0.00	50.00	
Contingencies	100.00	633.11	(533.11)	
Election costs	50.00	50.00	0.00	
CAG	300.00	0.00	300.00	EMR
VAT (refundable)		210.94	(210.94)	
Total payments	0.00	5,878.00	7,332.69	0.00
Balance b/fwd from			Monies held in	
31.03.23	3,997.45		bank	4,798.28
Income	7582.87			
		11,580.32		
Earmarked Reserves			Add: Income not cleared	
Climate Action Group	731.78		Less: Chqs not cleared	(550.65)
Play park improvement	712.26			
		1,444.04	Earmarked funds	(1,444.04)
Expenses to date	7,332.69			
		7,332.69		
Balance available not yet committed	2,803.59		General Reserve	2,803.59
				0.00

CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY****Introduction**

The adoption of the Code of Conduct sets out how Councillors of Cheselbourne Parish Council (the Council) are expected to uphold high standards when carrying out their duties.

This Social Media Policy is intended to help Councillors make appropriate decisions about the use of social media, and to outline the Council's position on various aspects of its use, particularly the response to comments made by members of the public when using social media sites particularly, the Cheselbourne WhatsApp Group and Facebook page.

It includes standards and guidelines for Councillors and the Parish Clerk to observe when using social media as a channel for communication, the management of public comments, and the action to be taken in respect to breaches of this policy.

This policy covers all forms of social media and social networking sites which include (but are not limited to):

- The Council's website.
- Facebook, WhatsApp and other social networking sites.
- Youtube and other video clips and podcast sites.
- Blogs and discussion forums.
- Email.

This policy supplements, and should be read in conjunction, with all other policies and procedures adopted by the Council. This policy may be amended at any time.

How Social Media will be used by the Council

Social media may be used for:

- Engagement with individuals and communities for the promotion of Council services, decisions and actions.
- Distribute in whole or part information from council notices, agendas, approved minutes and dates of meetings
- Information specifically agreed to be communicated via social media at Council meetings.
- Advertising events and activities that the Council has organised or co-organised, or supports as being beneficial for the community.
- Sharing news stories relevant to the local area.
- Announcing new information relevant to people living in or around the local area.

- Providing and exchanging information about local services and events
- Gathering local residents' insights and views.
- Re-sharing relevant information from partner agencies such as Principal Authorities, Police, Health etc.
- Re-sharing relevant information from local community groups for community benefit such as information from community associations, community groups, schools, sports clubs, and charities.
- Post or re-share other items as the Council sees fit.

Refer resident queries via social media to the Parish Clerk for wider dissemination to Councillors or directly to Councillors, as necessary.

Councillors and the Parish Clerk should be aware that not all communication through social media requires a response, although an acknowledgement should be made if appropriate.

The Council uses social media so that it can receive information from and pass information to residents as quickly as possible. Social media accounts will not necessarily be checked daily and posts will not necessarily be responded to.

While the Council is keen to hear residents' views, it will not be able to take comments made on social media accounts as official comments, particularly on planning applications.

Whatever Councillors and the Parish Clerk post online will remain there for a long time; therefore, ensure that privacy is protected at all times and check the terms of use on any website used. If there is a discussion relating to the Council or any other matter, it is essential that a Councillor and/or the Parish Clerk are the first to point out that they may have an interest in the topic and identify themselves appropriately including with the capacity in which they are speaking.

In any discussion, Councillors and the Parish Clerk must identify themselves and make it clear that they are speaking as an individual and not as a Councillor or the Parish Clerk (unless authorised to do so by the Parish Council). Consideration should be given to the use of a disclaimer: e.g. 'The postings on this site are my own view and do not necessarily represent the views of Cheselbourne Parish Council.'

Any comments that do not uphold the obligations set out in the adopted Code of Conduct may be considered to be a matter to report to the Monitoring Officer who may be appointed from time to time by the Council.

Who is covered by this policy

All Councillors and the Parish Clerk are expected to comply with this policy at all times to protect the reputation, privacy, confidentiality, and interests of the Council, its services, partners and the community.

Individual Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk are personally responsible for what they post, both in a council and personal capacity. It is essential that Councillors and the Parish Clerk speak in the first person. If a Councillor or the Parish Clerk have identified themselves as being affiliated with the Parish Council, it is essential that any information given is up to date and in line with the guidelines in this document and the Code of Conduct.

In the main, Councillors and council staff have the same legal duties online as anyone else, but failure to comply with the law may have more serious consequences.

Code of Practice

When using social media, Councillors and the Parish Clerk must be mindful of the information they post in both a personal and council capacity and keep the tone of any comments respectful and informative.

No one should post comments that they would not be prepared to make in writing or face-to-face.

When participating in online communication, Councillors and the Parish Clerk must:

- Be responsible and respectful, ensuring posts are positive, informative and balanced.
- Respect the privacy of other Councillors, the Parish Clerk and residents.
- Keep the tone of comments respectful and informative.
- Be objective, balanced, informative and accurate.
- Spell and grammar check everything

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. Next due xxxxxxxx 2026.