

**CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Wardon Hill Farm, Long Ash Lane, Dorchester, DT2 9PW**  
**Tel: 07855 396073    Email: [cheselbourne@dorset-aptc.gov.uk](mailto:cheselbourne@dorset-aptc.gov.uk)**  
**[www.cheselbournepc.org.uk](http://www.cheselbournepc.org.uk)**

Dear Councillor,

31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

I hereby give notice that the next meeting of Cheselbourne Parish Council will be held at **7.00 pm on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 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 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024
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 agree the budget for the year 2025-2026, set the Precept and review the reserves held
  - (d) To agree the appointment of an auditor for the year 2025/26
9. Planning Applications

P/FUL/2024/06549    Lyscombe Farm  
Change of use & conversion of farm building to dwelling. Conversion of vacant farm buildings to form volunteer hub and car park. Demolish modern farm buildings and change of use of agricultural yard to meadow
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 public consultation
14. To receive an update on the play park :
  - (a) Play park inspections – to consider any work necessary
15. To consider a response to the consultation on Standards in Public Life and Conduct – report attached

16. To receive an update on the new .gov.uk domain and emails
17. To consider meeting dates for 2025-2026
18. Date of next meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

**Report to the parish council 19/12/24**  
**Cllr Jill Haynes Chalk Valleys Ward**

Dear Clerks, councillors and members of the public,  
 Please find my report for Dorset Council for the end of the year. It has been a time of considerable change with both a new government and a new administration at Dorset Council. We are now starting to see some of the changes central government are looking to make and to be quite honest none of it looks very favourable to rural areas.

**Budget 2025/6**

Last week we held a budget day to try to understand what the changes will mean to Dorset Council's budget. We understand that next financial year we just get a single year settlement but from 26/7 onwards they will be multi-year – possibly three years at a time which at least helps with continuity planning. There are some areas we are going to lose funding and some positives. All the figures we are talking about at the council are very large and it is sometimes difficult to comprehend the challenge to balance a budget of this size.

We have already been told that we will be losing the Rural Services Delivery Grant of £3.2M. This was to help with the extra costs associated with delivering services in a rural and sparsely populated area. This will be a big blow to the council.

We should be gaining £2.9M to help the NHS with adult's social care discharges.

We hope to have a new prevention grant of £1M in Children's Services, but this has yet to be confirmed

The Extended Producer Responsibility legislation is all about packaging waste and now producers will have to pay for the collection and removal/recycling of that waste rather than the council doing this at a cost to the taxpayer. This will save the council about £7M

We are anticipating a New Homes Bonus as a one-off grant of £3.2M. The bulk of this will go to our housing association partners to help provide social housing.

You will have seen the employer rise in National Insurance contributions in the budget this is going to be covered for the council for this year by a Government grant of about £4M. However, it does not cover the additional cost to our suppliers which I'm sure they will want to pass onto the council, and this equates to a cost increase of about £6M.

Each year the council reviews the actual cost to provide our statutory services and those demand lead services like Adult Social Care and Children's social care.

This year the current administration is looking to set a budget of £380M for the whole council. Within this budget there is increased spend in the following areas:

**\*£15M into Adult Social care**

A 10% increase in the spent to reflect the additional 500 people who needed these services this year bringing a total receiving services to some 4400. This is one of our biggest areas to control spend and we have such an elderly population, however, through good preventative work we have managed to bring down the predicted spend of £210M to £175M still scary figures!

**\*£4M for children's services. (5% increase)**

Since 2022 we have managed to reduce the number of children in care by 90 Children and our total number of children in care now is 385 – this includes foster care. This prevention work and working early on with families has provided cost avoidance of at least £6M and the council's children's services are considered an exemplar in the country.

**\*£4M for place-based services. (4% increase)**

This includes our roads and waste collection services and as more houses are built so the cost of providing these services increases.

We transport 7800 children daily to school!!! The budget for our school transport including SEND (special needs) children is a hugely scary £40M. For years this budget has been extremely difficult to control, and the budget has risen year on year. This year after some excellent collaborative work

across the directorates there is a £1M underspend on the budget. I believe we are the only council in the country to have gained control of this part of the budget.

In addition, the administration is looking to put aside an additional £18M to use for contingency and adding headroom to reserves.

The Council is still awaiting the confirmation of the government settlement but with the ballpark figures above the administration are looking a budget gap of about £49M for next year.

The way this gap will be addressed will be part of the budget setting process in January when the council have had confirmation of the government figures. Areas to be covered will include possible savings from prevention work across the council, income generation, commercial opportunities and a review of services provided.

The budget process is never easy but despite all the good work this year looks like it is going to one of the most difficult I have ever encountered.

### **Devolution Deal**

It looks as if the council is likely to progress with a submission for a Devolution Deal. Dorset is looking to work with Somerset and Wiltshire councils to form a "Heart of Wessex Mayoral Strategic Authority" following the release of the Devolution White Paper. This is likely to bring increased investment and funding to our council areas and see additional powers handed down to the region from central government. However, the Government are insisting that this comes with another layer of bureaucracy, and we will be expected to have an elected Mayor and a mayors office for the region.

### **Chief Executive is leaving us.**

After many years at both West Dorset District Council and then as the CEO of Dorset Council Matt Prosser is leaving us to take up a new role as CEO of Wellington Council New Zealand. Matt has always been a champion for Dorset and successfully led us through local government reorganisation to for a unitary council. I wish him every success in his new job on the other side of the world.

It only leaves me to say a Merry Christmas to everyone and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Best wishes Jill

## Dorchester Rural East Neighbourhood Policing Team Crime Report

November 2024 (covers up to 29/11/2024)

Dear Councillors,

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

***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.

- 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

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

20/11/2024 West Stafford – fly-tipping of house clearance – advised to contact Environmental Health @ Dorset County Council as they are the lead agency for fly-tipping.

### DFCB

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

07/11/2024 Woodsford Quarry – theft of fuel.

08/11/2024 Crossways – damage to front garden wall.

23/11/2024 Crossways -break to Co-op store

23/11/2024 Crossways – theft of motorbike

#### **Osmington Parish Council:**

09/11/2024 Osmington - fireworks being let off near an animal sanctuary. (3 reports)

29/11/2024 Osmington – theft of number plates from front and rear of vehicle

**Owermoigne Parish Council:**

04/11/2024 Galton Garden Centre – shoplifting of Christmas lights.

**DFCC**

**Cheselbourne Parish Council:**

No Reports

**Dewlish Parish Council:**

No Reports

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

04/11/2024 Report of fireworks causing alarm to local livestock

05/11/2024 Puddletown Forest – theft from motor vehicle

**DFCD**

**Buckland Newton Parish Council:**

08/11/2024 Duntish Oaks – Damage to Speed Indicator Device

**Melcombe Bingham Parish Council:**

No Reports

**Piddle Valley Parish Council:**

04/11/2024 Enterprise Park - Unit broken into over the weekend.

05/11/2024 Piddltrenthide – break to van – new motorbike and child's motorbike stolen.

05/11/2024 Piddletrenthide – theft from motor vehicle, cigarettes

10/11/2024 Piddlehinton – petrol thrown in traveller site.

20/11/2024 Enterprise Park – request from RSPCA to conduct welfare visit on horses at location.

**COMMUNITY CONTACT POINTS**

The scheduled Contact Points are:

13-11-2024 Broadmayne – Corner Stores Village Shop 15:00 – 16:00 (apologies that this was cancelled at short notice due to illness). However new CCP event held 29/11/2024. Concerns raised were the speed of vehicles through the village and vehicles mounting the pavement opposite the shop, rather than waiting for the road to be clear.

13-12-2024 Puddletown – Spar Shop 16:30 – 17:30

10-01-2025 Crossways – Premier Stores 17:00 – 18:00

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

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.

[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

**ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2025**

**PLAYPARK**

Cllr Roger Hall is now carrying out a monthly inspection of the Play Park and his report is sent to the Parish Clerk on or around the 18th of each month. If any remedial action is needed, members will be advised as soon as possible. The Play Park steering group has been advised.

**GRIT BINS**

Following the snow which fell in late November, the grit bins have been inspected and where necessary, top ups of the grit have been ordered from Dorset Council.

## Item 15(a)

### Payments requests - January 2025

Date	Pay Ref	Payee	Description	£
			Whole councillor training	
20.11.24	BACS073	DAPTC	16.11.24	244.50
22.11.24	DDR	Hugo Fox	Web hosting	11.99
03.12.24	BACS074	DAPTC	Planning training - A Taylor	30.00
12.12.24	BACS075	Dorset Council	Election recharge	50.00
27.12.24	BACS076	HMRC	Nov/Dec 2024 PAYE	86.20
27.12.24	BACS077	A Crocker	Nov/Dec 2024 salary	380.15
		<b>Total payments requested</b>		<b>802.84</b>

## Item 15 (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		7576.65
Less:	Expenditure to date		6555.56
<b>Balance as at 27th December 2024</b>			<b>5018.54</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>			
Deposit account	00127318	3600.85	
Current account	00335425	2164.04	
			5764.89
<b>Add:</b>	Uncleared Income		
			0.00
<b>Less</b>	<b>Uncleared cheques</b>		
	Dorset Tree & Garden	Grass cutting - play area and green	
22.05.24	Care		200.00
03.12.24	DAPTC	Planning training 26.11.24	30.00
12.12.24	Dorset Council	Election recharge	50.00
		November/December 2024	
27.12.24	HMRC	PAYE	86.20
		November/December 2024	
27.12.24	A Crocker	salary	380.15
			746.35
<b>Balance as at 27th December 2024</b>			<b>5018.54</b>
	Difference		0.00

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

Description	2024/25 Budget	Actual	Balance	
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	-			
Account Interest	60.00	31.11	(28.89)	
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	
<b>Total receipts</b>	5,878.00	7,576.65	1,698.65	0.00
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
DAPTC Subs. + other subs	135.00	249.32	(114.32)	
Insurance	300.00	585.22	(285.22)	
Training	200.00	323.50	(123.50)	
Wages - Clerk	2,600.00	2,100.60	499.40	
Mileage	60.00	55.36	4.64	
IT	300.00	196.89	103.11	
Administration	150.00	586.64	(436.64)	
Venue hire	72.00	72.00	0.00	
Grass cutting - village	550.00	250.00	300.00	
Play park	500.00	1,170.00	(670.00)	
Christmas tree	60.00	0.00	60.00	
Wreath	25.00	0.00	25.00	
Defibrillator	126.00	0.00	126.00	
Village maintenance	200.00	85.44	114.56	
Grants	100.00	0.00	100.00	
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	
VAT (refundable)		197.48	(197.48)	
<b>Total payments</b>	0.00 5,878.00	6,555.56	(677.56)	0.00
Balance b/fwd from			Monies held in	
31.03.23	3,997.45		bank	5,764.89
Income	7576.65			
	11,574.10			
Earmarked Reserves		Add:	Income not cleared	
Climate Action Group	731.78	Less:	Chqs not cleared	(746.35)
Play park improvement	712.26			
	1,444.04		Earmarked funds	(1,444.04)
Expenses to date	6,555.56			
	6,555.56			
<b>Balance available not yet committed</b>	<b>3,574.50</b>		<b>General Reserve</b>	<b>3,574.50</b>
				0.00

## Budget Proposal for the year ended 31st March 2026

Description	2024/25 Budget	Actual to date	Forecast	2025-26 Proposal	
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>					
Account Interest	60.00	25.10	25.10		No interest from 24.01.25
Precept	5,818.00	5,818.00	5,818.00		
Play park income		85.88	85.88		
Donations		159.73	159.73		
Grants					
Misc income					
VAT refunded		1,481.93	1,781.93		
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>5,878.00</b>	<b>7,570.64</b>	<b>7,870.64</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b><u>Payments</u></b>					
DAPTC Subs. + other subs	135.00	249.32	249.32	350.00	30% increase re DAPTC Account charge of £4.50 a month
Bank charges				54.00	
Insurance	300.00	585.22	585.22	630.00	
Training	200.00	49.00	200.00	400.00	7% increase
Wages - Clerk	2,600.00	1,669.80	2,746.80	3,000.00	5% increase
Mileage	60.00	55.36	60.00	100.00	
IT	300.00	176.91	305.00	300.00	Hugo Fox , DAPTC email, Microsoft
Administration	150.00	551.09	650.00	400.00	
Audit				80.00	
Venue hire	72.00	72.00	72.00	80.00	
Grass cutting	550.00	250.00	550.00	550.00	
Play park	500.00	1,170.00	1,250.00	750.00	
Christmas tree	60.00		60.00	60.00	
Wreath	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	
Defibrillator	126.00	0.00	126.00	150.00	
Village maintenance	200.00	85.44	200.00	200.00	
Grants	100.00	0.00			
Environmental Services	50.00				
Section 137					
PlusBus				500.00	
Contingencies	100.00	633.11	633.11		
Election costs	50.00		50.00		
Upgrade verges					
CAG	300.00		300.00		
General fund					
VAT (refundable)		193.48	250.00		
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>5,878.00</b>	<b>5,740.73</b>	<b>8,287.45</b>	<b>7,629.00</b>	
	0.00	1,829.91	(416.81)		
Precept		5,818.00		7,629.00	
% increase		5.97		31.13	



**Date:** 19 December 2024

**Subject:** MHCLG Consultation on Standards in Public Life and Conduct

**Ref:** 2024/12/19 AB002

**Distribution:** Clerks/RFOs C Chairs of Council in Dorset C BCP Areas

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*Dear Member Councils*

I want to bring to your attention the consultation which has just been published by MHCLG on **18 December 2024**. The consultation closes at **11.53pm on 20 February 2025**. This consultation seeks views on introducing measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime in England and ensure consistency of approach amongst councils investigating serious breaches of their member codes of conduct, including the introduction of the power of suspension.

Specific proposals being consulted upon for legislative change include:

- the introduction of a mandatory minimum code of conduct for local authorities in England
- a requirement that all principal authorities convene formal standards committees to make decisions on code of conduct breaches, and publish the outcomes of all formal investigations
- the introduction of the power for all local authorities (including combined authorities) to suspend councillors or mayors found in serious breach of their code of conduct and, as appropriate, interim suspension for the most serious and complex cases that may involve police investigations
- a new category of disqualification for gross misconduct and those subject to a sanction of suspension more than once in a 5-year period
- a role for a national body to deal with appeals

In addition, the consultation seeks views on how to empower victims affected by councillor misconduct to come forward and what additional support would be appropriate to consider.

Local government is a devolved matter. This consultation applies to England only, other than where it applies to Police and Crime Panels which where it applies to England and Wales, as policing is reserved.

### Call to action:

Responses are sought from parish and town councils and individuals within parish and town councils - don't fail to respond if you have views that will help inform the outcome.

**Access to more information:** [MHCLG Webpage for More Information](#)

### A reminder of why responding is of significant importance:

- **Erosion of Public Trust:** Poor adherence undermines public confidence in the council's ability to act with integrity and in the community's best interests.
- **Reduced Accountability:** Lack of adherence to principles like transparency and openness can lead to unchecked decision-making and corruption.
- **Inefficiency and Conflict:** Misconduct may cause internal disputes, delays in decision-making, and inefficient use of resources.
- **Legal and Financial Repercussions:** Breaches of conduct could result in legal challenges, fines, or investigations, draining council funds and resources.
- **Reputational Damage:** Negative publicity can harm the council's reputation, making it harder to engage with the community and stakeholders.
- **Loss of Community Engagement:** A lack of trust and transparency may lead to reduced participation and support from the public.
- **Low Morale Among Members:** Poor conduct can create a toxic environment, reducing morale and discouraging active participation by council members and staff.
- **Hindered Decision-Making:** Ethical lapses and conflicts may prevent the council from effectively addressing local issues.
- **Increased Oversight and Regulation:** Persistent issues may result in stricter external scrutiny or intervention by higher authorities.
- **Undermining of Democratic Processes:** Breaches in integrity compromise fair and democratic representation for the community.

Let's not forget the personal and invariably career changing impact conduct has on employees and how it is a barrier to recruiting and retaining new councillors.

Can I urge you to respond personally and where possible as parish and town councils by 26 February 2025. We will be liaising with the Monitoring Officers at both Dorset and BCP Council to ensure there is a good level of response to this consultation.

Whilst looking at this – it might be good to sign up to the Civility C Respect Pledge as a sign you are committed to the need to challenge unwarranted behaviour. [Civility C Respect Pledge](#)

Regards

Neil Wedge

Chief Executive DAPTC

**Copies:** Jonathan Mair, Monitoring Officer for Dorset Council and Janie Berry, Monitoring Officer for BCP Council