

**HESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Present:** Cllrs N Searle, D Walsh

**Chair:** Cllr A Taylor

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** 2 members of the public and Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes

**1. Period of Public Participation**

25.046 No matters were raised.

**2. Apologies for absence**

25.047 Apologies had been received from Cllrs Roger Hall and Graham Waters.

**3. To receive Declarations of Interest and consider any Dispensations received**

25.048 No interests were declared, and no dispensations had been requested.

**4. Approve the minutes of the meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

25.049 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members. Cllr Walsh proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Searle. The Chair signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes – for report only**

25.050 The new Drakes Lane planter is in place and our thanks are extended to John Lilley for the excellent job done.

**6. Dorset Councillor's Report**

25.051 Cllr Haynes drew attention to the Dorset Local Plan consultation which is currently underway. She explained that the expected housing proposed for Dorset by Central Government has increased from 1,500 to 3,746 houses per annum until 2037. There are already allocated sites and sites with permissions, but these still fall short by about 25,000 units over the period of the Plan. The current consultation must include all offers of land, even if they are within a flood plan, etc. Therefore, the consultation includes about 50% more than proposed properties than is needed to meet the Government's requirements. Cllr Haynes went on to say that the consultation is informal and gives everyone the opportunity to comment. As of October 2025, Dorset will not have a 5 year land supply which opens the county up to developers for opportunistic development. Central Government has imposed an 80% increase in housing without a need assessment, ie whether the properties are affordable and appropriate for the area.

Cllr Haynes drew members' attention to the proposed removal of the town and larger village 'envelope' ie. The existing settlement boundaries are to be removed.

The current regulations regarding 50% of new developments being affordable housing will only be applicable to the developments in the green belt.

AI will be used by Dorset Council to deal with the online responses to the Local Plan consultation. Once the consultation period has ended, draft plan will be drawn up. This must go to the Secretary of State by December 2026. Local drop-in sessions for the consultation will be held at:

11<sup>th</sup> September Corn Exchange Blandford  
23<sup>rd</sup> September Crossways Village Hall

## **6. To consider the PCSO's report**

25.052 A copy of the report had been issued with the agenda.

## **7. Parish Councillors' Reports**

25.053 Asset Management Report: To consider repairs to the walkway sign opposite Charllys Patch

The condition of the sign had been raised by Cllr Hall and a quote of £145 had subsequently been received from John Lilley. The finger post will just have the words 'footpath' on it. Cllr Taylor proposed the work is undertaken. This was seconded by Cllr Searle. Cllr Taylor will speak to John Lilley and confirm that the work can be undertaken.

**ACTION: CLLR TAYLOR**

25.054 Play Park Report: To consider the Play Area Inspection Report

Cllr Taylor spoke to Chris Perry, the Head Teacher, before the start of the school summer holiday, asking that a request for volunteers is included in the school newsletter. No-one has come forward. This means we will either have to pay for someone to do the work at the playground or, possibly, see if 'Community Payback' can be used. The Clerk is currently looking into the latter.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Duke of Edinburgh award participants are also required to undertake an element of community service. Cllr Searle will explore this with Thomas Hardy School.

**ACTION: CLLR SEARLE**

Cllr Hall was trying to contact Copper Beech, the company who installed the equipment but has yet to receive a response. In his absence, it was requested that Cllr Hall speak to Copper Beech again.

25.055 Highways – To receive an update on the 20mph proposal

Nothing has been heard to say it will not be happening in October. An article will be going in the next addition of the Village News.

The road at Chebbard Cross is going to be closed on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September but no notification has been received by the Parish Council. This will be investigated.

**ACTION: CLERK/CLLR TAYLOR**

25.056 Website and IT

Cllr Walsh reported that there had been over 100 hits on the Parish Council website. WhatsApp and Facebook are also being used to disseminate information.

## **8. Finance**

25.057 To note the Clerk's annual salary increase of 3.2% in line with the national agreement

The increase is duly noted.

**25.058 To approve the payment of accounts for August and September 2025**

The following payments were requested:

John Lilley	Drakes Lane flowerbox	BACS103	330.00
A Crocker	August salary + expenses	BACS104	207.08
HMRC	August PAYE	BACS105	43.20
Hugo Fox	Email hosting August 2025	DDR	20.99
Lloyds Bank	Account charges 10/5 to 9/6/25		4.25
Lloyds Bank	Account charges 10/6 to 9/7/25		4.25
HMRC	September PAYE	BACS106	51.20
A Crocker	September salary + expenses	BACS107	221.95
Hugo Fox	Web hosting August 2025	DDR	11.99

The total amount requested is £906.90. Cllr Walsh proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Searle and agreed unanimously.

**25.059 To approve the bank reconciliation and position against**

A copy of the reports had been issued with the agenda. Cllr Walsh proposed they were accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Searle and agreed unanimously.

**9. To consider planning applications**

**25.060 To consider the Planning Review Policy**

A copy of the proposed policy was issued with the agenda.

Cllr Taylor suggested some timescales could be included in the policy document. When the planning applications are received, in addition to circulating the information by email, the Clerk will notify councillors via the WhatsApp group. Members should then respond within a week. If councillors know they are going to be away or not have access to the internet for a period of time, the Clerk should be informed. This will be included in the policy document and recirculated.

**10. To consider the Dorset Local Plan**

25.061 Members are encouraged to submit responses before the 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**11. To consider a response to the Parish Council Survey**

25.062 This was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The Clerk has already completed a response and members will meet to produce a Parish Council response. It was suggested that this take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**12. To receive an update on PlusBus**

25.063 A request has now been received for the next payment of £350. There should be a meeting of the committee attended by Cllr Searle within the next few weeks. There have been a couple of issues regarding fundraising and what conditions apply to fundraising for the initiative. Cllr Searle will report back in November.

**13. Date of next meeting**

25.064 The next meeting will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.16hrs.