

PUDDLETOWN AREA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Puddletown area parish council meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2026 in the Tolpuddle Village Hall. The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Cllr **Brown** & Cllr **Grazebrook**, Cllr **Green** (Vice Chairperson), Cllr **Ridout** (Chairperson), & Cllr **Redman**

ALSO PRESENT:

Cllr **Parker** (Dorset Council), Mrs **Harrington** (Clerk) & Three Members of Public

ABSENT:

Cllr **Patterson** & Cllr **Giancola**

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies have been received from Cllr Patterson & Cllr Giancola for personal reasons and accepted by all.

0626-15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

- a. No declaration was made. NB this does not preclude any later declarations.
- b. No dispensation section 31(4) applications were received.

0626-16. PUBLIC SESSION

One member of public wished to inform the Parish Council that the Tolpuddle Festival takes place next month on Friday 17th to Sunday 19th July.

One member of public wished to listen to the discussion surrounding the proposed Whitehill junction works.

One member of public wished to raise concern regarding the installation of the Butt Close playpark facilities stating:

1. There has been no response to emails from the Parish Council in recent weeks.
It was noted all emails received have been addressed to the contractor not the Parish Council. Where emails have not been answered by the Contractor the Parish Council has chased the contractor to push for a response.
2. There is damaged caused to their property due to the contractors.
The Parish Council will not comment at this point in time about any possible damage as the resident and contractor are in direct talks about this issue.
3. There is a safeguarding issue, as teenagers are mis-using the play equipment and due to this can see into their home.
The Parish Council acknowledge the picture showing the occasion when this took place. The Parish Council note in the email sent raising this issue the resident believes that once they have finished their building works that this will no longer be an issue.
4. There is no bin near the picnic bench and litter is constantly thrown over their fence or left in the playpark, noting a recent water balloon fight left a lot of rubbish in the park.
It was noted that bins need to be placed within a set distance of a public highway, and unfortunately, a bin within the playpark would not match this criterion. However, it was noted there is a bin within 10m on the corner of the entrance / exit path in Butt Close. The Parish Council are happy to consider placing a bin on the entrance / exit path in White Hill to ensure all users of the park pass a bin, if so desired. (It was noted the resident did not wish to pursue this additional bin). It was also noted that the Caretaker visit the site once a week to carry out an inspection and any rubbish which is found is removed, also that several

5. Why is the Heras fencing still there, it is encouraging teenagers to bang on it late at night.
It was noted the Heras fencing was off hired several weeks ago. The Clerk visited the site today and noticed it was still there and will send an email to the contractor chasing them to remove it.
6. There is no equipment anymore for the younger child.
The playpark was designed for 6- to 10-year-old children, as it was believed the Puddletown Recreation playpark, is more suited to toddlers and teenagers.
7. Noted teenagers are the primary users of the park.
It was noted, the playpark was not designed with teenagers in mind, and the Parish Council have no control on who enters and uses the park.
8. There is no fence along the front of the park, which allows children to run straight from the park to the road.
It was noted that there is no legislation requiring a fence along the front of a playpark. The Council discussed installing a fence, however there were complications in relation to the gates opening due to the slope of the grass. It was also noted that as the playpark is sited on a public footpath which leads into a cul-de-sac on both sides, at the turning circle end, that there would be minimal traffic, and any traffic is likely to be slow moving. Due to these factors and the high cost of a suitable fence it was decided not to install a fence but does not mean a fence or some barrier could not be added at a later date.

0626-17. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr Green

Seconded: Cllr Brown

RESOLVED: The minutes from the full council meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

0626-18. DORSET COUNCILLOR REPORT

Dorset Council newsletters were circulated before the meeting they were noted.

Agenda Items 21 a1 was discussed, at this point as both Cllr Park and a member of public were able to contribute to the discussion. Minutes are recorded under the original item number.

0626-19. PCSO'S REPORT

The PCSO report for May was noted.

0626-20. CLERKS REPORT

a. Finance

1. Bank Balance as of 30th May 2026

Unity – Day to Day £37,102.72

Unity – Savings £285.82

Redwood £17,574.79

Total £54,963.33

2. Monthly Expenditure

Proposed Cllr Grazebrook

Seconded Cllr Green

RESOLVED/ ACTION: To process payments totalling £2,806.50 in line with the payment schedule. (See Appendix A). Noting an income of £41,182.81 for April and May

Clerk to investigate the capping of both the water and electricity supply in Orchard Meadow and report back to Council in July.

3. Bank reconciliation.

The Scribe bank reconciliation for May was submitted before the meeting, this was noted and signed by the Chairman.

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b. Parish Safety

1. Playparks:

- a. Butt Close – No new findings.
- b. Orchard Meadow – See Correspondence for further detail.
- c. Puddletown Rec – No new findings

2. Defibrillators: It was noted both defibrillators had been checked with no new findings.

c. Action Log

A copy of the action log was submitted before the meeting, this was discussed. Actions discussed:

1. Puddletown Rec Sand Pit.

It was noted no glass has been found this month. The Caretaker continues to check the sand daily.

2. Actions updated since the publication of the agenda.

0626-21. CORRESPONDENCE

a. To discuss and agree a way forward regarding any correspondence received (excluding newsletters)

1. Junction White Hill – Puddletown

It was noted further communication has been received from Dorset Council stating the junction plans had been released to the public by a third party by mistake. It was noted the school had received a copy of the plan as Dorset Council need permission to access their land to carry out the works. It was also noted Dorset Council had communicated today with the Clerk and Cllr Parker officially releasing the plans and asking for comment. Cllr Parker and the Clerk attended the site before the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Brown

Seconded Cllr Green

RESOLVED/ ACTION: The Clerk to write a joint letter from the Parish Council and Cllr Parker to Dorset Council raising concerns about the White Hill Junction works. Noting both the Parish Council and Cllr Parker support the project however have wider concerns, such as a lack of signage, a lack of sight line when crossing the road, and a lack of a safe route to walk.

Clerk to add plan information to social media, website and monthly article asking for feedback on behalf of Dorset Council.

b. To discuss any correspondence received since the agenda publication.

No new item of correspondence has been received since the publication of the agenda.

0626-22. POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND ASSESSMENTS FOR REVIEW

The following policies were submitted before the meeting and discussed.

a. Allowances Expenses and Reimbursement Policy

b. Standing Orders

c. Financial Regulations

Proposed Cllr Grazebrook

Seconded Cllr Redman

RESOLVED/ ACTION: To adopt the policies as submitted with one amendment to the Allowance Expenses and Reimbursement Policy. Under 'Use you own Car', remove bullet point 'holding comprehensive motor insurance that provides for business use.' And replace with 'The vehicle owner is responsible for ensuring that their motor insurance permits business use when the vehicle is used for Parish Council business.' Clerk to update policy and publish accordingly.

0626-23. PLANNING & LICENSING

A report was submitted before the meeting, this was discussed.

- a. Application No: P/HOU/2026/02618
Location: Orchard Rise New Street Puddletown DT2 8SF
Proposal: Infill open sided porch and erect single storey front extension
Comments Due: 3rd June 2026
Comment: No comment
- b. Application No P/VOC/2026/02406
Location: West Farm Main Road Tolpuddle Dorchester DT2 7EW
Proposal: Conversion and rebuild of existing buildings; and erect extensions to form: 3 No. Dwellings and 1 No. Office; demolish shed; demolish garage. Creation of parking and associated landscaping (with variation of condition 2 of planning permission WD/D/20/002565 to amend approved plans)
Comment Due: 4th June 2026
Comment: No comment
- c. Application No P/TRC/2026/02654
Location: Marwen Blandford Road Puddletown DT2 8RS
Proposal: T1 Cherry - Fell
Comment Due: 4th June 2026
Comment: No comment
- d. Application No P/TRC/2026/03049
Location: 11 Mill Street Puddletown DT2 8SQ
Proposal: T1 Leylandii - Fell
Comment Due: 26th June 2026
Comment: Support

ACTION: Clerk to submit comment

0626-24. PUDDLETOWN COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

A verbal update was given by Cllr Ridout. It was noted Members of Public can join the Working Groups as a working group has not voting or delegated powers to act.

ACTION: Clerk to print A3 map of Tolpuddle and Puddletown for Working Group.

It was noted Cllr Green attended an Environment agency meeting in Yeovil during which it was learnt that Environment Agency have listed the river Piddle and Puddletown as an area of interest. Cllr Green also spoken to Wessex Water about when river floods no one within a certain area of the flooding can use their toilet and that flood water comes into the homes via the sewage network. It was noted Wessex Water stated blanking plates should be installed near flood areas to stop this from happening and they will investigate.

0626-25. THE COOMBE

A verbal update was given by Cllr Ridout, noting concern has been raised regarding a bike ramp near the school gates, and climbing tracks up the bank.

ACTION: Cllr Parker and Cllr Ridout will investigate land ownership in the area and report back. Clerk to add The Coombe Update to the July agenda.

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0626-26. MEETING VENUE

A verbal report was given, noting that both Councillors and residents have issues hearing during meeting. That microphone / hearing systems had been investigated however the cost was prohibitive.

Proposed Cllr Brown

Seconded Cllr Grazebrook

RESOLVED / ACTION: Clerk to investigate moving the Tolpuddle meeting venue to the Tolpuddle Old Chapel.

0626-27. COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION.

It was noted Cllr Oakley has stepped down as Cllr for Burleston and Tolpuddle.

ACTION: Clerk to organise for Cllr Brown and the Clerk to attend some local groups to talk to participants to encourage them to consider becoming a Councillor.

0626-28. ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Tuesday 14th July 2026

Location: Puddletown Village Hall. Time 19:00

Meeting close: 20.36

Appendix A – Finance Expenditure and Income

Expenditure

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier	Bank	Tender	Power Used for Spend
31.05.2026	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	Bank Fees- May	Unity Bank	Unity	ONLINE	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
09.06.2026	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	Public Toilet Repairs	DNH Plumb and Build	Unity	ONLINE	Public conveniences - Public Health Act 1936, s. 87
31.05.2026	£2,017.37	£0.00	£2,017.37	Staff	Salary	Unity	ONLINE	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
31.05.2026	£102.00	£20.40	£122.40	Signage	Octopress Printers	Unity	ONLINE	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
31.05.2026	£148.02	£0.00	£148.02	Refuse	Dorset Council Waste Services	Unity	ONLINE	Litter - Litter Act 1983, ss.5,
31.05.2026	£4.49	£0.22	£4.71	Electricity - OM	YU Energy	Unity	DIRDEBIT	Entertainment and the Arts - LGA 1972, s.145
31.05.2026	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	Bank Fees - April	Unity Bank	Unity	ONLINE	Local Government Act 1972 s.111
2785.88		20.62	2806.50					

Income

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Customer	Bank
31.05.2026	£43.95	£0.00	£43.95	Interest	Redwood Bank	Redwood
30.04.2026	£42.54	£0.00	£42.54	Interest	Redwood Bank	Redwood
30.04.2026	£1.00	£0.00	£1.00	PRIDE Rent	PRIDE	Unity Trust
30.04.2026	£30,810.65	£0.00	£30,810.65	Precept	Dorset Council	Unity Trust
16.04.2026	£0.00	£10,284.67	£10,284.67	HMRC Refund	HMRC	Unity Trust
30898.14		10284.67	41182.81			