

MINUTES OF THE OKEFORD FITZPAINE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE PAVILION, CASTLE LANE Tuesday 2nd June 2026

PRESENT: Cllrs R Rowe (RR Chair) Charley Read (CR Vice Chair) S Corben (SC) T Hood (TH) S Wheeler (SW) S Harvey (SH) & George Norris (GN) **APOLOGIES:** None. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Dorset Councillor S Murcer (SM) & Sam Smith (PC Clerk) **ALSO PRESENT:** 5 members of the public

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS: None

2. MINUTES: Okeford Fitzpaine Parish Council RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on the 5th May 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
Proposed SC Seconded SH

3. DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr Murcer reported as follows –

Dorset Council Ward Boundary Review - Boundary review changes agreed by Full Council on 14th May 2026 and have now gone to the Boundary Commission for approval. **Fly Tipping** - Incidence of Fly Tipping has increased in the Ward and I have reported 4 cases in the last two weeks, mostly building waste. Fine now to £1,000 for offenders. 80 fines handed out in the last 12 months. **Shillingstone Flood Prevention** - Attended two meetings with Shillingstone Parish Councillors and DC and the Environment Agency to discuss flood prevention measures. **More Children Qualify for free school meals** - Families across Dorset are being encouraged to check now whether their children will be eligible for free school meals from the September 2026 school term. This follows changes by central government. From this autumn, all children whose parent/carer receives any level of Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of how much their household earns. This removes the current £7,400 annual income cap and means more children will be able to have free school meals. **Dorset Council Committee Changes** - Completed the training to be on the Northern Planning Committee. First meeting 30th June 2026, Cllr SM will forward some planning training documents that he has received to PC Cllrs, he thinks these might be helpful. **Cllr Steve Murcer** cllrsteve.murcer@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: A resident raised the issue of the suspended/paused building works at the Pleydells site. The Site needs a tidy up as it is becoming an eyesore. There is now uncertainty for the close neighbours.

4. UPDATES ON OPEN ITEMS:

Bowey play park: The annual ROSPA safety report has been completed. Two items were highlighted - the metal slide at the rec ground and the spider web structure at Bowey. A weekend (26th & 27th June) has been organised for ditch clearance; this will also include some work at the play park. How do we dispose of the removed vegetation waste? It was agreed by all to book a skip for the day. The trampoline at Bowey has a few damage issues, the Clerk has chased the original installers who have agreed to fix it.

A new PC website & email: Aubergine have contacted the Clerk. The new site has now been built; it now needs to be populated with information. The clerk is gathering the files/photos ready to be uploaded. Hopefully by the July PC meeting we should have a dummy/draft website to look at.

Electric supply at the bus stop/museum: The electric supply was finally cut off this morning. The job was easier than expected so the Clerk will ask for a part refund on the termination fee that SSE made the PC pay up front for the termination works.

PC orchard: A site meeting has been held. It was suggested that the outstanding works should be moved on asap to avoid further prices rises and to be completed before the winter. Cllr SC to get quotes.

Metal slide at the rec: Cllr SC has a plan for the slide, some improvements & amendments. The Clerk will forward this information on to ROSPA & our insurance provider to see if the proposed modifications comply with current safety & insurance requirements.

5. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

5.1 Water leak at the pavilion: Wessex Water (& a very large water bill) have alerted us to a water leak at the pavilion. The supply is now turned off, and the leak is on our side of the meter. Our bill at WW is estimated at **£9,686.53!** Hopefully we can get it fixed quickly, and the amount owing will be waived. The Clerk has obtained 2 quotes for repair; both companies have completed a site visit. Quote 1 was **£942 inc VAT** but the quote was a bit vague on how long it will take to fix. The 2nd quote was **£1,440 inc VAT** for a day, which

is how long the works were estimated to take. PC Cllrs decided to go for the cheaper quote. Proposed: SW
Seconded: SH

5.2 Power supply to parts of the village & poor phone signal: Recently there have been a number of power outages in the village. Do SSE have any plans to upgrade the service/supply? Why does the supply keep cutting out? Cllr RR to investigate further.

6. Planning applications received & updates: **P/LBC/2026/02790** proposal: replacement of 6 windows. Location: 25 Lower Street DT11 0RN. **No objections.** **P/PABA/2026/02767** proposal: erect agricultural building. Location: land At E 380750 N 10134 Higher Street to Turnworth Village Road. Cllr SH raised concerns re the size of the proposed barn & what is its use? **P/PAPA/2026/02687** proposal: form new cow tracks. Location: Roome Farm, Garlands Lane to High Bench Lane DT11 0RT **P/PABA/2026/02941** erect roof covering over yard. Location: Lowbrook Farm, Belchalwell. **No objections.**

6.1 Planning updates: Building work is now suspended/paused at the Pleydells site. The proposed village roadworks have now been cancelled.

7. CLERKS FINANCIAL REPORT:

Payments to be authorised –

£24.08	British Gas (pavilion)
£515.36 + £41.80	S Smith (Clerks wages May & expenses)
£4.25	Lloyds Bank (monthly bank charges)
£264.31	SSE pavilion electric
£1, 830.27	Zurich Insurance
£23.99	S Corben pavilion post box
£247.20	ROSPA safety report
£136.80	Fippenny Garage, puncture on mower

Received: Allotment rent **£600**. The balances in the Lloyds Bank are - current account **£19,173.70** savings account **£60,173.16**

7.1 PC annual insurance: Renewed on 1st June 2026 **£1,830.27** PC annual insurance

7.2 PC end of year – 2025/26 audit: The internal audit has now been completed by Nicky Phillips. The cost for this was **£70**. She has highlighted 2 items – publication requirements from last year and lack of printed bank reconciliations throughout the preceding year. All other matters raised have been forward to all Cllrs for information. The following sections of the Annual Return were agreed and signed by the Chair RR and the Clerk - Approval of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026 Section 1. Approval of the Accounting Statements 2025/2026 Section 2. The Clerk will now forward the required paperwork to BDO LLP and publish the documents, including the 'Notice of Public Rights' on the PC website. The conflict of interest form was signed by Cllr RR & The Clerk.

8. REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS:

Village Hall Management Committee: The next meeting is on the 22nd June. The village hall park needs some weed removal maintenance. **Rights of Way liaison/Footpath Officer:** Jermy Gartside did not attend the meeting. The Clerk has received a form to complete with regards to moving a footpath at Little Lane. The map/plan was shown to Cllrs. This form is a pre application document. All Cllrs agreed to tick box 1 – which states we do not have any objections at present, but can change our mind if necessary, as the application progresses. **Tree Officer:** A big tree limb is low hanging at the sports field. Cllr SC to arrange for it to be assessed. **Recreation ground/pavilion:** The Clerk has received an email from SSE, they would like to fit a smart meter at the Pavillion. All agreed to let SSE visit to assess the possibility. The small mower – we need to look ahead for a replacement. **Drainage & infrastructure maintenance:** Roy & Bryan are keeping an eye on everything. 27/28th June drain clearance day. **Village Community Group (VCG):** The Repair Café is on the last Saturday of every month. **PCC:** No mud pie café this weekend, but a café in the church instead.

9. OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS OR THE CLERK: None

10. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA: PC website, small mower

Okeford Fitzpaine Council resolved to note the date of the next meeting as **7th July 2026 at 7.30pm to be held in The Pavilion, Castle Lane**. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8.40pm. Minutes approved as a true and accurate record, and signed –

Chairperson presiding..... Date: