

**SYDLING ST NICHOLAS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 AT SYDLING**  
**ST NICHOLAS VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 7PM**

**Present:** Cllrs S Shears, A Newman, D Tucker, J Dobbs, G Walker

**Chair:** Cllr C Legg

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** 1 member of the public

**1.01 To accept apologies for absence**

Apologies have been received from Dorset Cllr Jill Haynes (other meeting commitment).

**1.02 Declarations of pecuniary and other interests**

No interests were declared at this stage and no requests for dispensations had been received.

**1.03 Minutes of previous meeting**

A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members with the agenda. Cllr Shears proposed them to be a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Tucker and agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

**1.04 Issues arising from the last meeting not covered by agenda – for report only**

Work has started on replacing sections of wood in the multi-play area, as recommended in the latest inspection report.

**1.05 Chairman's Report**

Since the November meeting Cllr Graham Durrack has stepped down from the Parish Council. Our thanks are extended to him for his work and commitment during his time on the Parish Council. We wish him well for the future.

We are very pleased to welcome Greg Walker to the Parish Council.

**1.06 Democratic discussion period**

White road markings at the ford – these were not replaced following the repair work undertaking in 2024.

**1.07 Unitary Councilor report**

A copy of the latest report had been issued with the minutes.

**1.08 To consider the Co-option of a Parish Councillor**

Following the vacancy created by Cllr Graham Durrack's departure, Dorset Council will be informed and the statutory notices displayed.

## **1.09 To consider a .gov.uk email provider**

It is now recommended that Councils and Councillors have dedicated .gov.uk email addresses. As well as being recognisable as a legitimate and trustworthy address, it is also controlled by the Council. In the event of a Councillor leaving, all the information contained in the emails will be retained by the Council and not lost, as is currently the case.

HugoFox is one of the recommended providers but one of their stipulations is that they also host the website. After some discussion, Cllr Newman proposed that we precede with the transfer. This was seconded by Cllr Shears and agreed unanimously. It was noted that the Parish Council currently pays for the village website and this will continue.

## **1.10 Finance**

### **1.10.01 To agree retrospective and current payment approvals**

The following payments had been requested:

Maumbury Design	Website hosting to 20.12.24	96.00
Dorset Council	Election recharge	50.00
Mrs A Crocker	December 2024 salary	211.98
HMRC	December 2024 PAYE	49.00
DAPTC	Planning Enforcement training	30.00
HMRC	January 2025 PAYE	49.20
Mrs A Crocker	January 2025 salary	221.55
ABA Groundwork	Ride-on mower service	287.05
M Peach	Play park tidy	67.50
P Radbourne	Play park repairs	201.98

The total amount requested is £1,264.26.

Cllr Legg proposed the payments are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Tucker and agreed unanimously.

### **1.10.02 To agree the bank reconciliation and position against budget**

A copy of the reports was issued with the agenda. No comments were made or queries raised.

### **1.10.04 To confirm the Band D tax rate**

Following the submission of the precept, the base rate has been set by Dorset Council. With the precept at £11,700, the Band D charge will increase from £51.81 to £52.09 – an increase of 28p for the year.

## **1.11 To receive reports on the following matters in the parish and to agree action in response to any proposals:**

### **1.11.01 Planning Applications**

P/TRC/2024/05521 – St Nicholas Church Lane – information only.

### **1.12 Play Park**

Work is on-going regarding the multi play equipment and gateway, both of which were raised during the last inspection.

### **1.13 Footpaths**

Nothing to report.

### **1.14 Highways**

Dorset Highways teams had been out filling in potholes. It was noted that any problems relating to potholes, paths, verges, etc. can be reported via the Dorset Council website.

### **1.15 Tree update**

The issue of damage to a vehicle whilst parked under one of the trees alongside the village green was raised. At this point, no evidence has been provided. However, it is a public highway and it is reasonable to assume that, if you park under a tree, there is a possibility that a branch may fall.

### **1.16 Flooding**

Thanks are extended to Cllr Walker for the clearing work undertaken downstream as this has improved the flow. More work is needed and is on-going.

### **1.17 To consider EV points for the village and possible locations**

Following a request from a resident, it was agreed that this will be revisited to see if anything has changed since the subject was last reviewed in January 2024. To this end, the Clerk will be meeting a representative from Dorset Council.

### **1.18 To agree the meeting dates for the coming year**

The Parish Council meets on the second Monday of alternate months. The dates for 2025/2026 are:

2025:

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November

2026:

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March

### **1.19 Correspondence received since the agenda was set**

Parking in the village – there is a problem with parking through the village. On several occasions vehicles have not been able to get through. This will be included in the next Chalkstream asking people to consider where they park and ensure an emergency vehicle is able to pass.

### **1.20 Items for the next meeting**

Members are reminded to pass any items to the Clerk by the for inclusion on the March agenda by the end of February.

### **1.21 To agree the date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025, commencing 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.03hrs.