

MINUTES OF THE CROSSWAYS PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 31 JULY 2025 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Cllr Andrew Brewer (Chairman), Cllr Terrie Connor (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Gary Childs, Cllr Robert Light and Cllr Andrew Ward (7.08)

3 members of the public

One Minute Silence Tribute in memory of Issa Musleh.

The Chairman and Council paused to honour the memory of a man whose quiet strength and unwavering generosity touched many lives. Alongside Diane, Issa helped lead Crossways with compassion and commitment—facilitating deliveries, supporting volunteers, and ensuring that food and supplies reached those in need.

Issa's legacy is one of service, kindness, and community spirit. His dedication was not just logistical—it was deeply human. He saw people, not just needs. And he responded with grace.

1. **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND CONFIRM THE MEETING IS QUORATE.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Gary Joynson, Cllr Scott Beeby and Cllr David Clippingdale. The Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.

2. **TO RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – no decisions will be made on issues raised, items requiring decisions will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.**

No public discussion.

3. **REPORT BY COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER** The Clerk had distributed the report forwarded from PCSO Alison Donnison. Residents were encouraged to report any incident or suspicious activity to the Police enquiries@dorset.pnn.police.uk. The Chairman read out the report to the meeting.

4. **REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR NICK IRELAND**

Cllr Ireland gave his apologies. Full details of Dorset Council news on the Dorset Council website. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/about-your-council/dorset-council-news-magazine>

5. **CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR – Mr Andrew Ward**

On a proposition from Cllr Brewer, seconded by Cllr Connor and all Councillors in favour Andrew Ward was elected to serve as a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Ward brings valuable experience and a strong commitment to the local community. The Chairman warmly welcomed Andrew to the Council and looked forward to his contributions in supporting the residents of Crossways. Declaration of Interest completed.

6. **RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** for items on the agenda below, including. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests that members may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the parish Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with the Localism Act 2011 Section 33 (b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)
None
7. **TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2025. CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.**
The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26 June 2025 which had previously circulated to all members were **AGREED BY COUNCIL** and signed by the Chairman.
8. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA (FOR REPORT ONLY)**
The new "Bin Area" near 8 Warmwell Road is along the disputed access footpath which is designated as a BOAT (by-way of ancient times). It does not impede upon the access to Warmwell Road from Green Lane/Old Farm Way. Matter now being dealt with by Dorset Council Planning Enforcement.
9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
To note Planning Decisions received from the Planning Authority
To note Planning Enforcement Complaints received by the Planning Authority
To consider the status report from the Planning Authority.
 - a) Planning application P/HOU/2025/03992 Proposal: Erect single storey side extension and lean-to on opposite side Location: 19 Shepperds View, Silverlake, Warmwell Road, Crossways, DT2 8GW. No Objection
 - b) The Chairman reported on resident concerns of noise from the Land North of Frome Valley Road, Cavvana Development. The Clerk reported concerns to the Developer Led Team at Dorset Council. See The Bridge Magazine Page 13 for full update.
10. **ITEMS**
 - a) **Pavilion repairs up to £5,000**
The Chairman reported on the recent break-in at the Sports Pavilion, Dick O th Banks Road, Crossway, DT2 8BJ. The garage door was forcibly damaged during the incident and although the vandals were unable to gain entry into the Pavilion itself, both the door and the soffit above have suffered significant damage. The Chairman recommended that a motion sensor is applied. The Council is keen to resolve this matter promptly and ensure the Pavilion is properly secured to protect the equipment and items stored inside. Council

APPROVED seeking quotations for the replacement of the damaged garage door and soffit. Police Reference has been obtained.

b) **Adopt Reserves Policy for Crossways Parish Council**

The Council considered the findings of the recent audit which highlighted concerns regarding the level of general reserves held, noting that after accounting for earmarked reserves, the remaining general reserves exceeded the authority's annual expenditure. In response to these concerns, and in recognition of the guidance that smaller authorities should not accumulate funds via the precept without clear justification, the Council formally resolved to adopt a Reserves Policy.

The newly adopted policy sets out clear parameters for the management of both general and earmarked reserves, ensuring that reserve levels are proportionate, justified, and aligned with the Council's strategic objectives and financial planning. The policy also mandates that all earmarked reserves be reviewed annually and formally approved by the Council as part of the budgeting process. The Council will ensure that future precept requests consider the level of reserves held, in accordance with best practice and the principles of sound financial management.

The Clerk circulated the proposed Reserve Policy outlining the purpose, structure, and recommended levels of financial reserves held by the Parish Council to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Members reviewed the document and discussed its alignment with current financial practices and future planning needs.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Reserve Policy be adopted as presented, with immediate effect. The policy will guide the management of earmarked and general reserves to ensure financial stability and accountability. Adopted policy to be added to the Council's website.

c) **CPC 81 Approve report from Hardy Tree Surgeons and approve recommendations.**

The Council reviewed the quotation submitted by Hardy Tree Surgeons for remedial works on the Lime tree (T81), following the findings and photographic evidence presented. Notes accompanying the quotation detailed the condition of the tree and the recommended actions required to ensure public safety and tree health.

Council **APPROVED** to accept the quotation from Hardy Tree Surgeons and proceed with the remedial works as outlined. The Council acknowledged the importance of timely intervention and agreed that the proposed works were appropriate and necessary.

d) **War Memorial and 80th Anniversary of VJ/end of WW2 Observance.** This will be at 11.50 am on 15 August with Rev. Peter Stevens. The observance of the national 2 minutes silence at noon. It is envisaged will be a very quiet ceremony. Clerk to ask Steve to tidy up brambles and weeds near the Memorial. (Post Meeting Note - Cllr Beeby will arrange for the collection and disposal of the wreaths from last November)

e) **Silverlake Allotments – Agree how to move forward.**

The Chairman reported that one Silverlake allotment plot requires maintenance to bring it up to a usable condition. The Clerk has contacted Silverlake to enquire whether they are able to assist with the necessary works.

Should Silverlake be unable to provide support, it was agreed that the Clerk will seek quotations from external contractors to carry out the required maintenance and ensure the plot is restored to a functional standard.

f) **Support to move forward with a Community Road Safety Group.**

The Chairman expressed concerns over the speed of motorbikes riding through the village. The Chairman discussed the options for reducing the speed along Warmwell Road. This had been referred to in the Council's article in 'the Bridge' (page 13 Item to be added to September's Agenda.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence has been forwarded to Councillors for information.

12. FINANCE AND PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

- a) Financial Report and bank reconciliation circulated prior to the meeting
COUNCIL APPROVED the payments and receipts from the last meeting.
 Bank reconciliation signed in the meeting.

Date	Transaction No	Payment to	Payment Description	Total (inc)	VAT
01/07/2025	51	Playsafety Limited	Annual inspection of playgrounds - Clyffe View, Spitfire Close, Mount Skippet Way, Sports Field, Platinum Park	£480.00	£80.00
01/07/2025	52	Legg & Son (Membury Ltd)	6-monthly bus shelter clean due in June & December	£78.41	£13.07
02/07/2025	53	SP Poppy Shop London	Royal British Legion online shop - wreaths for VJ Day - VISA card payment	£46.98	£4.83
09/07/2025	54	British Gas	Pavilion - gas bill	£23.57	£1.12
13/07/2025	55	HSBC	Commission/bank charges	£8.00	£0.00
16/07/2025	56	Dorset Council (DWP)	DWP DD - Wheelie bin rental/collection Sports Field (140ltr), Mem Park (140ltr), and Park Entrance 240ltr - Jun 2025	£148.71	£0.00
22/07/2025	57	Screwfix	Door lock - combination for office - order A22433048748	£89.99	£14.99
23/07/2025	58	British Gas	Pavilion - electricity bill	£27.46	£1.30
27/07/2025	59	HM Land Registry	Title Plan & Title Register for 8 Warmwell Road (£7 each document)	£14.00	£0.00
TOTALS				£917.12	£115.31

Income since 26 June 2025

01/07/2025	Interest payment from Redwood Bank	£	283.64
16/07/2025	Interest for A/C ****6560	£	2.90

22/07/2025	Interest for A/C ****8887	£ 54.41
	Total income	£ 340.95

Total Expenditure this Financial Year	£ 29,972.77
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Total Income this Financial Year	£ 49,112.04
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Account balances as at 31 July 2025

HSBC A/C ****8879 - Community Account	£ 57,144.70
HSBC A/C ****8887 - Money Manager Account	£ 40,419.11
HSBC A/C ****6560 - Sports Field account	£ 2,153.18
Redwood Bank (A/C ****4964) – Savings account	£ 80,000.00
Total balance	£ 179,716.99

The summary of this report, plus any other payments authorised at the meeting to be included within the Minutes will include totals but will exclude any details of any personal payments to employees. Report **APPROVED BY COUNCIL**.

13. Reports from Committees and Representatives (Information Only)

- a) Cllr Light reported about the Crossways Church to the meeting.
- b) Cllr Light reported the new Head Teacher at Frome Valley School was keen to work with the parish council. There is no longer an Associate Governors position. Cllr Connor was available to collaborate with the school when requested. It was agreed that an invitation be extended to the September council meeting.
- c) The Chairman reported on the irregularity of the bin collection in the village. Reports were made to DWP and bins have now been emptied. Parishioners were encouraged to report online. It was noted that neighbouring parishes such as Broadmayne were experiencing similar problems and asking the public to take their litter home if a bin is full.

14. ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH AND OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Contact the Clerk with any items
- b) Joint consultation event on the Local Plan and Mineral Waste will be held on Tuesday 23 September at Crossways Village Hall 2.00 – 7.00 pm
Residents are invited to attend and engage with planning representatives to learn more about proposed developments and share their views. This is an important opportunity to contribute to the future of Crossways and the surrounding area.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING Next meeting – Thursday 25 September 2025
Crossways Village Hall, Crossways.

The Council will be in recess for the month of August. Any urgent business will be managed under delegated authority - Cllr Brewer and Cllr Connor.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.29 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman).....2025