

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Litton Cheney Parish Council meeting held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 14th July 2026 At Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

MINUTES

Councillors Present:

Cllr John Firrell (Chair)
Cllr Andrew King
Cllr Bill Orchard (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Quentin Blacke

Also present:

Ms Debbie Hollings (Clerk)
One member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Dorset Council Councillor Sally Holland

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest received.

3. Democratic time

Councillors were reminded to ensure that printed Agendas for all meetings are posted on all three of the Notice Boards around the village.

Cllr Blacke raised concerns from a resident about the poor condition of local roads, particularly potholes. He proposed discussing a joint petition by local parish councils at the next meeting to urge Dorset Council to carry out substantial road repairs. It was agreed to pursue this, possibly via a collective appeal through our ward councillor.

In the meantime, councillors agreed to encourage residents to report potholes and other road issues through Dorset Council's online portal, with information to be shared in the BVN and on the council website.

Another concern was that there were several overhanging hedges on local roads that are affecting tall farm vehicles, especially when loaded with hay.

4. Approval of Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 12th May 2026

Cllr Blacke proposed that the Minutes were an accurate record. Cllr King seconded, and all councillors unanimously agreed.

5. Approval of Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting/Village Assembly held on Tuesday, 12th May 2026.

Cllr Orchard proposed that the Notes were an accurate record. Cllr Firrell seconded, and all councillors unanimously agreed.

6. Matters arising from the previous minutes and not part of this Agenda

The Clerk reminded councillors to renew their Pecuniary Register of Interests forms in accordance with the guidance that had been circulated to all members.

7. Dorset Council Overview - Ward Councillor for Chesil Bank: Cllr Sally Holland

In Cllr Holland's absence, Cllr Firrell presented her July 2026 update including details of the 20mph consultation for the neighbouring village of Burton Bradstock. Information on how to submit a response can be found here. [Public Consultation](#). The deadline for a response is 17th July 2026

Dorset Council has accepted £1.7 million from DEFRA to enable them to deliver the National Landscape Management Plan. Dorset Council has a statutory duty of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.

Dorset Police are recruiting a further enforcement officer to help reduce issues with anti-social behaviour on the coast, specifically, Chesil and Purbeck, including problems with overnight camping during the hot weather at West Bexington.

Cllr Sally Holland's full report can be found on the Litton Cheney Parish Council website.

8. Parish Council Finance

8.1 RFO Report including current financial statement.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's annual insurance had been renewed at a cost of £569.42. The option of a three-year insurance policy will be reviewed in early 2027, with further options to be presented to councillors. The Clerk also reported that the insurers will be advised of the recently updated Asset Register. No change to the current cost is expected.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the financial year 2025-2026 has now been Submitted on time and all the relevant documentation published on the Parish Council website. Any residents who wish to view the financial accounts should request to do so by 31st July 2026.

A VAT reclaim will be made to HMRC during August 2026 for the amount of £2,770.65.

The Clerk also updated councillors on the Parish Council's current financial position. This included providing documents covering the latest bank reconciliation, budget and commitments, and reserves report.

8.2 Approval of invoices for payment (appended to this agenda)

Proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Orchard and carried unanimously.

8.3 Approval of Schedule of Regular Payments (appended to this agenda)

Proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Orchard and carried unanimously.

9. Consider the published results of the DAPTC Parish Council survey (distributed to all councillors).

Cllr Firrell reminded all that the Parish Council had completed the survey earlier in the year and that the results had now been published and distributed to all councillors.

Cllr Firrell explained that Dorset Council are also currently engaging with parish councils and other community organisations on how best to work together in the future through the mechanism of Community Conversations. Devolution within the Dorset Council area is being discussed, as it is with neighbouring counties of Somerset and Wiltshire. DAPTC are also working on behalf of Dorset parishes and towns with Dorset Council.

10. Parish Plan update

Cllr Firrell confirmed that the inaugural meeting to consider an update to the plan had been arranged for 31st July 2026. Resident Mary-Jane Powell had agreed to help organise how the review would be undertaken. Cllr King has agreed to be the Parish Council representative on the steering group.

11. Councillors' Portfolios:

11.1 Planning: Cllr Orchard

Cllr Orchard advised that one of the new houses in Bride Place has now been sold.

Following a short discussion, the council agreed not to raise any objection to the planned extension to 8 Coombes Close.

Cllr Orchard reported on a meeting held on 29 June 2026 between Wessex Water and 15 village residents. During the meeting, residents toured the Whiteway, Litton Cheney facility and discussed the flooding problems experienced in Baglake and Hines Mead Lane during the spring.

Wessex Water confirmed that, during the spring, two boreholes near Baglake Farm became contaminated with dust that could not be filtered out. As a result, around 2.5 million litres of water at a time were discharged into nearby fields. This water entered the winterbourne flowing through several back gardens, causing flooding. Residents had identified that the flood surges coincided with these discharges, and

Wessex Water has now accepted this connection.

The additional water was then moving down into a Dorset Council storm drain, which unfortunately was already flooded by heavy rains.

Residents urged Wessex Water to work closely with Dorset Council to prevent similar flooding in future. One potential solution discussed was upgrading the existing storm drain to better manage excess water..

It was agreed that all future issues relating to Wessex Water would be communicated through the Parish Council, which will act as the single point of contact on behalf of residents.

Cllr Firrell asked Cllr Orchard to prepare an article for the village/Parish Council website summarising the meeting with Wessex Water and outlining the proposed solutions to the flooding issues.

11.2 Highways/Transport: Cllr King

In early June, a lorry became stuck at the bottom of Whiteway after losing traction while attempting to drive uphill. The vehicle became wedged while trying to turn around, blocking the road for around three hours. It is hoped that the forthcoming Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will lead sat nav systems to direct large vehicles via Long Bredy Hut Lane, helping to prevent similar incidents.

A resident raised concerns about unsafe parking near the entrance to The Paddocks, where parked vehicles restrict visibility and make turning onto the main road difficult. The issue occurs most frequently on Sundays during football matches but has also been caused by tradespeople and visitors.

Over the past few weeks Wessex Water carried out sewer lining works at the entrance to Baglake, Chalk Pit Lane and White Cross; they also installed a Fire Hydrant at the top of Redway.

They also have further works planned:

29th – 31st July Main St in the vicinity of the Cheesehouse – sewer lining.

22nd – 31st July Main St in the vicinity of the entrance to Charity Farm – sewer lining.

4th – 6th August C9 outside Glebe Cottage, cover and frame replacement.

7th October Hine's Mead Lane outside Riverside "Ferrule Leak"

All of the above have road closures related to them.

Cllr Firrell reported that new weight limit signage would be placed on the A35 and at the bottom of Whiteway within the coming weeks. The limit will be there to restrict vehicles weighing more than 7 tonnes.

11.3 Playground/ Playing Field/Allotments: Cllr King

11.3.1 Update on new playground equipment.

Cllr King reported that the new playground equipment has been installed and is already being used. General maintenance is now needed to fill the holes left by the old equipment and level other uneven areas of the playing field. The top bar of the swing frame also requires further inspection, with refurbishment to be considered. Cllr King will investigate and report back to the Parish Council at the September 2026 meeting.

11.4 Countryside Matters/Footpaths/Rights of Way: Cllr Blacke

11.4.1 Discuss and consider actions regarding the removal of diseased Ash trees adjacent to Margins, in Chalk Pit Lane.

Cllr Firrell reported on ongoing concerns regarding several large ash trees affected by ash dieback near a local property. Responsibility for the trees remains unclear, as it has not been possible to determine whether they are located on private land or adjacent to a Dorset Council footpath. A local tree surgeon estimated that removing the trees would cost £800–£1,000. Some branches are overhanging power lines. SSE has inspected the site, and appropriate action has been taken. Cllr Firrell will continue working to identify responsibility and find a suitable solution.

Cllr Blacke advised that a number of rights of way paths had been allowed to grow over instead of being cut back as they should be. These will be reported to Dorset Council.

The '7 benches walk' around the village has proved to be very popular. Cllr Blacke proposed that a poster with all the details of the walk be created and put up in all the notice boards. All agreed that this would be a good idea. Cllr King offered to organise a poster.

11.4.2 Update on Rowden Farm bridge refurbishment.

Litton Cheney Parish Council has been asked to contribute £340 towards the project. The majority of the funding will be provided by Dorset Council, with an additional contribution from the Ramblers Society and Litton Cheney Trust. The remaining costs will be shared between Long Bredy Parish Council, Kingston Russell Parish Council (subject to approval at its July meeting), and Litton Cheney Parish Council.

The funding of £340 towards the refurbishment of the bridge was proposed by Cllr Firrell, seconded by Cllr Blacke and carried unanimously.

11.5 Village Fabric/ Maintenance/ DAPTC/BLAP/Administration and Probity: Cllr Firrell

Cllr King reported that he had identified three potential providers for a new Parish Council website: Aubergine, Hugo Fox, and Parish Council Websites. All three companies advised that they would need a detailed specification of the Parish Council's requirements before they could provide a quotation.

Cllr King advised that commissioning a new Parish Council website would cost approximately £500–£600. Alternatively, the Hugo Fox platform allows a competent user to build a website for around £200, with annual hosting and backup costs of up to £360, while the site would be maintained by the owner. Hugo Fox also offers a 30-day trial to build and test a website at no initial cost. If the Parish Council is satisfied with the result, the site can be retained and developed further; if not, it can be discarded without charge. Cllr King sought the Parish Council's agreement to develop an initial website using the Hugo Fox platform. It was suggested that he work closely with the Clerk to ensure the site contains the correct information and that the Clerk can maintain it if adopted as the Council's new website. Cllr King will present the trial site and associated financial implications to the Parish Council at the September meeting for a decision on how to proceed.

Cllr Firrell reported that planning enforcement work at the Cheese Factory is progressing in collaboration with the Dorset Council Planning Enforcement Officer. Work to improve site screening and tree planting is ongoing.

Cllr Firrell also informed the Council of an incident at Litton Lakes, where a child got into difficulty while swimming. He will investigate the circumstances further and report back to the Parish Council if there are any matters of relevance.

12. Date of next meeting: The next Parish Council will be from 7.00pm on Tuesday 8th September 2026

13. Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Debbie Hollings
Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
Litton Cheney Parish Council

Report 8th July 2026

Parish funds	Total
Balance brought forward as at 1 April	£27,464.09
Income to date	£10,147.04
Expenditure to date	£4,542.11
Parish funds as at above date*	£33,069.02
* Of which the following is held in reserves or CIL	
Earmarked reserves	£20,100.00
CIL	£6,228.97
Playground (ringfenced)	£100.00
Community Fund (ringfenced)	£423.00
Total reserves/CIL held	£26,851.97
Approved spend since last reported/meeting	
Dorset Council - Commercial Waste collection from bins at Cox's Lane & Snicket	£667.68
DAPTC Annual Subscription 2026/2027	£204.05
Bridport Town Council - BLAP Annual contribution 2026/2027	£49.73
Rural Services Partnership - Annual contribution 2026/2027	£66.16
Scheduled: May & June Clerk's wage	£885.92
Scheduled: Clerk's Expenses	£52.00
Bank A/C service charges	£8.50
	£1,266.36
Income since last reported/meeting	
Litton Cheney Allotment Association	£130.00
Litton Cheney Trust - Donation towards new playground equipment	£1,000.00
Interest	£19.94
	£1,149.94
Invoices/Payments for approval at time of publishing agenda	
Huck Tek - new playground equipment	£9,747.61
Invoices arrived after the publication of the agenda	
Schedule Payments due (as detailed on Budget and Commitments for the coming year)	
Scheduled: July & August Clerk's wage	£885.92
Scheduled: Clerk's Expenses	£52.00
Bank A/C service charges	£8.50
	£10,694.03