

THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF DURLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2025 IN THE KEN STAINER SUITE AT DURLEY MEMORIAL HALL, DURLEY AT 7.30 p.m.

Cllr Delmege (Chairman), Cllr Watts, Cllr Pitter, Cllr Rappini, Cllr Rutherford, Cllr Ellen and the Clerk (Mrs Anne Collins), along with District Councillor Latham and 1 resident were present.

1. Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were received from County/District Councillor Williams and District Councillor Miller.
2. Any Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct. There were no Declarations of Interest.
3. The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.
4. The General Power of Competence – the Power is available to use if required. This was agreed by Councillors to use if required.
5. Matters arising:
  - (a) Report on any updates from Southern Water. Clerk reported that Jess Hanman no longer works in the same role and Nick Davis has taken over the liaison with Durley Parish Council. He is going to send us an update shortly after an internal planning meeting has been held regarding the next steps to be taken. A resident at the Meeting said that he had received a visit from SW to look at the water drainage from his property. He has not heard any more. The Clerk said that once we hear from SW about the next steps a further Public Meeting will be arranged. At the moment we could not offer the resident any further information as we have not been informed of any progress made. Clerk will chase up SW again for an update.
  - (b) Progress of selling of buffer area at The Sawmills. Clerk reported that she has asked the Land Agent to re-adjust the last two sections of land as one land owner did not wish to purchase all the land offered to him. This has meant that the 3 property owners at the far end are happy to proceed, but the 2 property owners nearest the entrance have not agreed yet. Councillors agreed that as time has gone on, we need to reach a conclusion so it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the 3 property owners and proceed with the sale and apply for a Change of Use of that section of land so that this section can be sold and completed. The Offers on the other 2 sections of land will be withdrawn. The Clerk will write to them and inform them that the Offer has now been withdrawn. All Councillors present were in agreement.
  - (c) Co-option of Parish Councillor. Two candidates have put their names forward to be considered for Co-option. Clerk read out the pieces written by the candidates and Councillors agreed that they would like to meet the candidates before making any decision. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate some possible dates to meet the candidates.
  - (d) Report on Southern Parishes Meeting (28.7.25). The Clerk reported that the Meeting discussed The Local Government Review, bus services in the southern parishes and general updates on WDALC, HALC and NALC. The next Meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> October and the Monitoring Officer from WCC will be speaking to the Group.
  - (e) The 2 replacement village benches have been ordered and will arrive within 6 weeks. The engravings will read “Sponsored by Durley Strawberries” and “Sponsored by Gabefest Music Festival”. Grateful thanks were given to Cllr Rappini for this very generous gesture to the village.

6. County Councillor's Report – CC Williams sent a Report via DC Latham which updated Councillors on the Local Government Review and there has been no progress report on the finger post outside of The Robin Hood.
7. District Councillors' Report – DC Miller, DC Williams, DC Latham. A District Councillors' Report was given by DC Latham. DC Latham also updated on the Local Government Review and the options that have been sent to Government from WCC. Their preferred option is a 4 Unitary Authority proposal, but with 3 variations. Councillors were also reminded of the food waste collection that will be commencing in October. DC Latham also said that the Enforcement Team are asking for 5 priority cases. The Clerk said that Durley has many enforcement cases and some are linked. Some are also long-standing cases. The Clerk will compile a list to send to the Enforcement Team and DC Latham to see if these can be escalated. Cllr Delmege asked about the capacity increase for the BW Surgery now that the portacabins are in place. DC Latham will try and find out and report back to Councillors.
8. Public Participation items by invitation of the Chairman. One resident was present and asked a question which was discussed in item 5(a) above.
9. Correspondence:
  - (a) Local Government Review Consultation from HCC. This was noted and it was agreed that there was nothing to respond to at the moment, but wait until WCC/HCC receive a response from Central Government regarding their proposals. Cllr Delmege and the Clerk are attending a Briefing on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September when we should hear more about HCC's proposals.
  - (b) Insurance Renewal 2025-26. Clerk read out the Insurance Renewal cost for 2025-26 which is £2,730.80. Councillors agreed that they would accept this and renew with Hiscox Insurance Scheme via AJG Community Scheme. All Councillors present were in agreement.
10. Recreation Ground Report: Cllr Watts gave a Recreation Ground Report saying that football matches have commenced again for the season, and everything is fine at the Ground. The new flooring has been laid in the Pavilion, and the guttering has been repaired by Durley Football Club. The Clerk reported that there had been an incident involving a child who had allegedly slipped off a piece of play equipment. This has been noted, and is being investigated. It was agreed that a Meeting will be arranged to see if any of the play equipment is needing to be replaced at the Recreation Ground or The Sawmills in the future so that Grants could be applied for if required.
11. Sawmills Report: Cllr Rutherford said that all was fine in The Sawmills.
12. Neighbourhood Watch Report: Cllr Watts said that there has not been any update. However, she did inform Councillors of some incidents which have occurred over the summer months.
13. Highways Report: Cllr Rappini reported that some pot holes have been repaired in Durley and there is one appearing outside of White Owl Cottage. Wintershill is getting worse and is cracking up badly now. This has been reported to HCC but will be reported again. The Clerk has asked our Parish Lengthsman to cut back the fern overgrowing the footpath from the School to the Hall as it is getting difficult to negotiate. This is not a Parish Council responsibility, but Councillors agreed it could be cut as a good-will gesture. There are also brambles over-hanging the footpath on Manor Road outside of The Robin Hood. Clerk will write to The Robin Hood and ask if they could be cut back.
14. Financial transactions: Councillors agreed invoices presented by the Clerk and agreed BACS payments.

15. Hall: Cllr Pitter – Quotes for 3<sup>rd</sup> section of car park. Cllr Pitter and Clerk met with another Contractor at the Hall, and he suggested putting in a bund prior to levelling the area of land for the car park. The land-owner has been asked if he would do this, and he has agreed. This means that further quotes will be put on hold for the moment, until this work is carried out so that we can see the area more clearly for quotes to be sought. Handrail repairs – quotes and suitable Contractors are being sourced. Wall repairs – the Clerk has asked a local builder if he would do this for us when in the area. Cllr Delmege will hang a picture up of King Charles when he has some help to hold the picture in place. A request was made to put bolts on the foyer doors so that they could be locked. This was declined as it could be a safety risk as these are fire doors and should not be locked.

16. Planning:

25/01336/FUL. Mr Connors. The erection of a rural worker's dwelling and the removal of existing mobile home upon occupancy. Little Oakdale, Durley Hall Lane, Durley. WITHDRAWN.

Appeal against the Refusal to grant permission in principle for residential development for up to two new dwellings at Rozel Forge, Stapleford Lane, Durley. APPEAL DISMISSED.

25/00637/HOU. Amendment of existing approved application for carport as original drawing in terms of roof style and height were different from those in the initial approved planning application. Elm Tree Farm, Durley Street, Durley. PERMITTED.

25/01650/HOU. Mr and Mrs Reed. Single storey rear extension. 2 Gregory Lane, Durley. Councillors had no comments to make on this Application. Councillors had no comments to make on this Application.

25/01518/HOU. Mr Smith. Single storey pitched roof side extension. Shiemara, Gregory Lane, Durley. Councillors had no comments to make on this Application.

Councillors viewed plans for a proposal for 3,400 new homes north east of Fair Oak. This development is from Mortimers Lane to Crowd Hill. Councillors agreed to make no comments at this stage.

17. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.30 p.m.