

**NETHERBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
24 MARCH 2026 at 7PM  
SALWAYASH VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Richard King (Chair), Ryan Strong, Luke Larder, Mark Roberts, Peter Bailey, Clare Handford and Robert Bowditch.

**ATTENDANCE:** Natalie Bealing (Acting Clerk). There were members of the public in attendance.

**1. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Rogers and Eysenck (Dorset Council), and from PCSO Alex Bishop and approved by the Council.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

None disclosed.

**3. WARD COUNCILLOR NEIL EYSENCK REPORT**

Cllr Eysenck's report confirmed that the annual budget had been confirmed at Full Council in February at £482m with a capital budget of £66m. Within this there was an extra £5m for capital expenditure on areas that flood regularly and this will be directed towards roads infrastructure, particularly rural roads that we know flood regularly. Total Highways budget now £48m.

Within this there is an additional £250k allocated in the revenue budget for rural funding with this going towards an additional gully clearance team. Additional money has also been allocated to fill some of the vacancies that have arisen within the community highways team. Currently some flux within this team due to new team members joining but hopefully the additional staff will provide much needed increases in capacity in the long run.

Dorset Council's emergency planning team has applied for a S19 review of causes of flooding pan Dorset to look at root causes of flooding issues experienced.

**4. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER REPORT**

There had been a report of suspicious activity near a farm in Dottery.

The Acting Clerk confirmed the next Drop-In session at Netherbury Reading Room pop-up café on 6 July (10-11am).

Action: The Clerk to liaise with the PSCO to see if he can attend the pop up café on the 6 July.

**5. SALWAYASH SCHOOL REPORT**

The report covered West Dorset Schools Collaboration, Pupil numbers, Enrichment and Extracurricular activities and SIAMS, as well as the pressures caused by continued lack of financial support from the Diocese for VA schools and Governor vacancies.

**6. SALWAYASH VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

A ZIP wire has fitted into the park, the hall has had complete internal redecoration, the website has been thoroughly launched, and people can now book online if they wish to.

Regular users continue to hire the hall as well as more people from the surrounding areas. Engagement with the community has been positive with the village fete returning to the hall as well as having the big breakfast and other events. As always, the hall is struggling with voluntary help, they need more Committee members to help strengthen what they can offer as a venue. The hall's financial resources continue to stay in good shape and all projects have been managed without dipping below the £5000 min threshold.

#### **7. NETHERBURY CHARITIES REPORT**

The Salwayash school leavers received vouchers towards the purchase of stationery for their transition to secondary school during the summer term 2025. The charity plans to help the school again with a future project; they are awaiting quotes from the Head. Christmas hampers were also delivered within the parish and included £100 fuel donation. A new family within the parish also received a Morrisons voucher to help with Christmas groceries and a small amount of cash towards a child's replacement coat and trainers. Due to the improved financial situation of the charity they paid for our own hampers (instead of the Beaminster Charity) and will continue to do so. The charity again contributed to the cost of much needed physiotherapy for a parishioner. The charity has said goodbye to Jenny Garrett as a retiring Trustee.

#### **8. NETHERBURY VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

The hall is well utilised and financially stable - the hiring of the hall has been steady and quiz nights, films, 100 club, donations from village lunches, dinners etc have all helped in raising funds. The hall roof was replaced last year at great expense and after the awful rains of this winter it has leaked again! The contractors are going to sort the problem. The steps and handrail to the Reading Room have been updated and repaired - it now looks tidy and safe. The Hall kitchen and store area have been painted and now look bright and clean. A new electric screen is being sort for the film shows and other uses when required. There were thanks to all the people who help run the hall. Effort has been made to involve new folk to spread the load.

#### **9. NETHERBURY PLAYING FIELD REPORT**

The 2025 annual return to the Charity Commission has been completed - income stood at £1,783 and spend for the year was £1,600. As of 12 March, the account balance stands at £50.21. The deposit/savings account balance is £974.10. The Service Level Agreement with Dorset Council for grass cutting (main field) has been paid to 31 March 2026 @ £895.26. Insurance renewal to 31 March 2027 covers public liability, playground liability and Trustees Indemnity was paid on 12 March at £215.33. The annual inspection of the play equipment is due in June 2026. The Trustees were grateful to Netherbury Football Club for £450 towards the 2025/26 Grass Cutting SLA and Netherbury Garden Open Day 2025 £500. Fund raising events need to be planned for 2026/27 - without the funds needed to maintain the upkeep of the playing field the costs and running will need to transfer to the Parish Council. Cllr King added some extra information at the meeting regarding ideas for fundraising, including a Duck Race.

#### **10. MEETING CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 7.18pm