Loders Parish Council

Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of Loders Parish Council held at Loders Village Hall on Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 7.10pm

Present:

Councillors:	Julie Bryce *(Chair)*	Ros Newberry
	David Pullan *(Vice Chair)*	Gareth Taylor
	David Cannon	Stephen Tilton
	Gavin Edwards	Alan Watts
	Flora Hood	Neil Eysenck *(Dorset Council*
	Derrick Newberry	
Officer:	Jo Hughes *(Clerk)*	**Public:** 2
Apologies:	None	

9131. To receive apologies for absence
None.

9132. To receive declarations of interest or grants of dispensation
None.

9133. To accept the minutes of the meetings held on 21st July and sign the same
Proposed Cllr D Pullan **Seconded Cllr A Watts** **Resolved**

9134. Democratic Forum
Two members of the Loders Transport Group attended the meeting and read out statements relating to the Group's understanding of the purpose of recent meetings, concerns regarding the handling of route discussions, and the importance of providing a safe travel connection between Loders and Bradpole. Councillors noted the statements.

9135. Dorset Council - Report Cllr Neil Eysenck

- Cllr Eysenck provided the following updates:
  Dorset Council Community Conversations events will be held in October and November; Councillors are encouraged to attend.
- The Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation is open until 12th October; Councillors are encouraged to respond.
- The Local Government Boundary Commission has published draft ward recommendations for Dorset; the consultation is available on their website.
- The Dorset Council Cabinet meeting on 8th September reported an £8 million overspend, primarily within children's services and adult social care.

9136. Finance

i. To note the NJC pay settlement 2026/27
The Clerk reported that the National Joint Council has confirmed a 3.3% pay award for 1st April 2026 - 31st March 2027. Councils are encouraged to implement the increase promptly, and the Clerk confirmed that the updated salary and backdated pay have been applied this month.

ii. To note BDO conclusion of annual review 2025/26

The Clerk reported that the 2025/26 annual review had been completed with no matters arising, and that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been displayed on the ward noticeboards and published on the Council's website.

iii. To authorise receipts and payments due

The following payments for September 2026 were approved in line with internal controls:

Receipts		**Detail**	**Amount**
Country Memorials		Memorial	35.00
Country Memorials		Memorial	5.00
The Crown 5 Pubs Challenge		The Crown Defibrillator Fund	175.00
Payments	**Voucher No**	**Detail**	**Amount**
Fowler Hire & Sale	1647	Chainsaw	401.51
Lloyds Bank	1648	Service Charges	4.25
J Hughes	1649	Salary & Expenses	748.14
HMRC	1650	PAYE	231.37
D Smith	1651	Grounds Maintenance	175.00
J Hughes	1652	Salary & Expenses	913.26
HMRC	1653	PAYE	289.60
BDO LLP	1654	External Audit	378.00
D Smith	1655	Grounds Maintenance	175.00
Loders Village Hall	1656	PC Meeting 14/09/26 & 15/09/26	25.00

Payments authorised for September were **£3,341.13** being the total of the individual payments shown above. Bank balance as at 15th September 2026 **£24,428.13**

Proposed Cllr S Tilton **Seconded Cllr G Edwards** **Resolved**

ii To review the monthly finance reports - the Clerk provided Councillors with a summary report of the year-to-date position (September2026) against the budget and a report of the movement on fund balances to 15th September 2026.

9137. Planning and Development

a) To consider any planning applications, appeals or enforcements in circulation:

i. P/CLP/2026/04500 Bell Farm, Smishops Lane, Loders DT6 3SA - Certificate of Lawful Proposed Development for single-storey rear extension to an existing detached dwelling - for information only.

ii. P/HOU/2026/03855 Church Farm House, Main Street, Loders DT6 3SA - Re-roofing Roman Tiles exiting studio roof with Clado Standing Seam - comments closed 27th August 2026.

iii. **P/HOU/2026/03094** Inglewood, New Road, Uploders DT6 4NY - application refused 3rd August 2026. Applicants have submitted an appeal.

iv. **P/FUL/2026/02404** Toms Barn, Uploders, Bridport DT6 4PD - application granted 29th July 2026.

v. **P/MPO/2026/00503** Nos. 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54 & 56 High Acres, Loders, Bridport DT6 3UJ - no update, the application is under officer consideration.

vi. **P/FUL/2025/05537** Cloverleaf Farm, Yellow Lane, Loders DT6 3RY - application granted 14th September 2026.

b) To consider and agree any actions in relation to other planning matters:

None.

9138. Unitary Authority

i. Update from DAPTC

The Clerk reported that the DAPTC Autumn Conference will be held on Thursday 22nd October. The delegate fee is £60, and the conference will focus on the role of councillors, as elected members, in ensuring councils are equipped to meet both current and future challenges. Councillors interested in attending should notify the Clerk.

ii. Update from BLAP

Cllr Tilton reported that the BLAP Members' Assembly will take place on Thursday 24th September, which he hopes to attend. Sam Crowe will be the guest speaker.

iii. Dorset Council - Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) Consultation

Following discussion, Councillors agreed that the Parish Council is unable to submit a corporate response to the consultation, as no collective position could be reached and the Council does not have a clear understanding of residents' views. Clerk to reply to consultation to this effect. Councillors will respond to the consultation individually as elected members and encourage residents to respond. The Clerk to place updated notices on the noticeboards, website and Facebook page reminding residents to respond.

iv. Dorset Council - Loders Parish Council invitation to Community Conversations events (Area 2)

The Clerk advised that two Community Conversations events for Area 2, which includes Loders, have been scheduled for Wednesday 7th October and Tuesday 3rd November, from 9.30am to 12.30pm in Beaminster. Cllr Bryce confirmed she is unable to attend the first event but will be available for the second event. Cllr Tilton confirmed his availability for the second event, and Cllr Pullan hoped to attend both. The Clerk noted that her attendance would depend on work commitments.

9139. Council Property

To consider and agree any actions in relation to Parish Council property:

i. Cemetery

- Quote to raise canopy of the Lime tree.

Councillors noted that the Clerk had sought quotes from three contractors for all tree works comprising:

1) raising the canopy of the Lime tree at the cemetery;
2) cutting back two trees at the allotments;
3) cutting back the Oak tree in the play area;
4) removing dead branches from two Ash trees in the playing fields;
5) removing weeds at the base of young Lime tree.

Two quotations were received: Quote 1: £1,975 + VAT and Quote 2: £1,440 + VAT; the third quotation was not returned. After consideration, Councillors agreed to accept Quote 1, which includes cable bracing of one Ash tree to prevent failure at the bifurcation at 3m. Acceptance of the quote is also subject to the Clerk confirming the extent of material to be removed.

Proposed Cllr J Bryce **Seconded Cllr D Pullan** **Resolved**

ii. Allotments

- Quote for two trees to be cut back - see above.

iii. Playing Field

- Quote for Oak tree to be cut back - see above.
- Quote for removal of dead branches on the Ash tree - see above.
- Quote for weeding of the Lime tree - see above.
- Resident request to purchase a piece of play equipment or bench for play area - Councillors considered a resident's request to purchase either a piece of play equipment or a bench for the play area in memory of their mother. They agreed that additional play equipment would be difficult to accommodate due to limited space, but confirmed that a new memorial bench would be very acceptable. The Clerk will liaise with the resident and progress the matter.

9140. Footpaths and Rights of Way

Cllr Cannon reported that the footbridge over the River Asker at Uploders has now been reinforced. He also advised that a resident had reported an overhanging branch by the bridge on New Street Lane, and he will contact the agent for the land to notify the current landowner. Cllr Pullan further reported that Chapel Lane in Uploders is becoming increasingly overgrown, and Cllr Cannon agreed to inspect the area.

9141. Roads, Transport and Drains

i. Smishops Lane closure - Cllr Edwards confirmed that there was no update.

ii. Overgrown hedges of private properties - Cllr Edwards and Cllr R Newberry confirmed that they had spoken with the residents concerned regarding overgrown and overhanging hedges. Cllr Edwards advised that the Dorset Council Community Highways Officer will undertake enforcement action if required.

iii. 20mph application update - Cllr Edwards reported that the Dorset Council Road Safety Team has confirmed that the 20mph consultation did not raise any significant issues. The intention is to take this scheme, along with the others, to a delegated powers meeting at the end of the month, with the outcome to be advised shortly afterwards.

It was noted that the subsidence on New Road, Uploders, currently marked by cones, is being managed by Dorset Council. The rebuilding of the wall at Locks Hill continues to be monitored. Cllr Bryce further reported that a finger post is down at FP7 Cherry Lane, which Cllr Cannon agreed to inspect.

iv. Update on route options - Councillors noted that the recent route options meeting had been constructive in identifying two clear proposals: the Loders Transport Group's preferred safe, non-road route from Loders to Bradpole, and the No Trailway Through the Village Group's option, which avoids any trailway passing through the village. Following extensive discussion, Councillors agreed that a resident drop-in session should be the next step to clarify both routes, ensure terminology regarding a safe non-road road and trailway is fully understood, and gather wider community views. The date for the resident drop-in session will be agreed at the next meeting.

9142. Environmental Issues

i. Wild fires - the Clerk advised that a resident had contacted the Parish Council expressing concern about wild fires in rural areas and the Council's contingency arrangements, including communication with local landowners. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council recently completed Dorset Council's survey on how parish and town councils prepare for and respond to emergencies, and what support may be required in future. The outcome of this survey is currently awaited.

9143. Communications:

i. Wessex Internet

The Wessex Internet installation is expected to be completed by 16th September.

ii. Broadband, mobile phone signal and smart meter issues

Cllr Bryce advised that Atlas Towers had responded confirming that mobile coverage in the parish is limited due to challenging terrain and any viable solution would require a location on higher ground. A circulated map showed theoretical coverage from a new site and a Teams meeting was offered to discuss further. However, after discussion Councillors felt that the theoretical coverage was limited so decided to not progress any further at the moment.

iii. Loders Parish Council website - Loders Local History Group content on website

The Clerk confirmed that she is reviewing the Loders Local History Group content on the new website to identify what has not transferred correctly and to determine the updates required.

9144. Correspondence received

None.

9145. Parish Council Business Plan updates

Cllr Taylor suggested that the business plan is included in the agenda every 3 or 4 months for Councillors to look at and confirm any updates.

9146. Website and Eggardon & Colmers View

20mph update.

9147. Agenda items for next meeting on Tuesday 20th October 2026

None.

Meeting closed 9.17pm.

Chair: J Bryce **Date:** 20th October 2026