Extraordinary Meeting

Minutes 2026

I hereby give n**otice** that the next **meeting of Durleigh Parish Council** will be held as follows:

Date of Meeting:	Weds 21st October 2026	**Time:**	7:00 pm
Location of Meeting:	Lower (main Church) Hall, Westfield Church Hall		
Present:	Cllr. R. Leighton, Cllr. J. Johnstone, Cllr. F. Ridler, Cllr. G. Mansfield, Cllr. John Vassalli,		
In Attendance:	Tammy Roper (Clerk),		
Apologies:			

Ref.	Agenda Item
1-21/10/26	**Chairman's Comments**
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this is an extraordinary meeting due to the timeline for responding to the planning application for a new secondary school on land to the west of Broadlands Lane and North of Spaxton Road.
2-21/10/26	**Public Question Time**
	21 Members of the public present. A number of persons raised concerns that they have not received consultation letters. The Clerk read out the email received from the Planning Officer apologising for the error within the original planning application submission, which meant the road was not included within the red boundary line. This means there will be a reconsultation once the correct plans are resubmitted and residents affected by the highways work will receive letters. Other concerns raised; • Highways safety and how figures on the traffic numbers have been compiled. Belief is that they are drastically underestimated, have been fudged and have not included all accidents / fatalities. A member of the public said that when he asked when the traffic survey was carried out, the date/time given in the response was mid-morning in the school holidays, so not realistic. • Position of the main building and the resulting pollution issues, noise, etc. both from school traffic and heating structures, interfering with local residents. The general thought was that they are squeezing into one corner, to do cheaply. • No accountability. The proposed entrance is dangerous because of poor visibility. Members of the public are concerned that there does not seem to be anyone with overall accountability. • M5 closures have major effect on traffic. No consideration to the extra traffic caused by motorway closures. Increase in traffic in last 7 years phenomenal. • In the previous plans, for Better Schools for the Future, the entrance to the school was on the North side, view is that this would still work better, more safely. • Traffic Plan very focused on drop off, nothing about the end of the day, with parents/carers waiting to pick up children. No mention of yellow lines / parking restrictions. • No mention of the size of the vehicles using the roads. In one afternoon, 15 tractors. Landfill site at Spaxton, heavy vehicles travelling the road regularly.

	• General consensus that residents are owed an end of day traffic plan, to properly evaluate the issues re parking for collection/drop off. • Setting of building, does not allow sufficient buffer between residents. Planned trees are not going to have optimal conditions to grow; ground sloping away so lack of water and overshadowing of building. Current hedge to be retained, mainly Elm which is dying, the plan does not detail anything to mitigate this. • Number of crossings, cannot be safe. Better to have footpath on North side of Spaxton Road. • Member of public read out his objection re the highways safety and lack of signalised crossing points. Timed toucan crossings are needed to be in the plan before the school is built. • Parents will not allow their children to walk to school, crossing busy roads three times. They will want to drive them there. • Why can't they rebuild on current site. They did a number of times previously, with the same number of pupils. • Previous slipping of high bank is only going to be 'monitored'. No improvement to north side of road. • Noted re Skimmerton Lane, that although it has been said school buses will not use that route, Slinky buses ae now using it regularly, so in time in will be used. There were also a number of comments re the lack of response from Somerset Council and that the Planning Portal website is not functioning properly, preventing comments from being submitted online and comments that have been submitted (via other means) are not available for viewing on the website. A number of the public left after 'public Question Time' finished.

3-21/10/26	**Co-option of New Councillor**
	An application for filling the councillor has been received and considered by the council. All councillors were in agreement to co-opt Nigel Smith back onto the council. Nigel was previously a member of the council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed in the presence of the Clerk and duly witnessed. Declaration of Interests Form were given to NS for completion. Cllr. Nigel Smith, then joined the council for the remainder of the meeting.
4-21/10/26	**Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**
	The council RESOLVED to delegate authority for the power to grant dispensations to the Clerk. The following declarations of interest were received: • Cllr Vassalli due to the close proximity of his home in relation to the proposed position of the school • Cllr Mansfield due to the close proximity of his home to the proposed works on the highway infrastructure • Cllr Ridler due to being employed by Haygrove School • Cllr Smith due to the close proximity of his home to the proposed school location and work on highways infrastructure Written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest were received and reviewed. The Clerk granted all requests for dispensation as appropriate.
5-21/10/26	**Planning Matters**
	For Discussion:
23/26/00004	*Construction of a new secondary school including a two storey teaching building, sports hall, multi-use games area (MUGA), sports pitches, hard & soft landscaping, vehicle, pedestrian & cycle access, parking, drainage infrastructure, associated works & highways works.* By majority vote; 5 in favour and 1 abstention, the council RESOLVED to strongly object for the following reasons; • Highways safety • Procedural; people not received letters, portal not working • Position within the site. • Traffic survey carried out on school holidays. It was agreed to insist that traffic survey is redone. As well as previous issues raised in the Public Question Time, there is also no consideration of traffic to Enmore school, that would be using the same roads at the same time. The council agreed that Cllr. Vassalli would initially draft the detailed wording and circulate for review/agreement before being submitted by the Clerk.

	It was further agreed that an email should be sent to Planning to say people are not happy that no notifications were received. Woeful to expect on response when proper plans have not been submitted. Lack of transparency. **Action: Clerk to do email on Thurs re procedural concerns** Also agreed to write to Jon Fellingham re concerns about the Highways plan. **Action: CLERK to do Thurs** An unrelated question was asked by one the remaining members of public at this point, about the hedge cutting in the narrow part of Spaxton Road. The Chair confirmed that it is not undertaken or instructed by Durleigh Parish Council.
	For Update:
23/26/00002	*3 West Bower Cottages, West Bower Lane - Erection of two storey extension to the North & West elevations.* ***Granted Permission.***
5-3/2/26	**Items for Next Agenda**
	School Bus Routes
6-3/2/26	**Date & Venue of Next Meeting**
Date & Venue:	Thurs 12th November 2026 at the Hembry Room, Westfield Church Hall

Meeting Closed at:	8:26pm

Minutes Signed by: …… **Date:** ……..
(Chairman)