



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Church House on Thursday 3 September 2026 at 7.30pm

Members present: Councillor Elliott (Chair), J Bibby, D Edwards, A Fitzpatrick, M Jonas, C Partridge and H Symonds

Also attending: District Councillor Nutley

Members of the Public: Three

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

5268 RESIGNATIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- (a) Members received the resignations of Cllr Jane Bibby and Cllr Jacqueline Welby. They were both thanked for their contributions during their term as Councillors.
- (b) Apologies were received from:
 - District Cllr Rogers
 - District Cllr Major
 - County Cllr Morgan

5269 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and invited to state whether they have any interest in the items to be discussed during this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

Unforeseen requests for a Dispensation to be considered at this point only if there was no way a Councillor would have been aware of such before the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

5270 OPEN FORUM

Sue Raynor (Road Warden) reported the Road Warden team had restarted their sessions after the summer break, beginning with the road into the village and in the centre. Geoff and Claire Partridge have also worked on the road to Babeny. £86 has been raised from a recent pub quiz at The Old Inn. This means there is £455 in the account which can be put towards purchasing a wacker plate. Sue will also try and obtain walkie-talkies and ear defenders from DCC through their grant scheme. They are hoping to focus on the area around Broadaford next. There is a worrying section outside Willow Cottage which requires engineering work as the road appears to be subsiding on the corner/junction which she continues to follow up with Highways.

Jane Bibby reported that she has been organising the contents of the Parish Chest in preparation for taking them to Devon Record Office. She had come across some photographs which she suggested are handed to the History Group to research/display (57, 70 and 71). This was agreed. It was also agreed that the items would be loaned to Devon Records Office as opposed to gifted, which means that the Parish Council will retain ownership. Further, the Parish Council gives permission to publish, broadcast or exhibit any of the loaned images. The Parish Council also requests that Devon Records Office contacts it if they wish to destroy any paperwork. Jane was thanked for her work organising this.

5271 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 July 2026 which were approved as a true and correct record.

5272 REPORTS

- (a) **County Councillor**
No report

(b) **District Councillors**

Cllr Nutley advised that he had received an email from a resident complaining about problems with refuse collection and potholes. He has replied to him advising that TDC is experiencing staffing and other issues which they are trying to address. He advised that there is a meeting of the Teignbridge Community Network on 15 October, 1.30-4.30pm at the Courtenay Centre in Newton Abbot to which Town and Parish Councils are invited.

Cllr Rogers sent a written update with general information:

OFGEM announced the energy price increase taking effect from October 2026 .
<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/press-release/energy-price-cap-will-rise-4-october-2026>

Support to complete the application for a Crisis and Resilience fund can be obtained from Teignbridge District Council team Customer Support on 01626 361101 for those that are digitally excluded and/or vulnerable. Homeless households are supported by their allocated housing officer.

Residents can allow access assistance online (link below)
<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/financial-help/crisis-and-resilience-fund/>

Food banks ,Citizens Advice, community groups will be provided with webinars on the scheme, how to apply, what documents may be needed to establish eligibility and awareness of the scheme. Local libraries have also been offered webinars via CVS.
<https://www.teigncvcs.org.uk/>

Community larders and Social Supermarkets are all listed on the on CVS website. The TDC comms team is regularly advertising the scheme in newsletters and on social media. DCC / TDC have done webinar with members explaining the scheme to raise awareness as well as including in member newsletters.

TDC has arranged for the One Magazine to advertise support for oil heating to over 20k residents. This is delivered through letterboxes so is a good option for those who do not use the internet/social media. TDC have been in discussion with several oil delivery companies locally who have contacted regular customers to let them know about the schemes and have done mailshots to those registered with them. There is timed information provided to by TDC to the oil delivery companies who see an increase of people seeking oil deliveries from first week in September.

Scheduled communication to residents on heating oil newsletter is scheduled for first week in September and it will remain a standing item on this over the winter period with additional social media posts.

DCC / TDC are preparing a press release to be issued to Devon Live and MDA on the support schemes in the coming days .

Schools Communication will be sent when pupils return to next week to Parents / Carers communication .

TDC have advised that more than 1 application can be made for matched funding .
<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/district-town-and-parish-councils/cil-community-fund/>

Attached are some links for third parties which may be useful.

[One Stop Community Partnership - Groundwork](#)

[The LoveReading4Kids Funding for Schools Scheme](#)

[Teacher Development Fund | Paul Hamlyn Foundation](#)

[Our Local Nature Grant Scheme | The Linnean Society](#)

[Grassroots Grants - Groundwork](#)

[How to Apply - The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust](#)

[Project Grants - Portals](#)

[Small Grants - The Leathersellers](#)

[Places of Worship Renewal Fund | Historic England](#)

(c) **DNPA Representative**

No report

(d) **Police Report**

In the period 1 July – 27 August June 2026, there were 2 recorded offences or incidents:

- 1 x assault
- 1 x criminal damage

Police responded to approximately 20 non-offence incidents in the same period. (Non-offence incidents are those reported to the Police that do not meet the threshold to record a crime.)

We have over the holiday period increased our patrols of the area, engaging with both locals and visitors. We have been particularly engaging around the fire risk to Dartmoor which remains very high, as well as checking on those areas where historically vehicles have been broken into.

It was unclear who residents should contact should they witness any activity which could increase fire risk (BBQ, stoves etc) and it was agreed to write to the PCSO for advice on this.

The police are delivering cyber awareness presentations; this might be a suitable theme for the Annual Parish Meeting.

(e) **Delegate Reports**

None

5273 PROJECTS & ESTATES

(Cllrs Raynor, Edwards, Fitzpatrick & Welby)

(a) **Parish Field**

- (i) Members received and noted the most recent income and expenditure report.
- (ii) The trees with ash die back have now been cleared from the parish field. Piles of brash are ready for burning as when it is safe and sensible to do so. The pre-school area is now clear and safe.

(b) **Village Walkabout**

Notes made during the village walkabout were circulated to members with actions that were agreed whilst walking around. There was nothing requiring urgent attention, but there are a number of nice-to-do jobs which can be worked through. One suggestion was putting together a volunteer party to spruce the tennis court area up. The Parish Council has written to DNPA about the trees around the sports area and awaits a response. The clerk advised that TDC will replace the stickers on the recycling banks with updated details about who to contact should the banks require emptying. She has also written to DCC about repositioning the stones in the stream opposite Brook Lane to reinstate the correct flow. A response is awaited.

(c) **Sandbag Store**

Cllr Fitzgerald advised that he had obtained a quote of £76 for concrete pavers to replace the existing floor. These would need to be collected. The alternative is to replace the current pallets with new pallets. After discussion, it was agreed that the concrete pavers would be a more long-term solution.

(d) **Widcombe Village Green**

- (i) Members discussed whether the Parish Council should be charging community groups for using the green for fund raising and other events. After brief discussion, it was agreed that community groups should be able to use the green without charge

(e) **Defibrillator**

Members agreed to the purchase of a new battery at a cost of £205 + VAT

5274 PLANNING/LOCAL LIAISON

(Cllrs Bibby, Partridge, Jonas & Symonds)

(a) **New planning applications/appeals**

None

(b) **Planning Decisions/Withdrawals**

- (i) 0180/26 – Higher Foxworthy, Poundsgate
Proposed single-storey lean-to conservatory side extension

Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional consent.

- (ii) 0156/26 – Longhouse Farm, Widecombe
Change of use and conversion of cabin to camping barn

Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional consent.

(c) **Beating the Bounds**

Cllr Partridge updated members about plans for Beating the Bounds. Her application for a FiPL grant has been successful leaving a shortfall of £1318 for the Parish Council to contribute which members agreed to support. The grant and Parish Council contribution will cover the cost of preparing the route, Ranger time, project oversight production of a film, commemorative medals and mugs and a celebratory event. The event will take place over three weekends on Saturday 12th, Saturday 19th and Sunday 26th September and all dates are now available to book. Cllr Partridge and her husband Geoff were thanked for their time and efforts organising this traditional event for the parish and it is hoped that it will be well supported.

5275 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

(Cllrs Bibby, Partridge, Jonas & Symonds)

(a) **Cash Book**

Members noted the income and expenditure to date.

- (b) Members noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on the new rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2026 (+3.3%). The clerk's salary will be backdated accordingly.

(c) **Payments**

Members approved the following payments:

- Clerk's salary & disbursements - £295.77
- Y Elliott - light for sandbag store - £14.99

(d) **Infrastructure Plan & Application for Teignbridge CIL funding**

Members received and approved the final draft of the Infrastructure Plan, a document which will support the Teignbridge CIL application. Members also approved the draft CIL application – a joint application with the Widecombe Community Hall to seek funds for the next steps in building the hall including external facing and new internal resin floor. It is a match-funded application. The total cost of the works is £87,040 of which £43,530 is being contributed. The request to TDC is therefore £43,510. Members approved the submission of the application in the name of the Parish Council. If successful, the Parish Council will receive the funds but will delegate the project management to the Community Hall. Budget and costings will be shared for transparency.

(e) **Standards/Code of Conduct Training**

Members received an invitation to attend TDC training on 9th September on Teams

5276 HIGHWAYS

- (a) As always, everyone is encouraged to continue to report potholes on DCC's website:

Online: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Telephone: 0345 155 1004

The following issues were raised:

The road from Dartmeet to Bel Tor is in a very poor condition. It melted a lot in the summer and is now very smooth and shiny. It was agreed to report it to Highways to see if anything can be done to improve the surface before the winter months.

Over the summer, it has been observed that a number of coaches have been going to Dartmeet via Ponsworthy. It was agreed to contact highways and request additional multi-lingual signage advising drivers of the narrow bridge and width restriction ahead.

Cllr Partridge advised that DNPA is looking to restore historic and missing signposts as part of their highway heritage initiative. They are able to access some funding to replace these missing signposts with metal ones. DNPA has been suggested that the signpost at Hemsworthy Gate is put forward for replacement; this was supported by members.

5277 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Members noted that the annual Dartmoor Devil cycle ride will be passing through the parish on Sunday 25 October.

5278 MEMBERS' ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR GENERAL DISCUSSION, FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS AND/OR ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

Members are reminded that they have not received the statutory notice of this business to be transacted and should therefore recognise that any decision made may be taken to be unlawful if challenged in the future

None

5279 NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on 1 October 2026 in Church House, Widecombe.

Signed Dated