



## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Church House on Thursday 1 October 2026 at 7.30pm**

**Members present:** Councillor Elliott (Chair), D Edwards, M Jonas, C Partridge and H Symonds

**Also attending:** District Councillor Rogers

**Members of the Public:** Two

**Clerk:** Suzanna Hughes

### **5280 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- (b) Apologies were received from:
- Cllr Fitzpatrick
  - District Cllr Nutley
  - County Cllr Morgan
  - Rob Steemson (DNPA)

### **5281 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.

Cllr Jonas declared an interest in items 5286(a)(i) and (ii)

Cllr Partridge declared an interest in item 5287(b)

### **5282 OPEN FORUM**

A resident hopes that the Council will take note of the government's budget expectations and predicted interest rate rises when they are considering the Council's budget and precept for 2027/28. The Chair replied that, in the same way, the Parish Council's costs will also rise and, when budgeting, the Council never looks to raise more money than it needs.

### **5283 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES**

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 September 2026 which were approved as a true and correct record.

### **5284 REPORTS**

- (a) **County Councillor**  
Cllr Morgan sent a written report as follows:

Main points to make are the pause in LGR. This looks unlikely to progress any further during this Parliament. The government will simply run out of time. There has been a genuine uplift in council staff morale since this announcement, and, hopefully, it means staff can refocus their time and energy on council business rather than LGR business.

Bovey Rural County Division has been selected for the extended pothole scheme. This means that any qualifying defects will be repaired along with any other defect within 500 metres. There will be a break during high call-out times over a potentially wet winter, but this is a chance to report and fix as much as possible.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/maintaining-roads/local-highways-maintenance-transparency-report-2026-27/what-we-are-doing-about-potholes-and-other-road-defects/>

(b) **District Councillors**

Cllr Rogers advised that Neil Blaney, TDC's Director of Place, is happy to meet to discuss the recent application to TDC's CIL fund, for support towards the Widecombe Community Hall, which was unsuccessful. The Chair advised that the main reasons given in the letter were: exceptionally high number of applications resulting in difficult decisions between a number of strong projects, priority was given to schemes which demonstrated a higher level of secured match-funding and where funding was critical to enabling the delivery of new infrastructure. There was also lots of positive feedback about the project and the community support and volunteer commitment to the project.

The following report including useful links was also circulated to members:

The Teignbridge Town and Parish Charter is key as the District Council continues:

<https://democracy.teignbridge.gov.uk/documents/s23893/Town%20and%20Parish%20Charter%2020>

The Matched Funding is a way of achieving solutions:

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/district-town-and-parish-councils/cil-community-fund/>

Worth assessing Dartmoor Futures for potential funding:

<https://www.dartmoorfutures.org/whatwedo>

Residents can access the Crisis and Resilience Fund if they are eligible for assistance:

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/financial-help/crisis-and-resilience-fund/>

(c) **DNPA**

Rob Steemson was unable to attend the meeting but thanked the Parish Council for organising the very enjoyable Beating the Bounds event. It was a great community event and he acknowledged the work of many individuals to ensure its success.

(d) **Police Report**

In the period 1 – 28 September, there were 0 recorded offences or incidents.

Police responded to approximately 3 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.)

In response to the question about who residents should contact should they witness any activity which could increase fire risk (BBQ, stoves etc), the advice of the police is that whilst residents could point out the risk, the police would advise against it as the activity itself is not illegal. It is suggested that possibly the most action would be to encourage some collaborative work involving the Parish Council, DNP, DSFRS, the Police and any other organisation wishing to be involved, to look at solutions for next year.

(e) **Delegate Reports**

Cllr Partridge reported on the three recent 'Beating the Bounds' walks which were thoroughly enjoyed by all those who had participated. A short film is being produced to capture the event for future posterity. An article is also being prepared for Rolling Along. There appears to be a missing boundary stone called 'two barrows' on Hameldown. Geoff Partridge is liaising with the archaeologist at DNPA who agrees that it would be good to replace this boundary stone and therefore there is an opportunity to explore this.

## 5285 **PROJECTS & ESTATES**

(Cllrs Edwards & Fitzpatrick)

(a) **Parish Field**

(i) Members received and noted the most recent income and expenditure report.

(ii) An offer had been made by the Jubilee Orchard Committee to lay the hedge in the entrance to the orchard. This has now been done. They had also offered to relay the strip of hazel by the road in front of the toilets. However, on closer inspection, they are not happy to take the hedge down as there are wires involved and two very tall trees within that section of

the hedge though they would be happy to take off the overhanging bits at the front which will lighten the hedge. It was acknowledged that the roadside hedge was one which was identified in the Village Walkabout as in need of work. Whilst it does not belong to the Parish Council, no-one else seems to want to take responsibility for it. It was suggested that the Wildlife Warden team might wish to take a look at it.

In future, as there is no longer a Parish Councillor representing the Orchard Committee, it was agreed that the Committee should send a report to the Parish Council as and when appropriate.

## **5286 PLANNING/LOCAL LIAISON**

*(Cllrs Partridge, Jonas & Symonds)*

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

*Having declared an interest, Cllr Jonas left the meeting whilst these applications were being considered.*

#### **(i) [0279/26 – The Old Inn, Widecombe](#)**

Carry out repairs to a modern single storey flat roof extension

Members agreed to support this application.

#### **(ii) [0285/26 – The Old Inn, Widecombe](#)**

Maintenance repair to stone chimney stack on front elevation. Removal of log burner and brick plinth from conservatory along with installation of air conditioning cassettes

Members agreed to support this application.

### **(b) Planning Decisions/Withdrawals**

None

## **5287 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE**

*(Cllrs Partridge, Jonas & Symonds)*

### **(a) Cash Book**

Members noted the income and expenditure to date.

### **(c) Payments**

Members approved the following payments:

- Clerk's salary & disbursements - £357.37 (including back pay from April)
- D Edwards - defibrillator battery - £246
- Information Commissioners Office - data protection licence renewal - £47
- Quickprint (SW) Ltd - commemorative mugs (Beating the Bounds) - £348.97
- G Partridge - Preparing the land for Beating the Bounds - £6160 (80% of this will be funded by the FiPL grant)

### **(c) Budget 2027-28**

The Finance Committee is to prepare a draft budget for the next meeting for initial review and discussion.

## **5288 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

### **(b) Members were informed of multiple road closures, as follows:**

- **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 8am – 6pm** – Holne Bridge to New Bridge will be closed for pole replacement. From Holne Bridge, you will still be able to access Holne village and Venford (and vice versa), but not New Bridge.
- **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 8am – 5pm (these times are for New Bridge only; Holne Bridge will be closed nights too)** – A co-ordinated closure will see both New Bridge and Holne Bridge closed for essential parapet repairs after both have been struck recently. The official diversion is via Moretonhampstead (but locals may go through either Buckland from Ashburton or Holne from Buckfast).

- **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – New Bridge to Poundsgate will be closed for installation ducts and clearing chambers. I can see the steep, narrow lane through Leusdon and Lower Town being busy, so it probably makes sense to take the Holne Road via Venford between Ashburton and Two Bridges.

It was agreed to circulate this on the parish mailing list.

- (c) As part of a project to restore historic and missing signposts, it is hoped that DNPA will look to replace three signs in the parish (Harefoot Cross, Hemsworthy Gate and Cold East Cross) with metal ones.

**5289 CORRESPONDENCE**  
None

**5290 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

**5291 NEXT MEETING**  
It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on 5 November 2026 in Church House, Widecombe.

Signed ..... Dated .....