



# MINUTES

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**Committee:** Parish Council  
**Date:** Tuesday, 3 March 2026  
**Time:** 7:00pm  
**Venue:** Community Club

## Present

Cllr Fileman-Wright (Chair)  
Cllr Jan Evans  
Cllr Vivienne Hodges  
Cllr Mike Jeffery

Cllr Richard Short  
Cllr Emily Elliott  
Cllr Gemma Hampton

## Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

### 37/2026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Austin, Farrand-Rogers, Keep, Montgomery and Walden.

### 38/2026 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Elliott declared a non-pecuniary interest in min no.50/2026 because she rents an allotment plot. No requests for dispensation were received. *Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4)*

### 39/2026 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 as a correct record. There was one abstention. *LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1)*

### 40/2026 STANDING ITEM -CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY

The Council noted its Climate and Ecology Emergency Declaration and committed to embedding it across all services, activities, plans, and decisions, ensuring environmental impacts are considered and a fully integrated approach to climate change mitigation is adopted.

### 41/2026 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

#### County Councillor Report

Cllr Keeling's report is attached at Appendix 1 on page 21.

#### District Councillor Report

Cllr Farrand-Roger's report is attached at Appendix 2 on page 21.

#### Dartmoor National Park Representative

Cllr Jeffery had nothing to report.

### 42/2026 MATTERS ARISING

It was noted the clerk has completed the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue survey on community risk. (31/2026)

It was noted the clerk has promoted and completed Devon County Council's (DCC) Library consultation. (31/2026)

It was noted Cllr Montgomery has signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the clerk has informed Teignbridge District Council (TDC). (32/2026)

It was noted the clerk has signed the footfall counter agreement and hired the counters. (36/2026)

#### **43/2026 CHAIRMANS DISCRETION**

The Chair reminded members that the clerk will be holding an induction session for new councillors on 21 March and advised that all members are welcome to attend should they wish to have a refresher.

She also reminded members that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 4 April and asked who intended to attend. Cllrs Fileman-Wright, Evans, Jeffery, Hodges, Hampton and Short confirmed that they would be present.

#### **44/2026 OPEN SPACES REPORT**

The Open Spaces monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The clerk added that F. J. Stevens has advised that the failed memorials will be made safe by the end of this week. Cllr Jeffery updated the Council that the Community Shed has begun repair work on the sentry benches.

#### **45/2026 CLIMATE CHANGE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

There was nothing to report.

#### **46/2026 INTERNAL CONTROLS COUNCILLOR REPORT**

It was proposed by Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Jeffery and **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Elliott as Internal Controls Councillor.

The clerk informed the Council that the internal control checks had not been undertaken since October following the retirement of Cllr Bridger. Cllr Elliott has now completed the outstanding internal control checks up to January, and no issues were identified.

#### **47/2026 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

The Council considered its monthly schedule of payments.

It was proposed by Cllr Jeffery, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments at appendix 3 on page 21. *LGA 1972 s150(5)*

#### **48/2026 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from TDC replying to the council's request for further information on the litter and dog bin emptying price 2026-27. (min no.31/2026.1)

The Chair noted that the Finance and Policy Committee had previously investigated alternative options but had been unable to identify a value for money alternative to TDC. The Council noted the explanation provided by Teignbridge.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Elliott, and **RESOLVED** to accept the charges for 2026-27. *Litter Act 1983 s5&6*

2. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Moretonhampstead Development Trust – Review of Rents and Service Charge for 2026.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Elliott, and **RESOLVED** to accept the increase. *LGA 1972 s111*

3. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from EE advising the council of an increase to prices from 1 April 2026.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Jeffery, and **RESOLVED** to accept the increase. *LGA 1972 s111*

4. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from TDC and Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) encouraging the council to participate in the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Engagement Exercise.

The clerk had circulated a summary of the five options and the questions included within the engagement exercise. The Chair noted that the deadline for responses was 26 March.

Cllr Evans expressed support for responding, raising concerns about the potential impact of LGR on parish finances, including precept setting and the possibility of future capping (noting there is currently no cap). The Clerk understood that there would be no change to the way the precept is set, but that additional responsibilities could arise if asset transfers took place. She also confirmed that only central Government can impose precept capping.

Cllr Short suggested that, while the most significant responses would come from principal authorities, there would be no harm in responding. Key points suggested for inclusion were:

- All five options broadly place Dartmoor National Park within a single principal authority area, which is considered positive.
- Concerns about authority size, representation ratios, and whether very large or very small unitary models are appropriate.
- Whether separating urban and rural areas is appropriate, recognising the different needs of city/town catchment areas and rural communities.

Members expressed concern about potential loss of parish voice and the risk of services being further devolved to parish level without adequate resources.

Cllr Short suggested engaging with County Councillor Richard Keeling, who is involved in the process, would be valuable, particularly regarding how neighbourhood area committees might work and how parish areas might be grouped.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans and **RESOLVED** to delegate the drafting of a response to the LGR engagement exercise to Cllrs Fileman-Wright and Short, together with the Clerk, noting the points raised during the discussion regarding: financial implications, the treatment of Dartmoor, appropriate levels of democratic representation, and the balance between rural and urban areas.

It was also agreed that Cllr Keeling would be contacted to arrange a more detailed discussion regarding proposals for neighbourhood area arrangements. Cllr Elliott abstained from the vote.

5. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from BT advising the council of an increase to process from 1 April 2026

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Jeffery, and **RESOLVED** to accept the increase. *LGA 1972 s111*

6. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Wellmoor updating the council on the Volunteer Fair. The correspondence was noted.

#### **49/2026 FINANCE AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The clerk had circulated the draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Policy committee held on 23rd February 2026 prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Short, and **RESOLVED** to approve the Data Protection Policy.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Short, and **RESOLVED** to approve the Privacy Notice.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Short, and **RESOLVED** to approve the Action Plan.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Short, and **RESOLVED** to approve the Biodiversity Policy.

#### **50/2026 OPEN SPACES RECOMMENDATIONS**

The clerk had circulated the draft minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 prior to the meeting.

The Chair noted that a full discussion was had at the Open Spaces meeting including lessons learnt from the Allotment works and the paper had been circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to arrange a site visit with the Open Spaces committee, Allotment committee and Trees in Time to agree the best way forward at the Allotment.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Hampton, and **RESOLVED** to continue raising awareness of dog fouling laws through communication channels, spray pavement markings in persistent problem areas, encourage residents to report incidents directly to the District Council for enforcement, and maintain community engagement to promote responsible dog ownership and highlight public health risks.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Elliott, and **RESOLVED** to approve the Play Area Risk Assessment.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Hampton, and **RESOLVED** to add an additional cut to Churchyard Areas A and B in June, remove part 2(b) from the Sentry contract, and seek a meeting with the Sentry contractor to review performance during the first year of the contract.

#### **51/2026 HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Short and Fileman-Wright's report regarding flooding on the A382 was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chair noted that she had seen in Cllr Keeling's update that he had written to Government regarding funding for flood-affected roads and infrastructure in Devon. She commented that the road is particularly vulnerable as it lies within the floodplain and, in places, the river level is above the road, which exacerbates flooding issues. She welcomed any work by Devon Highways to improve the condition of the road surface, although in her professional opinion the measures proposed were unlikely to significantly reduce overall flood risk, and flooding would continue to be a challenge.

In response to a question from Cllr Hodges, the Chair explained that water flows rapidly off the surrounding valley slopes with very little natural storage, and the river responds quickly to rainfall events. She suggested that future developments should consider sustainable drainage systems and

natural flood management approaches, including tree planting and measures to slow the flow within the Wray Valley catchment, similar to natural processes such as beaver activity and wooded debris dams. She explained that natural flood management techniques help retain water within the catchment through sponge-like environments, slowing both the rise and fall of river levels and helping the landscape cope better with high rainfall events.

Members agreed that it was important to continue raising concerns, maintain dialogue with DCC, and contact the Environment Agency regarding flood funding allocations for projects.

Cllr Elliott also reported that along the A382 near the sewage works there is still a significant amount of debris remaining following the flooding. She also noted that the drainage by the zebra crossing on Ford Street has still not been cleared, meaning the drains are unable to cope with recent rainfall levels.

She asked whether Devon County Council could be requested to clear the remaining debris, clean the drainage, and consider remarking the zebra crossing road markings.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Elliott, and **RESOLVED** that the Council:

- Urges Devon County Council to look widely at available options to address flooding issues including clearing debris along the A382 near the sewage works, cleaning and maintaining drainage at the Ford Street zebra crossing and considering whether the zebra crossing road markings can be remarked.
- Asks Devon County Council to consider what actions could be taken to improve response times during significant flooding incidents, such as road closures.
- Provide the Environment Agency with details of flooding that has occurred this winter and request information on potential flood funding available to improve the resilience of the A382, given its critical importance to the community.

**Further Resolved:** That the Parish Council will continue to share public safety information through its communication channels (for example, information from the police and other public bodies) regarding the risks of driving through flood water and other safety advice during flooding events.

## 52/2026 PARISH HALL

The council's representative, Cllr Farrand-Rogers had sent his apologies. The Chair noted that it is fantastic to see the community kitchen project progressing well.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.56pm

## TO DO ACTIONS

- Clerk to make payments
- Clerk to respond to correspondence in accordance with min no 48/2026
- Clerk to action mins 49/2026, 50/2026, and 51/2026

### ***MPC Minutes 03.03.2026 Attachment no.1 – County Councillor Report (Summary)***

Devon County Council has approved its 2026/27 budget unanimously (52 votes in favour). The County element of council tax will increase by 4.99%, equivalent to £89.91 per year for a Band D property.

Key points:

- Highways: An additional £19 million for potholes and drainage, plus £4 million extra investment next year. Five-year highways investment totals £546.1 million.
- Children and Families: Budget increases to £268 million (increase of £19.1 million), with significant capital investment in SEND and specialist provision.
- Adult Social Care: Increases to £395.9 million (increase of £9.9 million), with further capital funding to support independent living.
- Libraries: Over £7 million allocated to Libraries Unlimited, restoring book funding and creating a £1 million transformation reserve. No library closures are proposed.
- Additional Funding: Includes support for Education Health Care Plans delivery, foster care, domestic abuse services, post-16 transport, and increased locality budgets.

### ***MPC Minutes 03.03.2026 Attachment no.2 – County Councillor Report***

Teignbridge District Council has introduced a new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund to support local infrastructure projects across the district. This was approved at the Full Council meeting on 26 February. CIL is funding collected from developers when new development takes place across the district. The funding must be spent on infrastructure, which can include not only roads and bridges but also play areas, community buildings, sports facilities and other local amenities valued by residents.

Under the new scheme, town and parish councils can apply for grants ranging from £1,000 up to £100,000. The District Council will fund up to 50% of project costs, with the town or parish council contributing at least 50%. There will be two funding rounds each year, with £200,000 per year allocated for the next four years.

The fund is particularly aimed at smaller and more rural parishes, including those within Dartmoor National Park Authority, which may receive limited direct CIL funding, although the scheme is open to all eligible towns and parishes.

Parish councils are encouraged to consider whether they have projects that may be suitable for this funding.

### ***MPC Minutes 03.02.2026 Attachment no.3 – List of payments March 2026***

#### **Finance**

To receive the Finance Report

On 28 February, the Accounts stood at:

Lloyds Current Account	£5,492.03
Lloyds Deposit Account	£0
CCLA Deposit Fund	£60,000.00

#### **Standing Orders**

		<b>Date Cleared</b>
Moretonhampstead Development Trust Office Rent	£390.45	02/02/2026
EE Limited Mobile	£15.55	02/02/2026
BT Telephone and Broadband	£35.94	16/02/2026

21. Signed.....

3 March 2026

**Direct Debit**

Microsoft 365 subscription	£12.10	24/02/2026
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**Mandatory Payments**

Staffing payments (Salary, pension and quarterly HMRC)	£1,970.80	27/02/2026
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**Card Payments**

Baskervilles Post Office (Stationary)	£2.00	09/02/2026
Baskervilles (stamps)	£6.96	23/02/2026

**Income**

CCLA Interest	£210.79	03/02/2026
Interment payments	£882.00	Various

**Invoices for payment** – to consider and approve invoices for payment itemised on the Payment Schedule

<b>Payment Method</b>	<b>Payee and reason</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Power to spend</b>	<b>Net Payment</b>	<b>Payment inc. VAT</b>
Bank Transfer	SLCC <i>Regional Training Seminar</i>	EX11	Local Government Act 1972 s111	£85.00	£102.00
Bank Transfer	Bradfords <i>Materials to repair benches</i>	EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£108.16	£129.79
Bank Transfer	Mow Mow Tree & Gardening Services <i>Sentry Hedge Cut</i>	EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£650.00	£650.00
Bank Transfer	F.J.Stevens & Son <i>Refund – Double payment</i>	EXCEM2	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£116.00	£116.00
Bank Transfer	Cllr Fileman-Wright <i>Chairmans Allowance</i>	EX13	Local Government Act 1972 s15(5)	£100.00	£100.00
Bank Transfer	AR Rural Solutions <i>Churchyard Hedge Trimming (Areas P and Q)</i>	EXCEM1	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£60.00	£60.00
Bank Transfer	M P Plumbing <i>Interment 20/02</i>	EXCEM2	Local Government Act 1972 s214	£550.00	£550.00