



# MINUTES

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**Committee:** Parish Council  
**Date:** Tuesday, 7 April 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 Chris Walden  
Cllr John Farrand-Rogers  
Cllr Julianne Montgomery  
Cllr Gordy Keep

## Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

### 53/2026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Austin, Elliott, and Hampton.

### 54/2026 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Farrand-Rogers declared an interest in Minute 66/2026 as he is the Council's representative on the Parish Hall Committee. No requests for dispensation were received. *Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4)*

### 55/2026 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> March 2026 as a correct record. *LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1)*

### 56/2026 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.

### 57/2026 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

#### County Councillor Report

Cllr Keeling's report is attached at Appendix 1 on page 28. The Chair noted that Cllr Keeling had attended the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4 April.

#### Dartmoor National Park Representative

Cllr Jeffery's report is attached at Appendix 2 on page 28.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Montgomery, and **RESOLVED** to send a welcome letter to the new Chief Executive of Dartmoor National Park Authority

#### District Councillor Report

Cllr Farrand-Roger reported that the Government had announced decisions on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) affecting Norfolk, Suffolk, Hampshire, and Essex. There was concern within

Teignbridge that the Government might reject all submissions and impose its own model, and two district councils are considering judicial review.

A decision on LGR in Devon is expected by mid-July, which would leave limited time for the Boundary Commission to complete warding arrangements and for local councils to prepare for elections scheduled for next May.

### **58/2026 MATTERS ARISING**

It was noted the council's response to the Local Government Reorganisation Engagement Exercise had been submitted. (48/2026)

It was noted the council's letter regarding Highways issues had been sent to Devon County Council (DCC). (51/2026)

It was noted the failed memorials have been made safe. (44/2026)

### **59/2026 CHAIRMANS DISCRETION**

The Chair thanked the clerk for the organisation of Saturday's Annual Parish Meeting (APM), noting the strong attendance, good atmosphere, effective presentation materials, and good representation from community groups.

The Chair noted the passing of former Parish Councillor Bob Austin and asked that condolences be sent to his family.

### **60/2026 OPEN SPACES REPORT**

The Open Spaces monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The clerk noted that ROSPA had completed the Annual Play Inspection.

### **61/2026 CLIMATE CHANGE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

The Open Spaces Committee met with the Allotment Association and Trees in Time to consider options for replanting the hedge and the Allotment Association's plans for using the ground opened up by the recent hedge works. A positive meeting was reported, and full details will be brought to the next Council meeting.

The Chair noted that a screening of the documentary Jo in the Water, about a swimmer challenging water companies, will take place on 24 April at Greenhill for anyone interested in current issues affecting the water environment.

### **62/2026 INTERNAL CONTROLS COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The clerk noted Cllr Elliott had checked the accounts for February.

### **63/2026 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

The Council considered its monthly schedule of payments.

The clerk reported that an invoice had been received for the Sentry grass cut, accompanied by a note stating that the contractor would return to complete the play park. The clerk advised that she had responded to highlight that significant areas of the Sentry remained uncut and had asked the contractor to review this when returning. As the contractor had not yet returned to complete the work, the clerk recommended that the invoice should not be settled until the cut has been completed, in accordance with Financial Regulation 6.3. The clerk also noted that she had contacted DALC for legal advice.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to withhold the payment pending the contractors return to complete the cut to the council's satisfaction. There was one abstention. *Financial Regulation 6.3*

It was proposed by Cllr Jeffery, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments at appendix 3 on page 28. There was one abstention. *LGA 1972 s150(5)*

### **64/2026 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from DCC regarding the proposed Electric Vehicle Recharging Point Parking Amendment Order. The correspondence was noted.

2. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from a resident requesting council support to purchase an external secure case for a donated defibrillator and permission to install it in Doccombe for community use.

It was noted that no information had been provided on costs or ongoing responsibility. Cllr Hodges noted that the Council had not funded any defibrillators in Moretonhampstead, which are provided by individuals or organisations, and did not consider it appropriate to fund one in Doccombe. A proposal by Cllr Farrand-Rogers to seek further details was not seconded.

It was proposed by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to write to the resident explaining that the Parish Council is not involved in the provision of defibrillators in Moretonhampstead and, given current pressures on resources, is unable to offer support at this time. There were three abstentions.

3. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Bennett Leisure Planning regarding TDC's new Playing Pitch Strategy, requesting information on local outdoor sports facilities, usage, issues, and future aspirations.

The Clerk had contacted Bennett Leisure Planning to explain that the playing pitch is managed by the Sports Centre and provided the appropriate contact details.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Fileman-Wright, and **RESOLVED** to respond noting that the playing pitch is not under the Parish Council's authority and is considered an under-used asset.

### **65/2026 YOUTH FORUM**

The clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to support the youth forum, with the clerk and councillors attending by invitation and the office available for meetings, but with no financial commitments. *LGA 1972 s142*

It was noted that DBS requirements will need to be checked.

### **66/2026 FINANCE AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The clerk had circulated the draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Policy committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Fileman-Wright, and **resolved to pay** the following grants in accordance with F&P minute 14/2026:

- Community Swimming Pool - £150.00
- Friends of Moretonhampstead School - £100.00
- Parish Hall Management Committee - £200.00
- Wellmoor (MDT) - £60.00

- Allotment Association - £178.80
- Moretonhampstead Association for Youth - £0

Total Awarded £688.80.

Cllr Farrand-Rogers abstained from the vote having declared an interest.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Farrand-Rogers, and **RESOLVED** to approve the Financial Regulations. *LGA 1972 s151*

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Farrand-Rogers, and **RESOLVED** to approve the Standing Orders. *LGA 1972, Schedule 12*

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Fileman-Wright, and **RESOLVED** to approve the Risk Assessment. *Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, reg 3*

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Farrand-Rogers, and **RESOLVED** to approve the Statement of Internal Control. *Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, reg 6*

### 67/2026 HIGHWAYS

The clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting covering recent correspondence on A382 flooding and drainage, recent meetings, and the Highways Working Group's discussions and recommendations. Since the report was written, DCC has carried out dredging works on the ditch next to the Wray Valley Trail.

The Chair noted that the proposed six-week closure of the A382 during the summer holidays is causing significant concern locally. Several business owners attended the APM to raise the issue directly with County Cllr Keeling. The Council has also been copied into correspondence sent to Mel Stride MP from a business owner and the Carnival Committee outlining the likely impacts on Moretonhampstead and local businesses.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Waden and **RESOLVED** to write to Devon County Council to express concern about the proposed six-week A382 closure, request a site visit with the lead engineer, ask that the timing of the works be reconsidered to avoid peak-impact periods, and seek clarification on possible mitigation measures, and emphasise the need for a flexible approach that explores all feasible options in a way that does not damage the community, with a copy sent to relevant authorities and organisations. *LGA 1972 s111*

During the discussion concerns were raised about the conduct of a DCC officer. It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **RESOLVED** that the Chair approach County Cllr Keeling informally to express the Council's concerns. *LGA 1972 s111*

The Highway's report also included a draft consultation on traffic management proposals. The consultation was drafted following advice from Devon County Council, who confirmed that every member of the parish must be consulted before they can take forward the Parish Council's proposals. The Chair expressed concern about launching the consultation now due to the uncertainty surrounding the proposed A382 closure, noting that doing so could cause confusion and unnecessary concern about future traffic proposals.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to postpone the consultation on traffic management either pending resolution of the A382 road closure discussions or until the Autumn. *LGA 1972 s111*

Cllr Short reported on his recent correspondence with County Councillor Keeling and noted that Moretonhampstead now has an active Community Speedwatch group, which increases the Council's score by two points in the 20mph assessment process.

It was proposed by Cllr Short, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to write to County Councillor Keeling and Devon County Council requesting that the Council's rating be amended to reflect the establishment of the Community Speedwatch group. *LGA 1972 s111*

### **68/2026 TOILETS**

The clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report included an update on the potential asset transfer of the public toilets, summarising all work undertaken to date and the recent meetings held with TDC.

Cllr Farrand-Rogers noted that although the paper referred to the public toilets being sold, TDC has not yet taken any decisions regarding their future.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to:

- Agrees in principle that the Highways & Projects Working Group continues to explore the potential asset transfer of the public toilets in detail and develops a full business case setting out the costs, risks and implications of MPC taking on the facility.
- Authorises expenditure on due-diligence work, including surveys, legal advice, and specialist assessments, noting that a budget of £7,500 is allocated in 2026/27 for this purpose.
- Establishes a Task and Finish Group under the Highways & Projects Working Group to undertake the detailed work required. The group may draw on councillors and members of the public with relevant expertise (e.g., surveyors, property professionals, contractors) to support the development of the business case.
- Receives a full business case and options appraisal later in the year, enabling the Council to make an informed decision on whether to proceed and on what terms. *LGA 1972 s124*

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** that the task and finish group will consist of Cllrs Fileman-Wright, Short and Montgomery. *LGA 1972 s111*

### **69/2026 HOSPITAL**

The Chair's update had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

### **70/2026 PARISH HALL**

Cllr Farrand-Rogers reported that he had attended three Parish Hall Committee meetings. He noted that although the committee is very small, it is highly efficient and he was impressed by the work being done. He added that he did not feel he was contributing significantly and would be happy to step aside if another councillor wished to represent the Council on the committee. The Chair noted that membership of outside bodies will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting next month.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.25pm

### **TO DO ACTIONS**

- Clerk to make payments
- Clerk to respond to correspondence in accordance with min no 64/2026
- Clerk to action mins 65/2026, 66/2026, 67/2026 and 68/2026

### ***MPC Minutes 07.04.2026 Attachment no.1 – County Councillor Report (Summary)***

DCC has been working on the Town and Parish Council Handbook, designed to help councils understand county and district responsibilities and access schemes such as the Road Warden Scheme and 20mph initiatives. Publication is expected by the end of April.

There has been a leadership change at Dartmoor National Park Authority, with Tom Surrey appointed as the new Chief Executive, succeeding Dr Kevin Bishop after 18 years of service.

The Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Devon survey has now closed, and a final decision is anticipated in July 2026.

DCC has published a report setting out its approach to implementing the Government's new national Crisis and Resilience Fund (CaRF) in Devon, which will replace the Household Support Fund from March 2026. Devon will receive £8.4 million per year for three years to support residents facing sudden financial hardship. Funding will focus on crisis payments, housing support, financial resilience services and strengthening community advice networks.

Residents were reminded that potholes and highways issues can be reported and tracked online.

### ***MPC Minutes 07.04.2026 Attachment no.2 – Dartmoor National Park Representative Report (Summary)***

March marked the final Authority meeting for outgoing Chief Executive **Dr Kevin Bishop**, who retired at the end of March after 18 years in post. A presentation was made to thank him for his service. Dr Bishop expressed his intention to remain living locally and spoke warmly about Dartmoor as a special place.

The Authority has appointed Mr Tom Surrey as the new Chief Executive.

The main agenda item was the draft Business Plan for 2026/27, structured around six priorities:

1. **Better for Nature and Climate** – Enhancing habitats, increasing biodiversity, and improving carbon storage in peatlands, soils, and woodlands.
2. **Better for Cultural Heritage** – Protecting and celebrating Dartmoor's historic environment and improving public understanding.
3. **Better for Farming and Forestry** – Supporting sustainable land management that delivers environmental, economic, and public benefits.
4. **Better for People** – Ensuring Dartmoor offers a warm welcome, inspiring responsible enjoyment and care for the National Park.
5. **Better for Communities and Business** – Supporting thriving, low-carbon, well-connected communities engaged in caring for Dartmoor.
6. **Be an Excellent Organisation** – Maintaining a motivated, well-resourced Authority working effectively with partners.

### ***MPC Minutes 07.04.2026 Attachment no.3 – List of payments April 2026***

#### **Finance**

To receive the Finance Report

On 31 March, the Accounts stood at:

28. Signed.....

5 May 2026

Lloyds Current Account	£1,490.99
Lloyds Deposit Account	£0
CCLA Deposit Fund	£60,000.00

<b>Standing Orders</b>		<b>Date Cleared</b>
Moretonhampstead Development Trust Office Rent	£390.45	02/03/2026
EE Limited Mobile	£15.55	03/03/2026
BT Telephone and Broadband	£37.34	16/03/2026
EE Limited Mobile	£15.55	31/03/2026

<b>Direct Debit</b>		
Microsoft 365 subscription	£12.10	25/03/2026

<b>Mandatory Payments</b>		
Staffing payments (Salary, pension and quarterly HMRC)	£3,113.72	31/03/2026

<b>Card Payments</b>		
Staples (Batteries)	£24.95	11/03/2026

<b>Income</b>		
CCLA Interest	£170.66	03/03/2026
Brown (Payment received in error)	£50.00	27/03/2026
Interment payments	£1,100.00	09/03/2026

**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	Community Club <i>March Room Hire</i>	EX5	Local Government Act 1972 s111	£15.00	£15.00
Bank Transfer	Linetop LTD <i>Hire of Toilet Counters</i>	EX16	Local Government Act 1972 s111	£655.00	£786.00
Bank Transfer	M Jones <i>Watering Cans</i>	EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£5.98	£5.98
Bank Transfer	Teignbridge District Council <i>Sentry Bin Empty</i>	EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£2,295.00	£2,754.00
Bank Transfer	Sam Hall's Tree Care <i>Churchyard Hedge Cut</i>	EXCEM1	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£390.00	£468.00
Bank Transfer	Bradfords <i>Line Marking Paint</i>	EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£6.13	£7.36
Bank Transfer	F.J.Stevens & Son Ltd <i>Make safe memorials</i>	EXCEM1	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£1,220.00	£1,464.00
Bank Transfer	Bradfords <i>Sentry Bench materials</i>	EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£22.45	£26.94
Bank Transfer	A R Rural Solutions Churchyard Grass Cut Pound & Henge Grass Cut	EXCEM1 EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£1,100.00 £100.00	£1,100.00 £100.00
Bank Transfer	Brown (Cheezeboard) Refund of payment received in error		Local Government Act 1972 s111	£50.00	£50.00
Bank Transfer	ROSPA <i>Annual Play Inspection</i>	EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£103.00	£123.60