



MINUTES

Committee: Planning Committee
Date: Tuesday 21 July 2026
Time: 19.00pm
Venue: Parish Council Office

Present

Cllr Richard Short (Chair)
Cllr Catherine Fileman-Wright
Cllr Mike Jeffery
Cllr Vivienne Hodges
Cllr Jan Evans
Cllr Gordy Keep
Cllr Julianne Montgomery
Cllr Chris Walden

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)

PUBLIC SESSION

27/2026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Austin and Montgomery.

28/2026 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest or requests for dispensations were received. *Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4)*

29/2026 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2026 as a correct record. *LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1)*

30/2026 STANDING ITEM – CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY:

The committee noted the Council's commitment to embed the Climate and Ecology Emergency Declaration across all activities, ensuring environmental impacts are considered in a fully integrated approach to climate change mitigation.

31/2026 0215/26: Change of use from agricultural land to residential garden and works including realign driveway and parking at Hayne Old Manor, Moretonhampstead, TQ13 8SB

Cllr Short reminded members that the committee had previously considered two applications on two occasions in 2024 and again towards the end of 2025. Members agreed that the revised design represented an improvement.

It was proposed by Cllr Jeffery, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to support the application.

32/2026 0221/26: Occupation of residential dwelling in non-compliance with attached agricultural occupancy condition at Old Lag, BUDLEIGH FARM, Moretonhampstead, Newton Abbot, TQ13 8SB

Cllr Short informed members that the application sought a Certificate of Lawful Use and Existing Development, noting that such certificates are determined on legal rather than planning grounds. He outlined the background: the property is currently for sale, and *The Old Lag* is a dwelling approved in 1990 subject to an agricultural occupancy condition. The owners occupied the dwelling in compliance with that condition until approximately 2009, after which it was let to tenants who do not meet the agricultural occupancy requirement. The owners have submitted an affidavit confirming this history.

He asked members whether they held any evidence that would support or contradict the contents of the affidavit.

It was proposed by Cllr Short, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **RESOLVED** to comment that the council has no evidence to offer.

33/2026 PLANNING MATTERS

The following planning matters were noted:

1. Correspondence was received and circulated from Dartmoor National Park Authority regarding the Dartmoor National Park Forum on 24 July, including updates on the Local Plan review, planning system changes, public consultation, and the Dynamic Landscapes programme.

The committee was unable to attend in person due to the A382 closure, but the clerk confirmed that DNPA had provided a Teams link the previous day.

Cllr Short proposed that the committee submit the following questions to DNPA ahead of the meeting.

1. How will DNPA's project plan account for the transition from district councils and DCC to two new unitary authorities, both becoming highway authorities, and what challenges are anticipated?
2. Will DNPA encourage the new highway authorities to engage proactively in developing traffic schemes that support the vitality of local centres such as Moretonhampstead?
3. What neighbourhood governance arrangements are envisaged under the new unitaries, and would DNPA favour Dartmoor being divided into neighbourhoods centred on nearby towns or treated as a single neighbourhood area?
4. Given increasing complexity and specialist requirements, is there an opportunity for elements of DNPA's planning service to be hosted by the new unitary authority?
5. What is the planned timetable for public consultation on the Dartmoor Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan?

34/2026 DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK – LOCAL PLAN SCOPING CONSULTATION

Correspondence was received and circulated regarding the launch of the Local Plan Scoping Consultation and to agree the Parish Council's response approach.

Cllr Short noted that preparation of the new Local Plan is a 30-month process with defined gateways, including Planning Inspectorate review of key documentation. This stage is an initial consultation seeking early views; DNPA will then draft the first version of the plan and return to consultees in approximately a year with initial proposals.

He reported that the online consultation form contains 21 questions:

- the first seven relate to the Dartmoor Vision Themes;

- the next seven concern the scope and content of the Local Plan;
- three questions address how DNPA engages with consultees and consultees' priorities for engagement;
- the remaining questions relate to the respondent.

Cllr Short suggested completing the online form but also submitting a narrative letter to provide fuller context. He commented that farming interests tend to dominate national park policy and that greater priority should be given to environment, climate change, natural beauty and ecology.

Cllr Fileman-Wright highlighted areas she felt the committee should raise: Moretonhampstead is a working parish with agriculture, other industries and local businesses that need to thrive; it is a real community, not a holiday resort, though tourism is extremely important and requires careful nurturing through placemaking policies. Affordable housing remains a major issue: no new affordable homes have been delivered for a generation, the Forder Farm scheme is stalled, and even if delivered would meet only a third to a quarter of identified need. Policies for new homes and retrofit should support climate adaptation, which recent events have shown to be urgently required. She noted opportunities linked to proximity to the North East Dartmoor Recovery Area, a major environmental project of national significance. She also emphasised the need for adequate planning around traffic safety, sewage and water infrastructure, and the importance of consistent engagement across all local authorities.

Cllr Evans expressed concern about local infrastructure capacity when new homes are built, particularly highways and health services, and noted that Moretonhampstead is an agricultural parish.

It was proposed by Cllr Short, seconded by Cllr Evans and **RESOLVED** to note the launch of the Local Plan Scoping Consultation; to publicise the consultation on the Parish Council's website and social media; and to delegate the drafting of the Council's response—via both the online consultation form and an accompanying narrative letter—to Cllrs Short, Fileman-Wright and the Clerk, with the draft response circulated to members prior to submission.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.23pm.