MINUTES

Committee: Parish Council
Date: Tuesday, 6 October 2026
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Community Club

Present

Cllr Catherine Fileman-Wright (Chair)
Cllr Gordy Keep
Cllr Vivienne Hodges
Cllr John Farrand-Rogers
Cllr Richard Short
Cllr Mike Jeffery
Cllr Juliane Montgomery

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)
County Cllr Richard Keeling
County Cllr Ed Tyldesley

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

158/2026 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

159/2026 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

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

160/2026 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Jeffery, seconded by Cllr Short, and **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2026 as a correct record. *LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1)*

161/2026 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.

162/2026 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor Report

Cllr Keeling's report is attached at Appendix 1 on page 59. He confirmed that Teignbridge's waste collection service is now back to normal, with £135,000 of additional investment approved and seven new staff due to be appointed. A £7 million bulking station project is also progressing, and next year's budget is expected to increase.

On Local Government Reorganisation, he reported that the Government's pause appears likely to be longer than first anticipated. Current indications are that Devon may ultimately be expected to adopt a mayoral model. Teignbridge District Council (TDC) debated Plymouth's potential inclusion in the Combined County Authority, noting broad support for the benefits but also concerns about voting rights for rural districts. He advised that reorganisation work has cost £91,900 for TDC and around £5 million across Devon County Council (DCC) and the districts, and that councils have jointly written to Government seeking reimbursement.

He also noted that he will be out on Thursday with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer to inspect recent works around the parish.

Cllr Short asked about missed green waste collections and whether paying residents might be compensated. Cllr Keeling said the issue had been discussed earlier in the day, with officers considering a price increase next year. He stated that this should not happen given recent disruption, and he thinks the Executive agreed. He will be pushing for a freeze on the green waste subscription.

The Chair asked whether the proposed mayoral model would mean a single unitary authority for Devon or simply a coordinating role across existing councils. Cllr Keeling explained that Government intends to introduce mayors nationally by May 2028, but that mayoral authorities and Local Government Reorganisation are separate processes: unitarisation concerns the current two-tier system, while a strategic mayoral authority would sit above councils as an additional layer with its own powers.

The Chair invited the County Councillors to expand on the Road Warden Scheme. Cllr Tyldesley explained that it is a community self-help initiative allowing up to three trained volunteers to carry out minor non-safety highway tasks such as filling low-level potholes, cleaning signs, and trimming verges. Volunteers complete a one-day signing, lighting and guarding course funded by DCC, after which the parish can access the Highways Maintenance & Community Enhancement Fund to obtain equipment. DCC provides all necessary kit and public liability cover; volunteers' vehicle insurance remains their own. The only cost to the Parish Council is adding volunteers to its personal accident insurance.

He noted that rising maintenance costs, climate-related deterioration and the focus on urban areas have made local self-help valuable, with volunteers able to prioritise issues using local knowledge. *Clerk's note: After the meeting, the council's insurer confirmed that Employers' Liability cover for volunteers can be provided, at an additional premium of £109 including IPT and fees.*

The Chair reiterated thanks that the A382 scheme was completed on time and acknowledged the importance of the earlier B3212 repairs. She highlighted concerns about the short notice given, the significant impact on local businesses (one reporting no customers for the first two weeks), the sequence of other road closures that followed, and confusing signage which made navigation difficult. She noted the Parish Council had struggled to obtain timely updates to help keep residents informed and asked that communication with parish councils be given serious consideration.

Cllr Keeling said he sympathised with affected businesses and explained that some elements, including service repairs and contractor scheduling, were outside DCC's control. He noted legal restrictions and school exam periods, though the Chair clarified that the original proposal had been during exams and that the Parish Council had requested the revised dates which encompassed three weeks in school term and three weeks in the school holidays, but this has been refused. She stressed that clearer, more responsive communication would have alleviated much of the frustration. Cllr Keeling accepted that lessons needed to be learned. Cllr Tyldesley agreed, stating that communication has been an issue across Devon and confirmed that DCC has allocated £500,000 to improve its communications with communities.

Cllr Short asked about the future of the 20mph programme, noting that around four to five communities a year have been delivered over the past six years with £150,000 annual funding, and asked whether the scheme would continue into 2027/28 under the same criteria. Cllr Keeling replied that the current system cannot continue as it would take decades to complete. The method for prioritising and selecting communities is now under review, and an update will be provided in due course.

Cllr Keeling left the meeting at 7.41pm.

District Councillor Report
Cllr Farrand Rogers report is attached at Appendix 2 on page 60.

Dartmoor National Park Representative
Cllr Jefferys report is attached at Appendix 3 on page 60.

163/2026 MATTERS ARISING

It was noted the Council's solicitor had amended the Heads of Terms for the public toilet transfer and sent the revised version to Teignbridge District Council (TDC).

164/2026 CHAIRMANS DISCRETION

The Chair thanked members for attending the earlier Code of Conduct training and noted that a training log has been drafted; the clerk will circulate it before publication. She also reported that, following an elections masterclass, the Clerk is preparing promotional material to raise awareness of the work of the Parish Council and encourage candidates for the May elections. A series of linked Facebook and website posts will be produced, and members were invited to contribute.

The Chair also noted that the Friends of St Andrew's Church are running a storytelling competition to support church fundraising.

165/2026 OPEN SPACES REPORT

The Open Spaces monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

166/2026 CLIMATE CHANGE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

The Chair reported on the emerging East Dartmoor Landscape Recovery Area project. If approved by DEFRA, it will provide 20 years of funding to support sustainable farming and land management across the area. A series of online events is being held for residents and landowners to learn more about the proposals.

167/2026 INTERNAL CONTROLS COUNCILLOR REPORT

The clerk report Cllr Elliott had checked the accounts for June and July.

168/2026 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Council considered its monthly schedule of payments.

It was proposed by Cllr Jeffery, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments at appendix 4 on page 60. There was one abstention. *LGA 1972 s150(5)*

169/2026 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from County Cllr Tyldesley regarding the DCC road warden scheme and a parishioner wishing to volunteer.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Jeffery, and **RESOLVED** to reply thanking the resident for their interest, confirming that the Council will look into the scheme, and advising that it plans to include the item at the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Wellmoor regarding a proposal to install small QR-code plaques on one or two benches in Moretonhampstead to promote the CheckMate mental-health directory.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Short, and **RESOLVED** to delegate the decision to the Clerk and Chair, subject to receiving a satisfactory explanation from Wellmoor regarding the use of CheckMate in other locations. There were two abstentions.

3. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Cllr Richard Keeling, acknowledging the Parish Council's letter regarding communication concerns during the recent A382 works. The correspondence was noted.

4. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Peninsula Pensions requesting the Council to provide updated contact details for its nominated Stage 1 IDRP Appeals Officer under the Local Government Pension Scheme.

It was proposed by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Montgomery, and **RESOLVED** to nominate the Chair of the Staffing committee.

5. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Wellmoor inviting the Council to the Social Health Youth Stakeholder meeting on Thursday 15 October to discuss findings from recent youth consultation work. The Clerk noted she was happy to attend, having found the consultation results particularly valuable, with young people expressing a desire for more opportunities to be active in the town and for a stronger voice in local decision-making. She emphasised the importance of Parish Council involvement and expressed her ambition to explore establishing a youth council.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **RESOLVED** to continue supporting the project, with the Clerk to attend the next meeting.

6. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Moretonhampstead Development Trust (MDT) inviting the Council to its AGM on Thursday 8 October. Cllr Montgomery will attend the meeting as the PC representative and ask for clarification on councillor membership.

7. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from a resident inviting councillors to attend a local screening of the People's Emergency Briefing film on 5 November at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Keep, and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Fileman-Wright and Cllr Montgomery will attend the event.

170/2026 HOSPITAL UPDATE

The Chair's report had been circulated with the agenda.

171/2026 CHRISTMAS WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The report had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of gazebo weights.

It was proposed by Cllr Montgomery, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **RESOLVED** to approve the plans for the Christmas event.

172/2026 2027/28 OBJECTIVES

The draft objectives for the next financial year had been circulated with the agenda. Members suggested adding the following items to the 2027/28 objectives: Future Dartmoor Plan review, protecting community assets, Road Warden scheme and establish a youth council.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Montgomery, and **RESOLVED** to agree the 2027/28 priorities with the addition of the above priorities.

173/2026 PARISH COUNCIL BRANDING

The quote had been circulated with the agenda and was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr Montgomery, seconded by Cllr Keep, and **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for branded polo shirts for the Clerk There was one abstention.

174/2026 ALLOTMENT

The allotment site visit summary had been circulated with the agenda and was noted. The Chair commented that it had been a useful inspection and should continue annually. The Allotment Committee intends to revise the allotment rules and will submit the updated version to the Council for approval.

175/2026 UNITY TRUST BANK

The Clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr Montgomery, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Agree in principle to switch to Unity Trust Bank, retaining the Lloyds account during transition.
2. Approve setting up a Lloyds Corporate Purchase Card as an interim measure.
3. Delegate the Clerk to progress the transition and necessary applications.

176/2026 INTERNAL AUDIT

The Internal Auditor's Letter of Engagement had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **RESOLVED** to accept and sign the letter of engagement.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.23pm

TO DO ACTIONS

- Clerk to make payments
- Clerk to respond to correspondence in accordance with min no 169/2026
- Clerk to action mins no. 171/2026, 172/2026, 173/2026, 175/2026 and 176/2026.

MPC Minutes 06.10.2026 Attachment no.1 – County Councillor Report (Summary)

Local Government Reorganisation The government has paused reorganisation work in fourteen areas, including Devon, while it reviews the national programme to ensure proposals are robust, legally compliant, and aligned with wider plans to devolve power to communities. Elections in May 2027 will proceed on existing boundaries, including Town and Parish Councils. Further detail on the review's scope and timescale is awaited. Devon County Council will continue to engage with government and partners and will keep councillors and residents informed. All council services continue as normal.

Waste Collection Teignbridge's waste collection service is now operating normally following recent disruption. Additional funding has been secured to recruit seven extra staff, with further budget increases planned next year. Teignbridge continues to have the lowest waste collection costs among Devon districts.

Devon Carers – Service Changes From 1 October, the new *Caring in Devon* service launches. Carers assessments, reviews, and the dedicated helpline will move in-house to DCC. Preventative services will continue through third-sector partners, and a new Peer Support Service begins on 1 November. Budgets are being maintained and existing support will continue. Contact details for the new helpline and out-of-hours virtual guidance have been provided.

Strategic Plan 2025–2029 DCC has launched its new strategic plan outlining priorities to ensure children, families, and communities can live well with access to opportunity, effective services, and a fair, resilient future.

Corporate Plan 2025/26 The corporate plan sets out key improvement priorities for the coming year, supported by Directorate Improvement Priorities. Further information is available on the council website.

Highways – Potholes and Patching Road defects continue to be addressed, with further patching being planned with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer ahead of winter. Residents are encouraged to report issues online via the DCC reporting system.

MPC Minutes 06.10.2026 Attachment no.2 – District Councillor Report (Summary)

The District Councillor noted recent disruption to Teignbridge's waste collections, caused by staff shortages, internal communication issues, and clashes with County Council highway works. Extra staff and vehicles have now been brought in, and a dedicated executive councillor appointed, with the service reported to be back on track.

A more efficient waste-round system is now in place, with full vans swapped out on route rather than returning to base.

Work on the government's proposed local government reorganisation has been paused, after costing Devon taxpayers around £30 million. A Teignbridge MP has raised the matter in Parliament, though no financial support has been committed.

The long-running issue of the dilapidated listed building in central Moretonhampstead remains unresolved; a further question will be raised at the next council meeting.

MPC Minutes 06.10.2026 Attachment no.2 – Dartmoor National Park Report (Summary)

Members received a presentation from a Youth Ranger who joined the programme at age nine and has now completed it at 17; she is currently an apprentice with Forestry Commission England. As a thank you for DNP's support, she presented an otter to be raffled to raise funds for the Authority.

The Authority is launching a major public consultation on the new Partnership Plan on Monday 12 October. The plan will cover 2027–2032 and aims to set out outcomes and targets to secure a thriving future for Dartmoor. Residents can take part via an online questionnaire or by collecting a paper copy from Parke. The review seeks to reflect Dartmoor's unique landscape, wildlife, archaeology, farming traditions and the interests of its varied communities and land managers.

The Authority also marked the departure of Pamela Woods after 12 years of service, including her tenure as Chair from 2019.

MPC Minutes 06.10.2026 Attachment no.4 – List of payments October 2026

Finance

To receive the Finance Report
On 30 September, the Accounts stood at:

Lloyds Current Account	£38,977.72
Lloyds Deposit Account	£0
CCLA Deposit Fund	£65,000.00

Standing Orders		**Date Cleared**
Moretonhampstead Development Trust Office Rent	£402.17	01/09/2026
EE Limited	£18.14	01/09/2026
BT Telephone and Broadband	£42.14	15/09/2026
Direct Debit		
Microsoft 365 subscription	£12.10	24/09/2026

Mandatory Payments

Staffing payments (Salary, pension and quarterly HMRC) £3,511.68 30/09/2026

Card Payments

Income

CCLA Interest	£222.94	02/09/2026
Xmas Stall Payment	£175.00	Various
Interment Payment	£314.00	28/09/2026

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

Payment Method	Payee and reason	Budget	Power to spend	Net Payment	Payment inc. VAT
Bank Transfer	Community Club *Sept Room Hire*	EX5	Local Government Act 1972 s111	£20.00	£20.00
Bank Transfer	Proper Job *2nd Round Grant Allocation*	EX14	Localism Act s1	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Bank Transfer	Moretonhampstead Development Trust *Photocopying*	EX4	Local Government Act 1972 s111	£2.25	£2.25
Bank Transfer	AR Rural Solutions Churchyard Grass Cut Pound & Henge Grass Cut Repair Sentry gate	EXCEM1 EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£1,100.00 £350.00	£1,100.00 £350.00