

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL (MID DEVON)

Clerk: Tracy Watkins

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Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at the Bickleigh Village Hall, commencing at 6pm

Present: Cllr's G Lock (Chair), A Somerwill (Vice Chair), L Deprielle, M Wright

In Attendance: The Clerk, Ms T Watkins, Cllr S Keable (DCC) and Cllr R Roberts (MDDC).

Meeting commenced at 18:00pm

18/26	Apologies Cllr C Wolfenden gave her apologies these were accepted.
19/26	Declaration of Interest under the Code of Conduct No declarations under the Code of Conduct were made
20/26	Minutes To resolve to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 th January 2026. • Matters and actions arising from the Minutes. Lorry freight container is still being parked in the layby and this is causing a problem as the village have extension highways work until Easter. Cllr Lock to write to the owners. PROPOSED: Cllr G Lock SECONDED: Cllr M Wright RESOLVED. The Minutes were signed as a true record by the Vice Chair.
21/26	County and District Reports DCC Steve Keable – A handout of his latest report was given to the councillors. Council Tax increases in April will be 2.99% for Mid Devon and 4.99% increase for DCC. The priorities are roads, SEND and adult social care. Highways budget up by 34.9million and this will be used to concentrate on drainage and gully clearing. Cllr Somerwill asked if there would be more early intervention with SEND cases. Cllr Keable advised that level of funding is not there. Cllr Roberts – similar to SK budget season. Overwhelming support of all the members of the Council for 2.99% council tax for band level D. Once you add on emergency services, parish precepts brings this to nearer to 5% rise.

	The Consultation period ends at the end of March for public comments. Cllrs to check the community hub email from Cllr Roberts. Investment into leisure centres has gone up. The Active Mid Devon App allows people to make bookings. Cullompton relief road – propriety works have started more work will start this summer so some disruption is expected. The Building site in Bickleigh has already been lodged with the enforcement officer but it is not a priority on the list. Any concerns send to Cllr Roberts and the enforcement officer. The planning department are inundated at the moment. Remind residents to keep reporting the potholes on the Devon County Council portal. This is especially important as more budget has been announced from DCC. A link on the community email and a telephone number will be sent out. Cllr Keable reported that the public transport co-ordination person is going to come out and look at the bus shelter which is leaning over. Bickleigh bridge – there is no signage warning drivers at either end coming to the bridge that is a narrow bridge and to slow down. This was noted. Thorverton School lane has been closed due to a collapsed gable end. Pedestrians can now get through as access has been put in but are asked, especially at school drop off and pick up times to make sure they park at the memorial hall. Likely to be disruption for 12 months.
22/26	CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS- (Council may consider any applications received after the publication of this agenda) 26/00231/PNAG - Prior Approval for the erection of a tractor shed Location: Land at NGR 294672 107736 Swallowhayes Bickleigh. COMMENT – nothing required from the Parish Council Animal Rescue Centre – Support this application.
23/26	Correspondence 2 emails received from a member of the public about DCC Highways not clearing the drains properly. Cllr Deprielle will contact Highways. Cllr Keable (DCC) advised her to take photo's and send them to Highways and him to action. Use what3words as well to pinpoint where it is.
24/26	Statutory Policies

	The following policies have been distributed to Parish Councillors ahead of this meeting. Approval sought to adopt all of these policies and to publish before the end of March on the website. • Code of Conduct • Standing Orders • Financial Regulations • Complaints Procedure • Financial Risk Assessment • Internal Control Policy and Checklist • IT Policy • Publication Scheme • Reserves Policy • FOI Policy • GDPR Policy PROPOSED: Cllr A Somerwill SECONDED: Cllr M Wright RESOLVED.
25/26	Matters Arising ○ Unity Trust Bank have increased their monthly fees to £7. Santander are now £4.99. As we now have good access to the Santander account is it economically viable to move to Unity? Decided to stay with current provider and will revisit in the future if any problems. ○ Roadwarden Scheme – The Clerk has found some paperwork relating to Bickleigh joining the Scheme in 2017. In order to activate the benefits of the scheme the Parish Council have to have councillors/volunteers complete the DCC Highways training. The Clerk has sent details of training dates. 2 volunteers have already shown an interest in this so they need to be given the dates to attend the training. ○ Defibrillator – The current contract with SWAST ends on 19/10/2028. In the agreement it states that a monthly report must be submitted on-line using a call sign. Is this being completed? There is also a responsibility on the Council (guardian) to contact SWAST to order consumables (pads and battery) when they are due. Pads are due 19/10/26. Whose responsibility is this now? The contract can be ended by giving notice to SWAST but it is the Councils responsibility to pay the costs of removing the unit and associated furniture. To check that the current guardian has loaded the readings onto the app. ○ Ideas for the AGM. Speakers/updates/reports. Ask local groups to come and talk about locality. Clerk to ask EDDC and DCC.
26/26	Public Question Time

	Up to 3 minutes Public Question Time for members of the public to bring forward any issues not on the agenda (where a matter is already on the agenda members of the public will be given an opportunity to speak when that item is considered, within the framework of the Council's standing orders). Where a decision is required, the issue will be placed on the following agenda. No members of the public were present
27/26	Community Engagement A new website for the Parish Council is being created.
28/26	Finances To receive the accounts summary to 28th February 2026. To NOTE the following payments to be approved: 2 x payments to the Clerk (Jan and Feb Salary and sundries) 2 x payments to HMRC (NI & PAYE Jan and Feb Salary) 1 x payment to Santander for Dec bank charges of £4.99 (19.02.2026) To NOTE the following amounts have been received: Savings account interest of £12.71 between January and February Business account balance as at 28.02.2026 = £5477.25 Savings account balance as at 28.02.2026 = £7494.95 To approve payment of the Clerks March and April payroll and HMRC PROPOSED: Cllr Lock SECONDED: Cllr Somerwill. RESOLVED.
29/26	Joan's Orchard Clerk spoke with solicitor and she is looking into the proposals made by the land owners and will come back to us with suggestions. Clerk will update all parties once all information is clear.
30/26	Update on Repairs, renewals, Lengthsman, Road Warden Scheme, Highway and Section 106. Someone from Devon County Council is coming to look at the bus stop. Fly tipping can be reported on the DCC portal. Lengthsman – Cllr Lock to update regarding services required. Encourage residents to report the potholes on the portal. S106 what can we spend the money on? Clerk to check this with Mid Devon.
31/26	EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Part B)-To agree that the press and public be excluded from the meeting. Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies

	(Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, to consider and agree that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item(s) of business
32/26	Close of meeting Meeting closed at 19:40pm
33/26	Date of the Next Meeting: Tuesday 12 th May 2026 starting at 6pm. The Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

Chair -----

Date -----