BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL (MID DEVON)

Clerk: Tracy Watkins

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

Present: Cllr's G Lock (Chair), A Somerwill and C Wolfenden

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

Meeting commenced at 18:00pm

83/26	**Apologies** To receive any apologies for absence – Cllr L Deprieelle and Cllr S Keable (MDDC) sent their apologies. These were accepted.	
84/26	**Declarations under the Code of Conduct** Councillors are reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, and reason for that interest, either at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest. None were received.	
85/26	**Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2026.** To resolve to adopt the minutes. **PROPOSED:** Cllr Wolfenden **SECONDED:** Cllr Somerwill **RESOLVED.** Cllr Lock signed the Minutes as a true record. ○ There were no outstanding action points from the previous Minutes	
86/26	**Bickleigh Parish Council** To discuss any future plans or decisions about the Parish Council as an entity. Two of the three councillors present stated they will not be seeking re-election in May 2027, finding new councillors is a priority. No-one has come forward in the recent recruitment drive to show any interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. Councillors will approach some residents. Discussed reducing meetings to every quarter. The proposal was made to move to quarterly meetings from the January 2027 meeting and to start the meetings at 6.30pm.	**GL**

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	PROPOSED: Cllr C Wolfenden **SECONDED:** Cllr G Lock and Cllr A Somerwill**. RESOLVED AND APPROVED.** Clerk to speak to democratic services once dates have been agreed.	**All and Clerk**
87/26	**County and District Council Updates** **Cllr S Keable (DCC)** • Cllr Keable was unable to attend this meeting but his has been sent to Councillors ahead of the meeting. • Clerk to chase regarding the double yellow lines put in incorrectly by DARE. **Cllr R Roberts (MDDC)** The MDDC annual residents survey is now live. Resident Survey 2026 | Let's Talk Mid Devon This is being used for lots of surveys locally. **Make your Mark –** 11-18 year olds – to register their votes on-line. Can also vote by paper. Voting is now open for these people to vote. Open until 30th November. Make Your Mark - Children, families and education The Government confirmed that properties in council tax A – D will receive Winter Fuel payment of £100 Local Government Re-organisation – the cost so far for MDDC has been £650K. Lib Dems held Bradninch Town Council in a recent election. Plan Mid Devon - This will decide what is being done until 2046. Mid Devon has passed the first part of this. Consultation will take place next year. Tiverton Town are looking at redeveloping the Town Centre. There is an 8 week public consultation. The MDDC resilience Officer has recently attended a Parish meeting. Need to find someone to run this within the village. Cllr Lock will look into this . There is also a £250 grant towards setting it up. Devon & Cornwall Police are encouraging everyone to report anti-social behaviour on 101.	**GL**
88/26	**CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS- (Council may consider any applications received after the publication of this agenda)** • Copenhagen Lodge – Planning has been approved.	
89/26	**Correspondence** To consider any correspondence received since the last meeting. • MOP – have salt bins been filled up. Only one that needs to be replenished at the top of the hill and this can be reported on the portal. Councillors will check all the bins in the	**All councillors**

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	village. The link to report empty bins is Grit bins and salt bags - Roads and transport	
90/26	**Matters Arising** • None to discuss	
91/26	**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	
92/26	**Community Engagement** • Soup and Pud had its second session and both were well attended and received. Third one in December.	
93/26	**Joan's Orchard : Transfer of Land –** - Legal process still on-going and is very slow	**CW**
94/26	**FINANCES** To receive the accounts summary to 31st October 2026. To **NOTE** the following payments to be approved: 2 x payments to the Clerk (September and October Salary and sundries) 2 x payments to Santander for bank charges of £4.99 (21.09.2026 and 20.10.2026) 1 x quarterly payment to HMRC for NI and PAYE (23.10.2026) 2 x payments to Bickleigh Village Hall for £16.00 (01.09.2026 and 13.10.2026) To **NOTE** the following amounts have been received: Savings account interest of £4.95 (14.10.2026) **Business account balance as at 31.10.2026** = £8136.17 **Savings account balance as at 31.10.2026** = £7536.77 To approve payment of the Clerks November payroll.	

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	To approve the Internal Auditor for the next financial year remains the same. **PROPOSED:** Cllr G Lock **SECONDED:** Cllrs C Wolfenden and A Somerwill. **APPROVED.**	
95/26	**Precept setting for next financial year.** Claim to be made in January. Council discuss budgets for 2027/28 and decide on amount of Precept. The Council went through the budget proposal that the Clerk had prepared and sent ahead of the meeting. This will be published on the website. Budgets were adjusted to allow for a 5% inflationary uplift for appropriate items. The Parish intends to make more use of a Lengthsman in the next year to get jobs completed around the village, so the budget was adjusted to reflect this. A contingency of £500 towards Election costs was also included for May 2027 in case it should need to be utilised. The Council has not put aside a budget for a new website this year as this expense needs to be looked into more carefully given the current situation with the Parish Council and most councillors looking to step down in May 2027. Further funds were added to the legal budget for Joan's Orchard transfer in case anything should come up. After looking through the figures the proposal was to keep the Precept the same for 2027/28. **PROPOSED:** Cllr G Lock **SECONDED:** Cllrs C Wolfenden and A Somerwill. **APPROVED**	**Clerk to submit claim**
96/26	**Update on Repairs, renewals, Lengthsman, Highways and Section 106.** • Cllr A Somerwill will check if the Road Wardens have completed the mandatory training. • Cllrs tried to complete the footpath survey in order to claim the annual grant. In some areas this was not possible due to obstructions. This will be reported to the footpath team. Rest of the network to be surveyed	**AS** **Clerk** **All councillors**
97/26	**Any other business** • Proposals for Bickleigh Mill – Update. The clerk has been contacted by MDDC asking for some more details which have been given. Still awaiting confirmation that the grant has been paid. • Parish Council website - This was discussed in the budget negotiations.	
98/26	**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**	

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	that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item(s) of business	
99/26	**Close of meeting.** The meeting closed at 20:00pm	
82/26	**Next Meeting:** An Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held **on Tuesday 12th January 2027 starting at 6.30pm.**	

Chair ----------

Date ----------

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