

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL (MID DEVON)

Clerk: Tracy Watkins

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at the Bickleigh Village Hall, commencing at 6pm

Present: Cllr's L Deprieelle (Vice Chair), A Somerwill and C Wolfenden

In Attendance: The Clerk, Ms T Watkins, Cllr R Roberts (MDDC), Cllr S Keable (DCC) and four members of the public

Meeting commenced at 19:00pm

52/26	Apologies To receive any apologies for absence – Cllr Greg Lock sent his apologies these were accepted. Cllr L Deprieelle chaired the meeting in his absence.
53/26	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.
54/26	Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026. To resolve to adopt the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting. PROPOSED: Cllr Wolfenden SECONDED: Cllr Somerwill RESOLVED. Cllr Deprieelle signed the Minutes as a true record. • Matters and actions arising from the Minutes. ○ Investigate assets – this is on-going. BT kiosk, recreation area, ○ Advert for Parish Councillor – this has been advertised. ○ Website – Clerk to send information and prices for a new one ○ Councillors requested speed radar should go on the Trout side of the A396 and that this is in Tiverton, not Bickleigh (both ways would be useful to slow people coming into Bickleigh and stop them speeding out of village!) . Speed limit on main road is 30mph Cllrs asked if we could have the flashing speeding signs. Cllr Keable advised these are 3k each and PC would need to pay for it. Cllr Keable will try and organise a speed radar.

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	○ Reminded Cllr Keable that the Stoke Canon bridge is also being closed towards the end of August so some highways coordination really needs to be carefully considered in terms of Tiverton to Exeter access ○ Bus stop opposite Cot pub (on Tiverton to Exeter direction) was also mentioned as being in serious need of tidying up and asked if Cllr Keable could ask about all of this in one package. The bus stop is supposed to be being replaced by DCC Transport Department ○ Highways Signs team are looking into signs to put up in the road leading up to Bickleigh bridge. SLOW and NARROW. Lighting is going in from 1st September road will be closed to facilitate advance notices for the works being carried out and the PC will send out via the community email. ○ Lengthsman – Compile a list of jobs that need to be done. Quote has been done for a new gate to Joan's Orchard. It is not owned by the PC so should not be paying for it. ○ Road warden scheme – we have 2 volunteers at the moment and will look to recruit some more volunteers to attend the DCC Highways training. ○ Clerk passed on complaints about DARE contractors and recent works completed in the village to Cllr Keable after the May meeting. Update from Cllr Keable if there is one. Cllr Keable advised that this is now with the Enforcement Team. Cllr Keable asked that in future if we are reporting things of this nature to send some photographs in. An update will be sent to the Clerk.
55/26	County and District Council Updates Cllr R Roberts (MDDC) • MDDC have now published their land accessibility report. This information will be added to the new Local Plan • New Local Plan – submission of public comments closed last Friday. • A new residents APP has been launched, over 2000 people have signed up. • Strategic Sustainability grants have been launched. MOP says has sent an application but no acknowledgement. Cllr Roberts will look into this. • LGR – announcement from the govt this week. Sounds like DCC will disappear altogether. • Tiverton and parts of East Devon have a hose pipe ban at the moment. May be more people affected if dry spell continues. Cllr S Keable (DCC) • New app very useful and you can see any planning applications that are relevant to your area

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	• Cullompton relief road – all going ahead, spades are in the ground. Treasury to sign off the £160million for new junction 29a. This will ease Cullompton traffic. • Library service – misleading information. There is funding going in to this will extended opening hours • DCC have made £10 million savings over the last year. Some of this will go back into Highways and also Children's services. • LGR – public announcement on Thursday.
56/26	CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS- (Council may consider any applications received after the publication of this agenda) • 26/00602/FULL Installation of 32 ground mounted solar panels with associated cable run. Location: Land at NGR 294193 107274 Bickleigh House Bickleigh. – Property is listed. Panels will be hidden from view. Cannot see any objections. No objections were raised.
57/26	Correspondence To consider any correspondence received since the last meeting. None have been received.
58/26	Matters Arising • S106 and Community Garden Update – had some communications from MDDC and have given back the money we had not used. Looking very nice. Children's gardening club is trialling. This was very successful. Will look into continuing in the same format. Entered Tiverton in Bloom. Still need volunteers. VAT has been claimed and is in the bank. • Task list – Plea to all councillors to update the task list. Amanda will put this in a table.
59/26	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. • A Bickleigh Mill Community Project representative was present. A group has been set up and so far 530 people have shown an interest in setting up a community value asset group. Next Tuesday 21st July at 7.00pm at the Mill there is an open public meeting. The group has completed a Community Asset Form.

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	They will be getting a business plan together and seeking funding options. Setting up a Community Benefit Society now. The group have asked if the PC would agree and sign an application form for a Community Asset. No liability to the PC they would just be endorsing it. Cllr Keable advises that the PC adopt in principle subject to a business plan and further information. Hoping to get a business plan ready by the end of the year. MOPs – asking about volunteering for the community garden. Cllr Deprieelle will send details of the next open session on the Whatsapp group.
60/26	Finances To receive the accounts summary to 30th June 2026. To NOTE the following payments to be approved: 2 x payments to the Clerk (May and June Salary and sundries) 2 x payments to Santander for bank charges of £9.98 (20.05.2026) & £4.99 (20.06.2026) 1 x payment to Bickleigh Village Hall for room hire £16.00 (18.06.2026) 1 x refund to MDDC for monies not used for S106 project £550.62 (29.06.2026) To NOTE the following amounts have been received: Savings account interest of £4.94 (14.05.2026) and £5.10 (14.06.2026) Business account balance as at 30.06.2026 = £9305.08 Savings account balance as at 30.06.2026 = £7516.66 To approve payment of the Clerks June payroll. PROPOSED: Cllr Wolfenden SECONDED: Cllr Somerwill RESOLVED.
61/26	Joan's Orchard : Transfer of Land – After a meeting with the school and village hall, our preferred option is that the PC take on 100% ownership of the land. Cllr Roberts will ask if there is any precedence around PCs that lapse owning land and what then happens to the land, but cannot see any issues with this. Our insurance will cover the land without incurring any additional cost. Cllr Wolfenden is requesting a further meeting with solicitor to agree next steps and will update as soon as knows more.
62/26	Update on Repairs, renewals, Lengthsman, Highways and Section 106. Already covered.
63/26	Any other business Silverton Emergency Plan –Clerk to advise we are happy to put the village hall on their emergency plan for use if they will reciprocate.

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	• Parish Council website – Clerk to send details of other Parishes websites and quotes for prices. • Recruiting new councillors – will come up with ideas to bring the Councillor role to peoples attention. • The PC would like to acknowledge with great sadness the passing of Anne Widdecombe. Our respect and condolences go out to her friends, family and colleagues. Anyone in public life should be treated with respect no matter what their opinions and politics.
64/26	Next Meeting: An Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 th September 2026 starting at 6pm.
	Meeting closed at 19:45pm

Chair

Date

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