

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL (MID DEVON)

Clerk: Tracy Watkins

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 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) Lewis Dyson (Resilience Officer DCC) and 3 members of the public

Meeting commenced at 19:00pm

65/26	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.
66/26	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.
67/26	Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th July 2026. To resolve to adopt the minutes. 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. So far have identifies the BT kiosk, recreation area, defibrillator ○ Advert for Parish Councillor – This is on-going. Posters will be displayed at the Harvest Home event. Clerk to complete the flyers for Cllr Wolfenden to print off before the event. ○ Website – This will be put on hold. ○ Councillors requested speed radar should go on the Trout side of the A396 and that this is in Tiverton. Cllr Keable has requested this but it has been done in recent times so probably won't be done again yet. ○ Cllr Keable asked attendees how it had been during the recent closure of Stoke Canon bridge. Reports of widespread chaos as signage was

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	not adequate and large vehicles getting to the Cot and having to turn around. Bus services were not advertised to local people so no one knew whether buses were running or not. Originally told buses would be allowed to go through then this was stopped. The Stagecoach app was not updated so local people using public transport were left in the dark. ○ Bus stop opposite Cot pub (on Tiverton to Exeter direction) has been replaced. ○ Lighting has been replaced and the potholes on the bridge have been filled. ○ Lengthsman – Coming up to the winter months it is imperative to get a list of jobs ready. ○ Road warden scheme – we have 2 volunteers at the moment and will look to recruit some more volunteers to attend the DCC Highways training. Cllrs will check if the volunteers have completed their training. ○ Clerk passed on complaints about DARE contractors and recent works completed in the village. Cllr Keable confirmed the problem with the yellow lines is still with the Enforcement Team. The verges was a job completed on behalf of SWW and there is a complaint been put in to them regarding this.
68/26	Community Emergency Hubs – An introduction from Lewis Dyson (Resilience Officer MDDC) Lewis Dyson gave an overview of local community emergency hubs. Asking Parish to consider joining this Scheme. These local hubs are designed to work from the Community upwards. They are set up to be a place people can come together to help in an emergency situation. Normally based out of village halls or community spaces. Lewis will send more information across to the Clerk which can then be distributed locally. Devon Communities Together also have some free resources and the Parish Council will look into this. There are no Parish hubs in Mid Devon so far. Bickleigh could consider linking in with Cadeleigh, Butterleigh and Silverton.
69/26	Bickleigh Parish Council – The Parish Council is now in a position that if we do not find further volunteers to come forward as Councillors there is a real possibility that it could fold. We would urge anyone who is interested in becoming a councillor to speak to one of our present Parish Councillors or to email the Clerk on the email address at the top of this agenda. More flyers and posters will be handed out at the Harvest Home. The Parish Council needs another 2 councillors to be viable.

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70/26	County and District Council Updates Cllr S Keable (DCC) • Cllr Keable read his latest report. The big news is the pause in Local Government Re-organisation from the government. Angela Rayner announced in Parliament today that the government have put a hold on LGR until the legalities have been checked. • Road closure, Bickleigh Bridge, MOP reported signage was not good so massive lorries trying to turn around. Devon Highways didn't have anything to do with the signage. Communication with Stagecoach was incorrect. New bus stop, potholes are done, lighting has been done, fencing has been done. Hedge will be flayed at a later date. • Narrow road signs are on the wrong side of the bridge. The signage team at DCC have been advised and are looking at it. Other bus stop opposite the trout needs looking at as no signage. • The ditches work in the village were commissioned by SWW. A complaint has gone in to SWW but has not been responded to. • Yellow lines put incorrectly on the road opposite the village hall are with the enforcement team. • There are concerns that the bus stop and turning on the corner by the bend are both very dangerous. Can this risk be reduced? Cllr Keable explained as it is an A road then highways legislation will not allow reductions in mph. Cllr R Roberts (MDDC) • MDDC grant scheme up to £5k on the website – Business Grants and Financial Support - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK • MDDC residents app has had 3000 downloads. • Community Asset transfers – MDDC are encouraging Parishes to take on assets they feel would be beneficial to their locality. • MDDC working on a new Local Plan which covers up to 2046. Consultation period is coming up. • Fly tipping reporting is on the MDDC website. Fly tipping - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK
71/26	CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS- (Council may consider any applications received after the publication of this agenda)

	• 26/00602/FULL - Decision Notice - Installation of 32 ground mounted solar panels with associated cable run Location: Land at NGR 294193 107274 Bickleigh House Bickleigh – Full planning permission granted. • 26/0108/PNAG – Decision Notice – Bickleigh House – Erection of Agricultural Storage Building – Approved.
72/26	Correspondence To consider any correspondence received since the last meeting. • Email regarding hedge between the school and Bell Meadow – resolved. • SWW putting traffic lights up on main road. Looks like there are replacing a water main. Some people have been sent letters advising it is going ahead but not all residents. Cllr Wolfenden will look into this.
73/26	Matters Arising • S106 and Community Garden Update – Agreed this can be taken off of the agenda. • Task list – Must keep this up to date.
74/26	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.
75/26	Community Engagement • Soup and Pud community lunches have been proposed to start again in the village. This will be advertised locally once details are finalised.
76/26	Finances To receive the accounts summary to 31st August 2026. To NOTE the following payments to be approved: 2 x payments to the Clerk (July and August Salary and sundries) 2 x payments to Santander for bank charges of £4.99 (21.07.2026 and 20.06.2026) 1 x quarterly payment to HMRC for NI and PAYE (23.07.2026) 1 x payment to Zurich for Insurance policy £219.40 (27.08.2026) To NOTE the following amounts have been received: HMRC VAT reclaim of £610.15 (09.07.2026)

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	Savings account interest of £4.94 (14.07.2026) and £5.11 (14.08.2026) Business account balance as at 31.08.2026 = £8932.04 Savings account balance as at 31.08.2026 = £7526.71 To approve payment of the Clerks July and August payroll. PROPOSED: Cllr Somerwill SECONDED: Cllr Wolfenden RESOLVED
77/26	Joan's Orchard : Transfer of Land – On-going. Parish Council will update when there is some news.
78/26	Update on Repairs, renewals, Lengthsman, Highways and Section 106. Already covered earlier in the agenda.
79/26	Any other business Bickleigh Mill Community Project representative was present and has formally asked if the Parish Council can be sponsors so that they can apply for a community grant which Cllr Keable is happy to approve. The Councillors present discussed this proposal and unanimously approved. The representative will keep in touch with the Clerk to process the grant application form and ensure the monies are transferred in a timely manner. Appropriate paperwork will need to be completed to ensure the Parish Council complies with audit rules. PROPOSED: Cllr Deprieelle SECONDED: Cllr Somerwill RESOLVED.
80/26	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 The Clerks annual leave was approved.
81/26	Close of meeting. The meeting closed at 19:45pm
82/26	Next Meeting: An Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 th November 2026 starting at 6pm.

Chair

Date

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