

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL (MID DEVON)

Clerk: John Vanderwolfe FSLCC Chartered MCIPD

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Minutes of a Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at the Bickleigh Village Hall, commencing at 6pm

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

In Attendance: The Clerk and Councillor Roberts (Mid Devon District Council) and one member of the public.

138	Election of Chair Councillor G Lock was proposed by Cllr A Somerwill and seconded by Cllr C Wofenden. There were no other nominations. Councillor Lock was therefore elected, and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of office.
139	Election of Vice-Chair Councillor A Somerwill was elected as Vice-chair.
140	Apologies Cllr M Wright.
141	Declaration of Interest under the Code of Conduct No declarations under the Code of Conduct were made at this stage of the meeting
142	Minutes The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11 th February 2025, having previously been circulated, were adopted as a true record; and were signed by the chair.
143	Mattes Arising The vacancy for clerk to the council would be advertised in the Silverleigh magazine
144	Public Period No issues
145	Outside Bodies Bickleigh Charities: Cllr Wolfenden Village Hall: Cllr L Deprieelle Recreation Ground: Cllr A Somerwill

146	<p>County and District Reports</p> <p>Cllr Roberts, our District Councillor informed the meeting that the Liberal Democrats had received majority seats at the recent County Council elections. Cllr Stephen Keeble would be the county council representative for Bickleigh. Cllr Roberts thanked members who had attended a meeting to meet the new district council liaison councillor. Cllr Roberts expressed his concerns that MDDC had appointed the chair of scrutiny from the leading party (Liberal Democrats) even though that was against the constitution. The chairman of MDDC, Cllr Frank Letch had recently died. Cllr Roberts stated that Frank had been a very respected councillor, and for many years had been the Mayor of Crediton.</p> <p>A Community Land Trust had now been adopted in Thorverton. This will see a minimum of 12, and a maximum of 24 new homes being built in the parish</p>
147	<p>Accounts for Payment and Payment Process</p> <p>The Village Hall were owed for two invoices, £56.00 and £12.00. No invoice had been received from the parish lengthsman. The clerk informed the meeting that due to the block placed on payments from the account he had not been paid since February. There would be a number of other invoices coming forward for payment.</p>
148	<p>Annual Governance Statement 2024/25</p> <p>The Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2025 was adopted.</p>
149	<p>Annual Accounting Statement 2024/25</p> <p>The Annual Accounting Statement was approved.</p>
150	<p>Internal Auditor's Report</p> <p>Mr Knowles had undertaken the audit and was satisfied with the accounts. The clerk would forward his report.</p>
151	<p>Certificate of Exemption from Full Audit 2024/25</p> <p>As both income and expenditure were below the ceiling limit of £25k the council was able to apply for an exemption from the need to have an External audit. All agreed that an Exemption Certificate be issued.</p>
152	<p>Joan's Orchard</p> <p>Work on this was now in progress with the matter of transferring the land to the parish council being dealt with by a solicitor. It was agreed that the council would pay both parties legal fees. It was understood that the solicitors' fees would be in the region of £700 plus the cost of registering the land with the Land Register.</p>
153	<p>Update on Repairs/renewals/Lengthsman/Highways and Section 106</p> <p>Mr White joined the meeting and explained that the works requested at the recreation grounds would cost £500. This is to fix the gate and other associated</p>

	<p>works. Agreed for this work to go ahead.</p> <p>CLlr Deprieelie was keen to progress the provision of a group allotment. She wondered if Section 106 money could be used for this. The clerk would ask David Parker for a contact.</p> <p>CLlr Wright has the sign that was in the Crediton Road. The contact would be Steve Tucker.</p>
154	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Correspondence is emailed out as appropriate</p>
155	<p>Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 6pm</p>

Chair

Date