

Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 13th October 2025 at 7pm in Bridford Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Topley, Cllr. Purser, Cllr. Marriott, Cllr. Gallagher, Cllr. Symons, Cllr. Acheson, Clerk: Tamsin Mowat, 2 members of the public, County Cllr. Richard Keeling and District Cllr. Swain

Meeting started at 19.00

Agenda item	Action	Owner
<p>1) Public Discussion:</p> <p>Pip Morrison thanked Cllr. Purser for supporting Bridford Twinning Association for £150 funding from TDC Community Fund to celebrate 50th year of twinning with French visit.</p> <p>Footpath Warden raised issue of hedges and drains on Pound Lane; hedges need cutting first ahead of drains being cleared. Clerk has raised all the drains on Pound Hill with DCC Highways and asked for them all to be cleared before the winter. DCC Highways have asked parishioners to also raise individual drains. Anecdotally, contractors have only 15 minutes to clear each drain and then if not clear apparently they move on.</p> <p>Anne Mayes raised via Chair proposal of removing Fire first responder volunteers which has caused concern locally. County Cllr. Keeling reported this came up at the Adult social care scrutiny DCC meeting (available to view online); this issue is due to be revisited by DCC due to concerns over this situation. Apparently, it may be more costly to have equipment at homes of first responders rather than at fire stations.</p> <p>Cllr. Symons arrived 19.08</p>	<p>Ask DCC when drain clearance is due to take place</p> <p>Monitor drain clearance and photograph</p> <p>Ask Anne Mayes to keep an eye on first responders situation</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllrs. Purser and Gallagher</p> <p>Cllr. Topley</p>
<p>2) Apologies For Absence: to vote and agree on apologies received: Cllr. Hollingsworth on holiday – agreed by all.</p>		
<p>3) Declarations of Interest: None</p>		
<p>4) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st September 2025 – approved and signed.</p>		
<p>5) Welcoming new Councillors: Alexia Hollingsworth and Ian Acheson are to be officially welcomed to the Council after being co-opted at September’s meeting. Ian to sign the declaration of acceptance of office and Code of Conduct. (Alexia has signed the declaration with the Clerk prior to the meeting due to being away on holiday.) New Councillors to take up their positions immediately.</p> <p>New Councillors were welcomed by the Chair and Declaration of Acceptance and Code of Conduct signed by Ian.</p>	<p>Put Code of Conduct for Alexia to sign on November agenda</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>6) District and County Councillors’ Reports</p>		

<p>County Cllr. Keeling’s report summarised here and full report available at the end of the minutes and on the website</p> <p>Councillor Keeling covered road repairs, local government reform, adult social care and the Locality Fund</p> <p>Chair asked if Cllr. Keeling has any money left in DCC Locality Funding budget for things we’d like to apply for:</p> <p>Twinning sign was discussed but it was felt that as Twinning had already received funding from the TDC Community Fund and considering that twinning road signs are already in place in the village it might be fairer to purchase a cheaper commemorative plaque which could be put up in the Village Garden. This could be applied for directly by Twinning to District Councillor Andy Swain’s Community Funding. It was agreed that this would be the best way forward.</p> <p>Wooden benches for village garden need refurbishing – need to do costings for sanding and painting (or potentially replacing with composite benches).</p> <p>Spring-time community event with cultural element. Cap of £2000 total for all items from DCC Locality Funding.</p> <p>District Cllr. Swain’s report – will support community funding applications. Social housing – 64 units on brown field site in Newton Abbot to be provided at the moment.</p> <p>Cllr. Purser – everything has been covered by colleagues</p>	<p>Find out costings and email all three Councillors to request support for specific amounts.</p> <p>Go back to Pip Morrison and look into decorative plaque for display in the village garden.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr. Marriott</p>
<p>7) Review actions from previous meeting: Clerk’s action points: ask DCC Highways for an update on Weir View works, send new Councillors ROI, policies and arrange for signing of declarations, post links to Devon devolution survey (and printed QR code) in Unity and scam warnings on website and Facebook, report back to DNPA: what three words locations for each application would be very useful, make payments in Unity Trust Bank, calculate back payments for salary, pension and NI and tax, scan in and add date adopted to end of policy and bring to October meeting for new Councillors to sign, send all allotment holders new agreement with invoices before 1st October, research other local parishes arrangements and check contracts and tender process against Financial Regs, ask DCC re. schedule of clearing drains and match funding for lengthsman, put Parish Action Plan on agenda for October in order to prepare for November with regards the finances for the budget, request raw data from speed check in July 2025 from DCC – ask in the first instance and then if needed a freedom of information request for all the data, two signs to be purchased for Sean to put up:</p>	<p>Speeding campaign: put on November draft agenda and decide if needed for decision</p> <p>Put comment in Unity about speed reading results – people generally driving within speed limit. At certain times of</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

<p>one sign (6ft 6inches limit except for access and other just 6ft 6inches) and check budget. Can try presenting invoice to DCC for signs, add bus shelter repainting to budget list for 2026/7.</p> <p>Cllr. Gallagher thanked the Clerk for her work in following up with Highways.</p> <p>Councillors' action points: JT: arrange engraving of allotment cup (done), SS: paint fort in play park (to be carried over), EG: send local width restriction sign example that DCC has already put up as precedent set (no longer needed); PM: paint bus shelter (completed)</p>	<p>day, higher speeds were observed.</p> <p>Any concerns please contact PCSO Tina Jordan.</p> <p>Paint fort in play park</p>	<p>Cllr. Symons</p>
<p>8) Chair's Report (for information only) Summarised here and full report available at the end of the minutes and on the website</p> <p>Chair covered the gritter, graffiti, clothes bank, open spaces and 20s plenty</p>	<p>Ask DCC Highways what we should use to remove graffiti from road signs</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>9) PLANNING</p> <p>Dartmoor National Park has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications:</p> <p><u>Applications</u></p> <p>0150/25 - Amendment to planning application: Siting of a temporary rural worker's mobile home, extension to agricultural building; retention of track (retrospective) and yard (revised proposals) at Coombehead Farm, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7LQ – no comment</p> <p>0308/25 - Retention of field shelter, tape fencing, use of land and building in connection with horse training including hard surface area for horse walker, manure trailer, welfare caravan and parking for vehicle/horse trailer or box at Barn at Swanaford House, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7HG – no comment</p> <p>0321/25 - Erection of single storey rear extension at Barnstone, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7HR – certificate of lawfulness – no comment</p> <p><u>Decisions</u></p> <p>0234/25 - Erection of single storey domestic storage outbuilding: The Grange, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7LA The Grange, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7LA Grant of Conditional Planning Permission</p> <p>Decision 0258/25 - Retrospective planning application for the retention of 2 stables, a feed/bedding store and covered manure storage area – Field off Lane from Bridford to Commons Hill, Bridford - refused</p>		
<p>10) FINANCES</p> <p><u>Income</u></p> <p>Precept £6721 by BACS</p> <p>Allotment rents:</p> <p>£45 two half plots rent plus deposit for new half plot</p> <p>£45 3x half plot rents</p>	<p>Make payments in Unity Trust Bank</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

<p>£15 half plot rent £15 half plot rent Interest on Instant Access Savings account Unity Trust Bank £2.99 BACS</p> <p>Expenditure Agreed at September meeting and to be paid in October: Clerk’s pay increase Salary, Pension, Income Tax and NI backdated to 1st April 2025. Salary scale point 32 increase is from £21.52 per hour to £22.20 per hour. Salary Apr-Sept 2025 6 months at 30 hours per month, increase of £0.68 per hour so £20.40 per month and total for 6 months of £122.40. Additional employer pension contribution (on increase to qualifying amount only) £0.61 additional each month, so £3.66 total amount April-Sept. Tax and NI c. £2.12 additional per month so c. £12.72 for Apr-Sept (need to run through PAYE tools). Total additional salary, pension, income tax and NI for 6 months April-Sept c. £138.78. Clerk’s new salary from October onwards £601.44 as Salary £666 minus employee pension contribution of £64.56 and income tax for October c.£2 (confirm exact amount on PAYE Tools) by BACS, monthly employer pension contribution £4.38 per month and NI c. £36.41 per month.</p> <p>Defib pad replacements for Village Hall defib £65 + £6.95 postage plus VAT so £86.34 authorised and paid by Clerk as urgent replacement asset and Chair informed as per Financial Regulations</p> <p>Gritter service £367.66 including VAT of £61.28 to Glasdon by BACS</p> <p>Village hall hire: Parish Council hall hire July-Sept 2025 £30 by BACS and Post Office hall hire 1st July-30th September £72 by BACS</p> <p>Allotment deposit refunds Leanne Bird £15 BACS and Paul Tallett £15 by BACS</p> <p>2nd Quarter financial report sent by email before the meeting Bank reconciliation and statement Unity Trust Bank and CC statement</p> <p>Council to resolve to accept the accounts – all agreed and accepted</p>	<p>Update PAYE Tools with back pay payment</p> <p>Update NEST Pension with Pension back payments and new amount from November</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>11) Standing orders (circulated before the meeting) updated in line with Financial Regulations – resolve to adopt revised version including process for posting draft minutes within one calendar month. Proposed and seconded and one abstained - adopted. Clerk and Chair to agree draft minutes and then send draft to other Cllrs. and approve at the following meeting – put watermark of draft on. Minutes to be more concise to turn around more quickly. Message on Councillors’ WhatsApp group when draft minutes on email and share document in group before posting to website a few days later. After following meeting, draft to be replaced with approved minutes on website.</p>	<p>Update Standing orders to show adopted October 2025</p> <p>Follow new procedure for draft and approved minutes</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk and Councillors</p>
<p>12) Parish Council Action Plan - consider action points for coming year and necessary finances for budget setting purposes and also plan to budget to replace play park equipment over 5-10 years. Resolve to agree action points. Discussion around considering population growth</p>	<p>Find out cost of replacing equipment so we</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

<p>in recent years and demographic over next 5-10 years; older aspect of population growing. Rateable values and bands haven't changed. Consider Council tax rates. Play park is leased from TDC. Play park equipment is at least 10 years old and fort could be up to 20 years old. Due to age of equipment, it will need replacing in a timely way so we need to make a decision as to the future. Ball park figure of around £50 000 for wooden equipment. Could consider replacing equipment with different pieces and apply for grants. Clerk has looked into National Lottery funding which is a possibility. Consider leaving until next year due to Devon reorganisation. To be agreed at next meeting for budget planning for 2026/7.</p>	<p>can budget for replacement</p>	
<p>13) Drains and ditch clearance (information sent before meeting from other local parishes and DCC) – resolve to agree to wait a year and see how the winter season is with Cllr. Symon's work on the top ditch above Church Lane and usual drain clearance schedule on Pound Lane by DCC. All agreed. Chair thanked the Clerk for finding out about lengthsman costs.</p>	<p>Put ditches back on agenda for July 2026</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>Clerk's report (for information only) Updates on churchyard closure, gritter, VH registration, Westcott HGVs signs, Twinning sign, Pound Lane HGV usage and sign, allotments, VAT claim and TDC community funding</p>		
<p>Councillor's reports (for information only) and Out and About in the Community Cllr. Gallagher requested to be removed from signatories for banking due to pressure of work. Agreed that three signatories was working well. Cllr. Purser – parishioner contacted him to say a couple of horse riders went past her house in the village with dogs and didn't collect dog's mess and then were rude when she asked them to pick it up. Cllr. Gallagher offered to put poo bags in the phone box so always a supply in there that can be used and bin next to phone box accepts dog poo.</p>	<p>Check Unity Trust Bank signatories</p> <p>Reminder in Unity magazine re. dog poo and bags available</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>Email information DALC bulletins - up to #42 and NALC bulletins DNPA Planning applications DCC Highways updates Village Hall registration updates Updated Standing Orders Information on lengthsman work from local parishes</p>		
<p>Meeting closed at 21.06</p> <p>Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on Monday 3rd November 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall. Note that there is no meeting in December.</p>		

Signed:

Date:

Chair of Bridford Parish Council

County Cllr. Keeling's report for October (in person)

Cllr. Keeling told us that he had been on TDC for some years and is presently the leader for TDC and now County Councillor (Lib Dem) for Devon. Cabinet member for Adult Social Care – just been through a Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection and awaiting outcome but seems positive.

Cllr. Keeling raised the issue of degradation of the surface and spring plate at the bottom of Pound Lane - Ines Scillitoe, Devon CC Highways, due to visit Pound Lane on 14/10/2025 – if spring plate will be replaced, we need to communicate with parish as road would be closed for a week. School bus is an issue. If it could be scheduled for a holiday it would be better but Cllr. Keeling commented that those weeks will be in demand as they're on a 5-year rolling programme of other works. Devon Highways has just lost £10 million from Government funding as formula relates to how busy the road is rather than the length of it. Clerk to request dates and let parishioners know. Ice in the winter on approach to main road. It's a safety issue. Clerk to update the website.

Local Government reform – the end of Teignbridge DC and Devon CC and new Unity Council 145 formed: 1 Plymouth, 4 Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon and 5 Exeter and northern districts and/or a plus scheme Plymouth to take on 13 extra parishes around the city potentially. DCC's preferred option 911 – most of Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. Torbay has a lot of issues such as adult social care issues. High proportion of budget spent on it. More over-75s moving to Devon but income decreasing. Children an important part of goals – key one of DCC's priorities to improve. Cost per person to look after adults in adult social care. Executives at TDC and DCC to decide their preferences from full councils by end November and then Government will decide.

Report from County; smaller councils don't fare too well looking after adult social care issues and children. Can get a better price and deal as a larger council. Independent living requires extra care.

County Cllr. Keeling's written report for October for all parishes:

I will start this report with a message from the Leader of DCC Councillor Julian Brazil;

"I am deeply shocked and saddened by the horrific attack on Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Manchester. On behalf of our communities here in Devon, I extend our heartfelt sympathy and solidarity to all those affected.

"This cowardly act of violence—especially on Yom Kippur, a sacred day of reflection and peace—has reverberated far beyond Manchester. It is a stark reminder of the importance of standing together against hatred in all its forms.

"Devon is home to people of many faiths and backgrounds, and we are united in our condemnation of this attack. We stand shoulder to shoulder with Manchester's Jewish community and reaffirm our commitment to fostering safe, inclusive, and respectful communities everywhere.

"Our thoughts are with the victims, their families, and all those grieving today. We also commend the emergency services for their swift and courageous response.

"Hate has no place in our society. We must continue to work together to build a future rooted in understanding, compassion, and peace."

The council will once again be supporting Hate Crime Awareness Week this month to state its 'zero tolerance to hate crime' commitment. The week runs from Saturday, 11 October.

ORD2105054 STATION HILL CHUDLEIGH UPDATE PHASE 2

This is the latest update on the Station Hill scheme in Chudleigh as we move into the next phase of works. Firstly, and most importantly, we thank you for your cooperation over the first phase of works which are drawing to a close. We have made good progress from the start and are currently on schedule, but we fully understand that traffic management may have caused some delays for which we apologise. Works have progressed well enough to commence from Monday 6th October the full closure aspect which was communicated before the scheme start. Works will move towards the middle of the carriageway as we work up the hill towards the Town Centre hence the need for the full road closure. We will be placing when appropriate, extra work force to assist from Monday along with machinery. The fully signed diversion will be placed on the road network from Monday morning, and Devon County Council will only be promoting this official diversion, although drivers with local knowledge may use alternatives.

Information on current and planned roadworks in your area can be found on the one.network: Causeway one.network We thank you again for your cooperation during these works and will keep you informed of any changes at the following location. B3344 Station Hill, Chudleigh - Roads and transport Phil Highway Liaison Officer Devon County Council Email: highway.highwaysliaison-mailbox@devon.gov.uk Website: Roads and transport on devon.gov.uk

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

After many months of detailed work, I am pleased to share with you our council's leading option for how local government could be reshaped across our county. This is a significant moment for all of us — for our services, our communities, and our future.

We have been listening to our residents, partners, members and have also sought expert advice to help inform our proposal to move towards a single unitary authority for Devon, working alongside the existing unitary councils of Plymouth and Torbay. This model — known as *New Devon* — would replace the current two-tier system of eight district councils and the county council, creating a simpler, stronger and more resilient authority.

Why this matters

I know change brings uncertainty, and I thank you for your resilience and commitment on Town/Parish Councils to continuously strive to provide the best services for Devon.

A New Devon unitary authority would:

- Make efficiency savings to help reduce central government funding deficits
- Provide one front door for services which are currently split
- Empower local people through Neighbourhood Area Committees, delivering change in partnership with local residents

Have your say

Our New Devon survey has been running since July. More than 6,000 residents have completed the survey already – thank you to those of you who have responded, as your voice matters. We are continuing to

gather opinions on our plans for a New Devon, with the survey open until Tuesday 14 October. A final decision will be made on this proposal in November so I encourage you to [complete the survey to have your say](https://devoncountycouncil.commonplace.is/): <https://devoncountycouncil.commonplace.is/>

Deputy Leader, Councillor Paul Arnott who is leading on LGR for our council says:

“New Devon would provide stronger local accountability, smarter use of public money, consistent, high-quality public services and will create opportunities for our area’s economy bringing in new investment and jobs.

It will allow us to join up local services, bringing together the strengths of district councils and the county council and will also allow for much closer working, and enhanced local decision-making, with key partners including the NHS, police and voluntary sector.”

I have been on this LGR journey since last year and in my role as a Cabinet member for Adult Social Care, which is over 70% of the County Councils budget I see the benefits in quality delivery of best practice, local solutions for independent living and reducing the waiting times for assessment, works as a larger authority. Having said that I am still open minded to the other options and I am still looking at the information that is being shared. Ultimately the government will decide for the residents of Devon then we have to deliver those changes at pace. I will keep you updated.

Care Quality Commission Inspection.

At Devon County Council we are presently being inspected by the Care Quality Commission on our Adult Social Care provisions under the Care Act. I’m always inspired when I meet staff who are passionate about their work, and when their work has such a positive impact for the people of Devon it’s a privilege to hear their accounts of residents lived experiences.

Adult social care is such an important part of what the Council does and who the Council is, I continue to shout loudly and proudly about the impact adult social care has on the lives of so many in every community and neighbourhood in Devon. The inspection is current, and a report will be recommended early next year.

CHAIR’S REPORT OCTOBER 2025

WELCOME

I am pleased to say that the Parish Council now has a full complement of counsellors with the addition of two recently co-opted colleagues: Alexia Hollingsworth and Ian Acheson; looking forward very much to working together.

GRITTER

The gritter is now back from being serviced. Thanks go to Seven Acre Farm for very kindly continuing to give the gritter a home. Other thanks go to Anne Mayes our snow warden for agreeing to co-ordinate another year; Nige Skelton for continuing to offer his water and space to rinse off the gritter; Andy Hawkins for on-going liaison with Glasdon and upkeep of the gritter. Fingers crossed now for a mild winter

GRAFFITI

Unfortunately, there was a little bit of graffiti in the village last month. A quiet word has been put round and a message on the Parish Council Facebook page. I am really hoping this is a one off incident. Devon County Council has been informed but there is little hope of urgent action as the

graffiti is not a danger to traffic. Various parishioners have tried to remove the offending graffiti but to no avail so far.

CLOTHES BANK

The Clothes Bank was recently emptied and £33.00 made which is more than the last time thanks to the vigilance of Lorraine Hart who helped me to keep it tidy. Thanks as ever to Karen Gervers who continues to co-ordinate the scheme for us. The money raised goes towards the replacement of defibrillator pads. I have made new notices in the hope of continued good use of the Clothing Bank.

PLAYPARK

Regular checks continue to be made in the Playpark, which continues to be a lovely space and tidy. Thanks go to Paul and Wendy (well Wendy actually!) who kindly spent a whole weekend digging out Bamboo from their garden which adjoins the Playpark. No more bamboo now on the Playpark side which is really good and saves us a hard job!

THE VILAGE GARDEN

The Village Garden continues to look lovely – work has been done recently to tidy and prune. Most of the seats need attention. We are sorely in need of more volunteers.

20s PLENTY

Many thanks to Christow Parish Council for providing us with a few bin stickers as well as the loan of a banner: Tony, a Butts Close resident, kindly agreed to put it up on the fence at his house.