

High Bickington Parish Council
Clerk: Alan Matthewman
26 Fairways View, High Bickington EX37 9BZ
01769 560740; 07720 301854

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7.30 pm in
The Community Centre, High Bickington, First Floor Meeting Room
Members of the public Had been encouraged to attend.

Members Present: Councillor Kendall (In the chair), Cllrs. Hunt (Vice Chair), Parker, Clarke, Redman and Naden.

Welcome from the Chair:

- 1: Welcome from the Chair: Cllr Kendall welcomed all present, both councillors and members of the public.**
- 2: Apologies for absence** – had been received from Cllr Sheldon, Councillor Elliott and Councillor Lock (Both Torridge DC)
- 3: Declarations of Interest** – All councillors to submit declarations of interest in matters listed for discussion. None declared.
- 4: The Chair will, with the consent of members, suspend standing orders to enable presentations by non-council members and members of the public. With the agreement of council members the chair invited members of the public to raise matters in which they had an interest.**

Each member of the public is permitted to raise one item on which they may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes unless the Chair rules otherwise. Items raised in this section are not required to receive a response at this point in the agenda but may be raised in council when the appropriate agenda item is called.

Mr John Tucker raised an issue arising from the minutes of the January meeting in which council had listed a number of concerns regarding the planning application for 35 houses in the village in which he, as a joint landowner, had a pecuniary interest. He submitted a paper for consideration (**See Appendix**) by the council in which he stated that, at the meeting council had stated that their submission would be neutral. He further asserted that he understood that a private meeting had apparently been called and held without any notice of this being filed. The clerk and others pointed out that no such decision was taken at the January meeting, and no private meeting had been held thereafter. What had been decided was that the clerk was asked to draft and circulate to members a proposed submission and that a final submission would be agreed and submitted with a few days to meet the submission timetable set out by TDC. Mr Tucker was dissatisfied with this explanation and left the meeting saying he would consider what further action he could take.

Questions were raised regarding the number of grant applications received, which were numbered at four in respect of the Football Club, Playing Fields Association, the School PTA and the Tucker and Pynchcombe Charities. Since Payment was envisaged to be made in April or May it was agreed that consideration be held over until the March meeting and further efforts would be made to encourage further applications.

- a) **Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin (Devon CC)** – A copy of her report is appended at Appendix B
- b) **Presentation by Councillor Thomas Elliott (Torridge DC)** – Although absent from the meeting Councillor Elliott had submitted a report which is appended at Appendix C.
- c) **Presentation by Councillor Rosemary Lock (Torridge DC)**
- d) **Public Participation** See above.

Chair restored the standing orders so that the full meeting of the council can be renewed.

- 5: Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chair:** To consider any urgent matters raised by the chair or by councillors which may need urgent discussion or be required to be put on the agenda at the next meeting for decision.

Report of any other applications for the one additional vacant position of new councillor. (Parish Clerk): The clerk reported that one application had been received, from Adam Bunting, a previous chair of the council, who reported that his other circumstances had changed and that he was keen to rejoin the council. The information had been circulated to all members and, in the absence of any other applications, his was approved unanimously. He submitted a formal application and consent to serve form and was duly co-opted as the final councillor appointed to the council with immediate effect. He would rejoin the council formally at the next meeting.

6: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 and consider any matters arising therefrom. The minutes of the January meeting were submitted. Proposed by Cllr Kendall, Seconded by Cllr Clarke they were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting

7: To consider any claims of grants in the coming year and, if appropriate, agree a timetable for payment. See statement in public Participation section.

8: Police Matters –

a) Update on any local police and/or Neighbourhood Watch matters. Councillor Cottle-Hunking supplied the details she had for the two new appointees for the Torridge District, namely

Dave Condron 07890 905230

Gail Cole Gail.cole@devonandcornwall.pin.police.uk

b) receive report on police activity since last meeting. Nothing received

c

9: Maintenance

(a) Highways – To receive a report from Councillor Parker. Nothing to report

(b) Footpaths and Byways – to consider appointment of new footpath warden following the resignation of Councillor Keen. Nothing to report except updated instruction on purchase of tree and approval of cash for same at c.£200 incl. VAT

© Defibrillator update – Status on installation of solar powered housing. Defib housing now erected and unit operational.

e) Speedwatch Report – Finance situation. Cash still not received from NWF.

4: Barton Meadow Maintenance: Update on progress and anticipated costs. Final removals requested as annual inspection due in March.

10: To consider and approve the following policy documents for May 2025:

Update on information regarding the implementation of Assertion 10 in the AGAR Programme Programme on other updates to be discussed in February 2026 meeting. Reports requiring approval in March are Finance Report in accordance with updated NALC recommendation, Risk Analysis, Capital Valuations and AGAR updates. Clerk to circulate proposals in advance of meeting. Deferred to March meeting

11: Finance:

To receive draft accounts for the period April 1 to December 31st 2025, and projected expenditure to March 2026 compared with budget. Deferred to March meeting

To approve new invoice payments due before March meeting:

Clerk (January) £ 442.20

Nik Copp (Defib base) £ 273.58

High Bickington CPT (Jan) £ 15.00

PC Geek, Laptop Service £ 60.00

Clerk (Feb) £ 442.20

To agree the budget for 2026/27.. Budget agreed in draft form. Finalise for March Meeting

12: Planning

a: To receive and comment on other planning applications and any decisions reached

[Conversion of redundant surgery to 1no. dwelling](#)

Planning Application

Old Stables Surgery High Bickington Umerleigh Devon EX37 9AX

Ref. No: 1/0030/2026/FUL | Received: Wed 14 Jan 2026 | Validated: Fri 16 Jan 2026 | Status: Pending Consideration

Requests for consultation

Letter Reference:	Consultee:	Date Requested:	Expiry Date:
DC/0000/T8UXOOQKGYC14	Parish / Town Council	Tue 20 Jan 2026	Fri 13 Feb 2026

Members considered this application for change of use following its redundancy as a surgery for the village. The response can be seen on the TDC planning portal. Council regretted the change of use and, if to be turned into a residential property the was very concerned at the total absence of any outside parking or storage space.

Planning Application

Agricultural Building At Grid Reference 262114 121659 High Bickington Devon

Ref. No: 1/0067/2026/AGMB | Received: Tue 27 Jan 2026 | Validated: Tue 27 Jan 2026 | Status: Pending Consideration

Requests for consultation

Letter Reference:	Consultee:	Date Requested:	Expiry Date:	Days to Expiry:
DC/0000/T9IUY0QKH5Z0E	Parish / Town Council	Wed 28 Jan 2026	Sat 21 Feb 2026	15

Council felt unable to respond on basis of information available.

13. Correspondence:

To consider any urgent correspondence received by the Clerk or Councillors since 14th January 2026.

None received not dealt with above

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.30 pm

Colin Kendall

Chair of the Parish Council

Note:

All appendices mentioned will appear on the website but not on the notice board due to lack of space