

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

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 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: Cllrs. C. Kendall: (in the chair), D. Hunt, M Parker, M. Naden, B Redman,**  
**Also Present: Provisional Councillor Adam Bunting**  
**Councillor T Elliott (Torrige DC), Alan Matthewman, Parish Clerk**

**1: Welcome from the Chair..**

**1a: Remembrance: A 1 minute silence will be held in remembrance of Cllr Clarke whose sudden death led to the cancellation of the March meeting**

The chair reported that, following the death of councillor Clarke, who was also very active in the social involvement of the church in village affairs regarding whether a remembrance article would be appropriate. A suggestion had been made that a church bench, dedicated to Cllr Clarke and located in the churchyard would be appropriate. Proposed by Cllr Kendall, seconded by Cllr Parker this was approved unanimously and a maximum sum of £500 was set aside from reserves to meet the parish contribution to the cost. Clerk to circulate possible choices.

**1b: Co-opting of new member:** In accordance with the preliminary decision in February, Council, Proposed by Cllr Kendall and seconded by Cllr Hunt, unanimously approved the election of Adam Bunting as a new member of council and he joined the meeting formally in that capacity.

**2: Apologies for absence** – to receive and accept any apologies for absence: Grant Sheldon (Late apology re confusion over date). Cllr Bunting declared he was now a trustee of the Pyncombe foundation which had a grant application on the agenda.

**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.**

**a) Presentation by Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin (Devon CC)** not present

**b) Presentation by Councillor Thomas Elliott (Torrige DC) – final deficit for 2026-27 was now estimated at £1.4 million.**

**c) Presentation by Councillor Rosemary Lock (Torrige DC)**

**d) Public Participation**

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.

**David Halpin was present to report on the updated situation on the CPT** which was leading to a financial situation which was becoming increasingly untenable. Heating has now been converted to gas, but the system is totally inappropriate for the application. Finalising his report he asked if the council could consider a contribution to the cost of grasscutting and fencing in the area of Little Bickington Lane.

On completion of the above Chair shall move the restoration of standing orders so that the council can resume the full meeting.

Ratify the co-option of Cllr. Adam Bunting to membership of the council having received unanimous approval at the previous meeting,

**6: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and consider any matters arising therefrom.** Minutes were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting and it was agreed that the letter from John Tucker be attached to the minutes on the website.

7: To consider any claims for grants in the coming year and, if appropriate, agree a timetable for payment.

**Applications Received:**

- Football Club** – in discussions it appeared that the last grant given may not have been spent on the purpose stated which would render them liable for repayment - **£400**
- Playing Fields Association - £600**
- High Bickington School £500**
- Torrige & Taw Voluntary Services (ttvs – Bideford) - £200**
- Pyncombe Foundation - £100**
- William Dodds and Joshua Tucker Charity - £100**
- HB CPT – for tommies for WW2 remembrance committee £500**
  - **Fencing & Maintenance - £6000**

- **Proposed by Cllr Kendall, Seconded by Cllr Naden and approved unanimously. Total committed £3000 in accordance with agreed budget.**

8: **Police Matters –**

a) Update on any local police and/or Neighbourhood Watch matters. Chairman reported on problem within the village of screws and nails being placed under the wheels of vehicles in the village. It was said that local actions had been taken to stop the situation. Also concern over irresponsible use of motorised scooters and cycles. Contact was PCSO Cole on these issues.

b) receive report on police activity since last meeting.

9: **Maintenance**

- (a) Highways – To receive a report from Councillor Parker.
- (b) Footpaths and Byways – to consider appointment of new footpath warden following the resignation of Councillor Keen.
- © Defibrillator update – in and operational
- (d) Speedwatch Report – Speed camera now ordered
- (e) Barton Meadow Maintenance: Update on progress and anticipated costs.

10: **To consider and approve the following policy documents for May 2025:**  
**Recommendation to proceed with changes proposed by Hugo Fox for the revision of the web site and switch of all councillor e-mail addresses and that for the clerk to @highbickpc.gov.uk**  
Programme on other updates to be discussed in May 2026 meeting.

11: **Finance:**

To receive draft accounts for the period April 1 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 and projected expenditure to March 2026 compared with budget.

To approve new invoice payments due before March meeting:

Payment for replacement copper beech tree - **£c.£200**

Payment for new speed camera from Elan City **£3710.99**

Balance of payment to HMRC for clerk salary 2025/26

Subscription for NALC and DALC c. £385

To agree the budget for 2026/27

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 UMBERLEIGH 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

Update and comment from David Venner on this application. Both the response of D Vanner and that of the council are available on the TDC Planning Portal under Ref 1/0030.2026.FUL.

**13. Correspondence:**

To consider any urgent correspondence received by the Clerk or Councillors since 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026: Further discussion on maintenance of the copse was left open although in the meantime neighbours should feel free to maintain it.

**Elgin Energy:** Update on conversation with Grainne O'Loughlon regarding the Solar Farm Development and potential for Community Fund contributions. The issue of neighbourhood benefit from the scheme were likely to come up for discussion later in the year.

**Date of next meeting, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30 pm**  
**Colin Kendall - Chair**  
**Clerk to the Parish Council**