

High Bickington Parish Council
Clerk: Alan Matthewman
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Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7.30 pm in
The Community Centre, High Bickington, First Floor Meeting Room
Members of the public were encouraged to attend.

Members Present: Cllrs. Kendall, Spencer, Hunt, Naden, Clarke, Sheldon
Also Present: Alan Matthewman (Parish Clerk)
Councillors Cottle-Hunkin (Devon CC) and Councillor Thomas Elliott (Torridge DC)

- 1: Welcome from the Chair:** There was tabled a proposal by Cllr Kendall that Cllr Dave Hunt be appointed Vice-Chair of the council for the year 2025-26. This was seconded by Cllr Spencer and, Cllr Hunt having agreed to accept the position, was approved unanimously.
 - 2: Apologies for absence** – received from Nic Copp and Mike Parker
 - 3: Declarations of Interest** – All councillors to submit revised declarations – None received
 - 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) 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.

None of the councillors being present at this time Kevin Underwood was invited to make a brief presentation for his proposal to develop a resilience plan for the Parsh. The Government was advising that communities develop a resource plan to allow the community, and individuals to be able to survive for 72 hours in the event of an emergency. The community has available to it good medical resources and the major risk to HB was the possibility of storms. The purpose of the plan would be advise householders on the resources they should have available and ancillary issues such as how the exit there premises safely. Mechanism of responding to assistance, e.g. safe responders. He was looking to have a co-ordination group feeding down through street co-ordinators, mirroring the structure used by Neighbourhood Watch. The possible involvement of the Council was clearly open to discussion, and that of the CPT because of it's ownership of the Community Centre would probably be essential. National Grid had generators available which could be used to power up the Centre. The need to avoid GDPR issues was recognise. It was agreed to include a reference to the proposal in the monthly notices seeking interested parties. Council agreed to support the proposal as required.
- Chair moved the restoration of standing orders so that the council can resume the full meeting
- 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.
 - 5:1: Further discussion and decision on remediation work on and near Mill Road copse. Awaiting feedback from Highways.
 - 5.2: To note the possible sale or closure of one or both public houses in the village and consider what options may be available to the community. The Golden Lion was now on the market. The landlord and landlady were keen to stay on, but the commercial reality seemed to be that viability was questionable on a conventional leasehold basis. Note on progress of survey – decided that the survey should seek information on the potential marketplace and looking for participation in acquisition of the property. Cllr. Kendall outlined his proposals for the survey. Councillor Kendall proposed and Cllr Spencer seconded a proposal that the council should prepare and circulate the response. The text and format of the survey is set out in Appendix A.

- 6: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th June 2025.** Cllr Kendall proposed, Cllr Clarke seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- 7: Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th June 2025.** None raised which were not covered in the agenda.
- 8: Police Matters –**
- a) Update on any local police and/or Neighbourhood Watch matters – Council were still awaiting appointment of the new PCSO.
 - b) receive report on police activity since last meeting. Nothing reported
 - c) receive report from Speedwatch group. No report but they are active in fundraising.
- 9: Maintenance**
- (a) Highways – To receive a report from Councillor Parker. Cllr Parker not present. Statement from Highways had confirmed that the traffic calming at St Mary's Close was to go ahead.
 - (b) Footpaths and Byways – to consider appointment of new footpath warden following the resignation of Councillor Keen. Clerk to inform details of P3 programme.
 - © Defibrillator update – Status on installation of solar powered housing. Still awaited
- 10: To consider and approve the following policy documents for approval going forward. Deferred**
- 11: Finance:**
- To approve new payments to be made
 - To note end-June Bank reconciliation and amounts outstanding
 - Cllr Kendall proposed, Seconded by Cllr Shelton that the transactions be approved and approved unanimously.
- 12: Planning**
- 1) To consider the planning appeal lodged, Ref 1/0098/2025/ against the refusal of permission for removal of Class Q development rights for original application. Original application, which was accepted, was 1/0260/2024 and is part of the Weirmarsh family-owned holdings in that area. Agreed that the Council would lodge a no-comment response.
 - 2: Cllr Kendall reported that the application at Libbaton had been rejected on grounds of scale and in relation to existing properties.
 - 3: **Response from Elgin Energy regarding Deptford Farm Solar Farm.** The clerk had made phone calls and sent an e-mail without a response being received.
- 13. Correspondence:**
- To consider any urgent correspondence received by the Clerk or Councillors since 12th February 2025
- Correspondence with Devon CC School Transport regarding provision of additional bus stop and uniform issues. Devon Transport confirm that they have two stops scheduled for HB on the school run, namely Fountains Field and the bus shelter near the southern end. If this is not happening, we need to get information and facts and I will follow up. My thanks to the village school administrator for the information on contacts. Correspondence begun and awaiting progress.
- 14:** Report by Councillor Cottle-Hunkin: Her report had been supplied and circulated to all members in advance of the meeting and was taken as read. Attached at Appendix B.
- 15:** Report by Councillor Thomas Elliott: See Appendix C.

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 10th September at 7.30 pm
Alan Matthewman
Clerk to the Parish Council