

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

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 7.00 pm in**  
**The Community Centre, High Bickington, Ground Floor Meeting Room**  
**Members Present; Cllrs. D. Hunt (Chair), A. Eveson (Vice-Chair), B. Redman, M. Naden, M. Parker, G. Sheldon,**  
**Other Present: A. Matthewman (Parish Clerk):**  
**One Members of the public (Mr Spencer) was in attendance.**

- 1: a) **Signature of consent to serve notice, Chair and Vice-Chair. Both completed**
- 2: **Apologies for absence** – to receive and accept any apologies for absence: Apology Received from Adam Bunting, Councillors Elliott and Lock (Torridge DC) and a possible absence from Councillor Cottle-Hunkin who had a prior meeting to attend.
- 3: **Declarations of Interest** – All councillors to submit revised declarations of interest valid June 2026 regardless of whether any changes have been made. None were 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, written report provided**
  - b) **Presentation by Councillor Thomas Elliott (Torridge DC), Not present but written report sent to the chair who would circulate it.**
  - c) **Presentation by Councillor Rosemary Lock (Torridge DC), Not present.**
  - 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.

Ex-councillor Franklin Spencer present a report he had prepared for the resilience committee concerning the security issues that could be faced in the supply of major public services. A copy of the report can be found on the council website attached to the minutes at Appendix A.

Chair shall move 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: **Update on status of The Old George Inn.** The clerk reported back on the current situation on the Old George Inn. The Public Service Asset Status had lapsed in June 2026 so a new application could be filed. He passed the document to the Chair who agreed to submit same to Torridge DC.
- 6: **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2026. Proposed by Cllr Hunt, Seconded by Cllr Naden it was agreed that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting**
- 7: **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2026. No matters were raised by councillors**
- : **Police Matters –**
  - a) Update on any local police and/or Neighbourhood Watch matters – no info received.
  - b) **receive report from Speedwatch group regarding installation of new signage, including grant application to DCC.** The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Highways Officer responsible who reported that he was still awaiting authority from the locality budget to transfer the cash. Councillor Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin had communicated that she had stopped the process as she

was unhappy at the large fee being demanded.

**10. Maintenance**

- (a) Highways – To receive a report on updates on Highways. A lengthy closure of the A327 past Weirmarsh was proposed commencing in Mid-September. There was concern that the proposed diversion up the High Bickington was totally unacceptable for the size and volume of the traffic involved. Popose diversion up deep Lane is ttally unpracticl as road is not maintained and is almost impassible in places,
- (b) Footpaths and Byways – to consider appointment of new footpath warden,. The Quarry Group were awaiting detailed maps. Clerk and Cllr Redman to liaise on getting this sorted.
- © Update on Barton Meadow Maintenance contract and oak tree thereon. Updates were needed on repairs which, it was thought amounted to c. £3000. The council envisaged self-funding this, with an additional cost for new equipment which would be able to access the £8400 reserve. The clerk to forward information to the Chair on additional suppliers to TK Play who had already supplied some information.

**10: To consider and approve the following policy documents for September 2026**

- 1) Standing Orders – document circulated. All members had now reas and approved the document. Cllr Hunt Proposed and Cllr Eveson seconded that the document was approved and lodged on the council website. **Approved Unanimously.**

**11: Finance:**

**Agree accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022.** Two accounts only received. Full accouns will be prepared to end September to provide a basis fror first draft of budget for 2027/28

**12: Planning**

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

**1;** Report on CR in Devon – See separate mail. \see contents above regarding new plans.

**2:** Application No. 1/0615/2026 for Agricultural Building – No comments

**3: Application 1.0224/2025 – updated modifications on Solar Fardm –** Permission granted on all aspects. Noted

**13. Correspondence:**

To consider any urgent correspondence received by the Clerk or Councillors since 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Correspondence was being increasingly vigorous regarding the proposed BESS and Data Centre at5 Torrington.

Letter received from CPt regarding the heating for the residential properties which had confirmed they would be running the heating systems in the coming winter. The hope was that the sale of the flats would provide enough funds to install a new system.

Communication via the website with Mrs Westacott regarding the condition of Barton Meadow Playgound. The clerk had confirmed that matters were in hand.

**Date of next meeting, Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm**

**David Hunt**

**Chair of the Parish Council**