

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 12th November 2025 at 7.30 pm in
The Community Centre, High Bickington, First Floor Meeting Room
Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Members Present: Cllrs. Kendall (in the Chair), Hall, Parker, Clarke, Naden.

Others Present: Councillor Elliott (Torridge District Council)
Alan Matthewman (Parish Clerk)
3 members of the public

Welcome from the Chair:

- 1: **Welcome from the Chair**
- 2: **Apologies for absence** – to receive and accept any apologies for absence: Cllr Sheldon:
- 3: **Declarations of Interest** – All councillors to submit declarations of interest in matters listed for discussion.
- 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) Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin (Devon CC) – not yet present
 - b) Presentation by Councillor Thomas Elliott (Torridge DC) – Not yet Present
 - c) Presentation by Councillor Rosemary Lock (Torridge DC) – Apology Received
In the absence of district and county councillors it was agreed unanimously that Standing Orders be suspended and the floor was opened to members of the public
 - d) 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.
Speedwatch Group: A meeting had been held with Mark James, Highways group and it had been decided that the existing posts were inadequate to support the weight of the unit. NWF had asked for a sponsorship
~~Form plaque~~ to be erected naming all the sponsors. Costs of the posts are expected from DCC.
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Resilience Committee: Kevin Underwood reported that he had largely covered the required communication volunteers. He was still looking for volunteers for the warm hub at the Community Centre. We had seen no action on installing the electrics as yet and he was chasing that. On volunteers for the hub there was progress, but he felt that they needed to increase the reserve manning.
The emergency planning document is part drafted but awaiting final details of the warm hub operation. Councillors expressed their appreciation for the work done which would be much appreciated over time.
The 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.
To receive report on election of new councillors. (Parish Clerk) The clerk ~~repor~~ reported that he had received the notices from TDC which would be erected before the beginning of next week

- 6: **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th October 2025.** Proposed by The Chair, seconded by Cllr. Naden that the minutes were a true and accurate record; Approved unanimously
- 7: **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th October 2025 and not listed in the current agenda: None declared.**
- 8: **Police Matters –**
- a) Update on any local police and/or Neighbourhood Watch matters: Councillor Elliott is pursuing this to identify details of the new appointee.
 - b) receive report on police activity since last meeting. None reported at this time
 - c) receive report from Speedwatch group: **see above under 4:d**
- 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.
 - (c) Defibrillator update – Status on installation of solar powered housing. Nothing to declare.
 - (d) Barton Meadow Maintenance: Update on progress and anticipated costs. Shed had been demolished and removed at a total cost of £100. Tree surveys remained to be done

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

Update on information regarding the implementation of Assertion 10 in the AGAR Programme:
Deferred to next meeting

11: Finance: - No progress had been made due the issues with accessing the accounts: Actions and report deferred to January 2026

To receive draft accounts for the period April 1 to September 30 2025 and projected expenditure to March 2026 compared with budget.

To receive a report on the activities of Barclays Bank in relation to access to the account and discuss option from transferring the account to an alternative bank.

To discuss initial projections for 26-27 budget to be approved at ~~January~~December meeting.

To approve new invoice payments due before November meeting:

12: Planning

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

Application Ref: 1/0699/2025/FUL{ Mr Jack Harding)

Part retrospective change of use from agricultural barn to ancillary accommodation.

Back Lane, High Bickington EX37 9EW

13. Correspondence:

To consider any urgent correspondence received by the Clerk or Councillors since ~~9th October~~^{12th} February 2025

Litter Pick: Indication received that the £50 per pick was no longer adequate to meet the expenses incurred. Information to be sought from the organiser on revised costs.

14: Councillor Elliott Report: He reported on a tour he had made of the new recycling vehicles depot. They had received a demand to convert from Diesel to Vegetable fat but,

although a substantial reduction in emissions were reduced, the increase in costs was estimated in excess of £100,000.

It was reported that the bin at Barton Meadow was overflowing in spite of the agreement to empty it weekly. Councillor Elliott said he would contact them to resolve.

The Chair reported that the CPT had approached them regarding funding for cutting the verges on Little Bickington Lane and the fields behind the Community Centre.

Because of conflicting issues it was agreed that the meeting in December be cancelled so that the next meeting would be held in January 2026.

Meeting closed at 08.50 pm

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 7.30 pm

Alan Matthewman

Clerk to the Parish Council

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