

High Bickington Parish Council
Clerk: Alan Matthewman
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01769 560740; 07720 301854

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 8th October 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 (In the chair), Parker, Clark and Naden.
Also Present: Alan Matthewman (Parish Clerk), Councillor Thomas Elliott (Torrige DC)

Welcome from the Chair:

1: Welcome from the Chair

2: Apologies for absence – Apologies had been received from Cllr Grant Sheldon (Work) and Cllr David Hunt (Holiday). Councillor Cheryl-Hunkin (Devon CC), Councillor Rosemary Lock (Torrige DC)

3: Declarations of Interest – All councillors to submit declarations of interest in matters listed for discussion. 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) Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin (Devon CC) – report attached (Appendix A)

b) Presentation by Councillor Thomas Elliott (Torrige DC)

c) Presentation by Councillor Rosemary Lock (Torrige 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.

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

A n update was received from Kevin regarding the work on the resilience programme for the village. The following progress has been made:

Community Centre: National Grid Contractor had confirmed that they would install the necessary connections to link a generator to the Centre hopefully to be completed by the end of November. The necessary equipment and fuel would also be supplied by National Grid as and when required.

Street Co-ordinators: The Aim was to appoint 19 of whom 12 were already in place plus 5 to man the warm hub at the centre. Out of village 5 of 9 were in place. Devon Communities Together were holding a training on Resilience Planning tomorrow which he would attend.

Regarding **Grant Finance** the council will be happy to provide a bank account and, where necessary, Cllr Kendall would act as the named councillor. Dolton had supplied a list of materials acquired with their start-up funding. He had been disappointed at the lack of traction from either Facebook and Ramblings and the council confirmed their support.

Speedwatch Group: A report was presented by..... regarding the proposal to obtain a replacement speed monitoring facility. It was confirmed that, excluding the VAT, finance had been achieved with the largest element coming from NWF who had requested that a notice of their support be recognised by an A3 sign to be attached to the post. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting when it was hoped we would have a better turnout of councillors. The council congratulated the team on their success in achieving the necessary funding. Mark James (the Local Highway Officer). He had confirmed that they would need to confirm the device type and placement before the order was placed. The clerk was instructed to contact the supplier to get the correct address on the invoice.

The clerk was requested to recontact the School Transport Division again regarding the stopping points of the school bus transport. Councillor Elliott suggested that he copy both himself and Councillor Cottle-Hunkin into the communication which might accelerate matters.

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 update matters relating to the possible sale or closure of one or both public houses in the village and consider what options may be available to the community. Nothing further to report and both were now closed. The survey had received 200 responses but nothing likely to change the situation at this time.

Update on remediation work on trees on or near Mill Road. The clerk confirmed that DCC had confirmed that the trees were the responsibility of Highways and that they deemed that none of them required any action to be taken at this time and that this would be kept under review,

- 6: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th September 2025.** Proposed by Cllr Kendall, Seconded by Cllr Clarke that the minutes were a true record of the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

- 7: Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2025 and not listed in the current agenda.** None mentioned.

8: Police Matters –

- a) Update on any local police and/or Neighbourhood Watch matters.
- b) receive report on police activity since last meeting. None received
- c) receive report from Speedwatch group. See above item 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. Still outstanding
- © Defibrillator update – Status on installation of solar powered housing. Cllr Kendall to contact Nic Copp regarding the siting.
- 4: **Barton Meadow Maintenance:** Update on progress and anticipated costs. No further information received by the clerk regarding. Cllr Parker reported that arrangements had been made for the shed to be demolished by Steve Pearce and carted away by Jim which should be completed before the next meeting. Quotes were awaited for the necessary tree work. Councillor Elliott suggested Oak Valley Tree Services as a third contractor.

- 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. Deferred until November.

Programme on other updates to be discussed in November

11: Finance:

To receive draft accounts for the period April 1 to September 30 2025 and projected expenditure to March 2025 compared with budget. Proposed by Cllr Kendall, seconded by Cllr Clark and approved unanimously.

To receive current bank statement and projected outcome at year-end

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

To determine timing of grant applications and disbursement for 2026. **Agreed for January 2026**

To receive update on Barclays Mandate Changes. Still struggling to get things organised.

To approve new invoice payments due before November meeting:

CPT Room Hire 9442 (Sept 2025)	£15.00
Elan City Speed Monitoring Device:	£3,600 incl. Delivery and VAT
(Subject to cash being received into bank)	
Clerk's Payroll – Oct + Backpay from April	
Pay for month £416 plus 3.2% from April £93.18	£ 499.18
Barton Meadow costs: to be advised	

All above approved, Proposed by Cllr Kendall, Seconded by Cllr Parker.

12: Planning

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

1/0441/2025/CPE Mr & Mrs Boothby Certificate of Existing use for 2 single storey extensions and associated works - Millbrook High Bickington
Umberleigh Devon EX37 9BX
EAST

This was a development done over 10 years ago and has never received planning consent or enforcement action. Millbrook are seeking retrospective approval to regularise the current situation. **Certificate Granted.**

Response from Elgin Energy regarding Deptford Farm Solar Farm- Update. No progress

No new applications have been advised

13. Correspondence:

To consider any urgent correspondence received by the Clerk or Councillors since 12th February 2025. Nothing material received.

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 12th November at 7.30 pm
Councillor Kendall
Parish Council Chairman