

DUNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Village Hall dressing rooms on Tuesday February 4th, 2025

Present: Cllrs P French (Chairman), Cllrs C Heard, K Morris, T Anderson, R Squire, D Matthews, (from 7.40pm) P Lewis, B Webber, District Cllr A Swain, County Cllr J Brook and the Clerk Lynne Ogden 1 Member of the Public attended.

1. a) Apologies – Cllr A Arnold sent apologies and this was approved.

b) Declaration of Interest/ Register of Interests: None

2. Minutes of the Council meeting held on January 7th, 2025, had been distributed, were approved and signed.

3. Progress Reports

3.1 Action Points from last meeting- All actions completed from last meeting.

3.2 Clerk's report – had been sent to all Cllrs with the Highway's report

3.3 Reports from other Councillors/representatives – County Cllr Brook reported

that Devon County Council is solvent but that there are still overspends on Special Educational Needs and Disability depts. With regards to the Devolution situation, he feels that, if the process cannot proceed at pace, then there should be an election. His thought is that it will take longer than twelve months to get everything functioning properly. He says it is likely that, if Exeter becomes unitary, then there is likely to be funding issues for rural areas.

District Cllr Swain reported that money is always short, but the future is very different at the moment with the possibility of devolution. The Districts of Teignbridge and Torbay are coming together to put forward a counter proposal. They are in favour of two unitarises, not just one large one. Options are being explored as it would be a shame to lose the localisation aspect. He also mentioned that Devon County Council has withdrawn from the meeting about the landfill site at Orange Elephant land.

3.4 Housing Working Group – Nothing to report. The work of this group has been suspended whilst waiting for the detailed planning application for the site on Reedy Hill.

3.5 Dunsford Emergency Response Team (DERT) – Cllr Morris has sent the updated Emergency Plan to all Cllrs. She has asked for comments and suggestions were given. Final details will be added and it is hoped that the Council will approve the Plan at the March meeting.

Action Cllr Morris

3.6 The Dunsford Climate Initiative (DCI) – A report had been sent to all Cllrs

Action Cllr Squire

3.7 Reports from other meetings attended by Dunsford Cllrs –a) Cllr French attended a Zoom meeting with DALC on the Devolution of Local Councils. There is no agreed timetable for this yet as to which authorities will be in the first tranche. DALC will

send this to all Parishes once it is known. One of the key concerns is whether each Parish would have enough Precept to cover what might have to be funded in the future. DALC requested a report from each Parish Council covering its activities and responsibilities etc. Cllr French will prepare a draft and send to all Cllrs and Clerk to comment on.

4. Correspondence: - List of correspondence received by email listed overleaf. To discuss: - a) Email from Mr C Parry concerning the **Dunsford Millenium Photo Project**, requesting the photos be released from the SW Heritage, Devon Archives to Dartmoor Trust in order for them to be digitally copied and be part of a display, locally. **The Council resolved to approve this.**

5. Finance 5.1 C/A - £10,123.45 as at 22/01/2025 BBI/A - £1866.16 as at 09/01/2025

Income: a) sales of photobook - £10 b) remainder of Coronation Street Party fund - £143 (to be put towards Coronation bench) Total **£153**

The Council to resolve to pay the following invoices and to consider any invoices received after the publication of the agenda: -

5.2 Clerk's Salary – 4 weeks x 10 hours a week Gross pay £574.40

Net pay to Clerk £459.60 + expenses £31.49= **£491.09 chq 1589**

5.3 BG - Lengthsman's tasks for January – £50 chq 1590

5.4 Village Hall MC - Room Hire (December) - £11.25 chq 1591

5.5 Friendly Computer Man - setting up of new council laptop - £75 chq 1592

5.6 Community Heartbeat – Annual support cost for defibrillators - £302.40 chq 1593

5.7 The Clerk – reimbursement for new Council laptop and associated costs – £540.99 chq 1594

5.8 Q3 Reconciliation – This was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and RFO

5.9 The Council resolved to approve Mrs Penny Clapham as Internal Auditor for 2024-2025

The Clerk has requested a Precept of £16,560 from Teignbridge District Council

5.9 (a) Mrs J Matthews – reimbursement for purchase of goalpost clips for Village Green - £17.99 chq 1595

6. Village Green a) The monthly report had been sent to all Cllrs. Molehills continue to be a problem and need to be addressed. b) The replacement benches are progressing well and it is hoped they will be completed by the end of February. A discussion took place about where to place the emblems on the benches and it was agreed that they had to be clearly visible in order to represent the Coronation and Dunsford. c) The Clerk has received notification that the Rospa inspection will take place in March. **Cllr Matthews/Clerk**

7. Planning: 7.1 Teignbridge District Council – 24/02061/FUL - Westview Farm - Demolition of six agricultural buildings and construction of two dwellings (following

Class Q approval 24/00811/NPA - **The Council decided to make a site visit before commenting.**

Decisions: 7.2 None

7.3 Planning enforcement – Teignbridge District Council – 23/00317/ENF – Land by Westview Farm - siting of a mobile home – ongoing. It was decided that it is not practical for the Council to monitor the day to day situation.

7.4 Parish Planning Forums – 5th February 2-4pm and 10th February 5-7pm – No Councillors can attend.

8. **Lengthsman** – Due to illness, the Lengthsman only completed 2 hours of work last month and the Council agreed that the remaining 2 hours could be used in February. The Clerk will liaise with him and the Highways Officer to continue monitoring the drains and areas that are prone to flooding.
9. The Council has received a quote from Teignbridge District Council for the cost of emptying the dog bin at Steps bridge for 2025-2026. At present, it is emptied weekly for thirty-one empties during the Summer and 11 empties fortnightly during the Winter. The Total cost is £609.00 plus a £33.00 admin fee. The Council resolved to accept this quote. **Action Clerk**

(The chairman brought item 11 forward.)

11. **20's plenty** – Cllr Heard reminded the Council of past discussions and said we were waiting on a reply from Cllr Brook as to Dartmoor National Park's perspective. The Clerk was asked to write an email to Moretonhampstead PC thanking them for the update and will contact James Wright to express their interest in the Dartmoor National Park Travel Plan.

Action Clerk

10. **Matters brought forward by the Chairman (for information only /possible addition to next month's agenda including:** - a) Any pressing **Highways issues** for Clerk to pass on to Highways' contact - signs from road closure are still at Greenbridge junction/ potholes have reappeared on Farrant's Hill. The edge of the road at Greenbridge has been repaired! Thank you! b) The Council is aware that The Royal Oak is up for sale c) The Council is aware that there is divided opinion about the removal/keeping the leylandii trees in the Village Green. d) The phone box in the Village has had a notice posted on it stating that the phone will be removed as it is not used enough. The box itself is listed so will remain in place. The Clerk will investigate the possibility of keeping the phone. e) Cllr French mentioned that Southwest Water have been inspecting manholes in the Village and has reset them. An emergency generator is needed to pump the sewerage up to the treatment works, in the event of a power cut, in order to prevent sewerage flowing back down into properties. It is thought that the storm over-flow is still activated from 23/1/2025. f) it was noted that the presentations of the Precept requests explanation from the different Parishes for the Parish Magazine are all

different. It was asked that, in future, could the Clerks agree on a standard presentation so that the Precepts can be compared on a like for like basis. The Clerk agreed to speak to the other Parish Clerks to see if this can be done.

12. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 4th March 2025 7:30 pm in the Village Hall Dressing Rooms

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:35pm

Signed as a true record..... Cllr French (chairman)

Date

Email circulation during the past month

- Planning applications and decisions from DNPA and Teignbridge
- Rural Services Network Bulletin plus Funding Digests
- DALC newsletters
- Devon Communities Together – various newsletters
- Teignbridge District Council newsletter
- Devon County Council newsletter
- TDC Community Art Exhibition 20/3 information
- Devolution White Paper information for smaller councils
- Planning Enforcement letter 23/00317
- Dunsford Millenium Photographic Project information and request
- 20 mph in DNP Towns and Villages information from Moretonhampstead PC