

# DUNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting held in Village Hall dressing rooms on Tuesday July 1st, 2025

**Present:** Cllrs French (Chairman), T Anderson, R Squire, B Webber, K Morris, District Cllr A Swain and the Clerk Lynne Ogden    0 Members of the Public attended

**1. a) Apologies** – County Cllr Keeling; Cllrs Arnold, Heard and Lewis

**b) Declaration of Interest/ Register of Interests:** Cllr Morris declared a payment being made to the Dunsford Stores in item 5

**2. Minutes of the Council meeting held on June 3rd, 2025,** had been distributed, were approved and signed.

### **3. Progress Reports**

**3.1 Action Points from last meeting-** All actions completed from last meeting apart from those ongoing being a) updating and posting recently adopted policies b) report for Devon County Council about the new benches c) setting up of online banking.

**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 Keeling** had sent a report which was circulated to all Cllrs.

**District Cllr Swain** reported that, although it is not within our Parish, he is very concerned about a planning application for Fingle Glen at neighbouring Tedburn St Mary Parish. It includes a very large landfill site which was not obvious in the summary of the application. If it goes ahead, it will mean a huge increase of local traffic for several years. He also reported that he favours the 5-4-1 division for the Government re-organisation. This would mean that Plymouth would be one area and North Devon another, with Teignbridge and the four surrounding districts being the third. This would keep some locality benefits.

**3.4 Housing Working Group** – At the last Council meeting (June), Cllr Lewis agreed to talk with Hastoe and Cllr French to TDC to see if there was a possible way forward. Cllr French will follow up with Cllr Lewis, who was absent from this meeting.

**Action Cllrs French/Lewis**

**3.5 Dunsford Emergency Response Team (DERT)** – The emergency leaflet has been finalised and will be printed soon. **Action Cllr Morris**

**3.6 The Dunsford Climate Initiative (DCI)** - The next meeting of DCI is on July 3<sup>rd</sup>

**3.7 Reports from other meetings attended by Dunsford Cllrs** – None

**4. Correspondence:** - List of correspondence received by email listed overleaf. To discuss: - a) Resident's email regarding the land adjacent to the stream in the Village Green – The Council agreed that the maintenance of this area should be included in the Lengthsman tasks and thanked the residents for helping to keep it tidy in the past. b) Resident's email regarding the stepping stones across the River Teign – Cllr French has been trying

to organise the repair of these for a while. It involves Dartmoor National Park, Devon County Council and the Environment Agency. They all must agree on a plan to do this. Dartmoor National Park have agreed to put funding towards the project if a plan can be agreed. It has been suggested that a bridge would be a cheaper and safer option. Cllr French will keep the Council, and the interested resident, informed. **Action Cllr French**

**c)** email from Christow PC regarding their meeting about a proposal from Cllr Hodgson of Devon County Council: that there is a 20-mph speed limit for roads where traffic and people mix – The Council instructed the Clerk to write to the local County Cllr supporting this proposal. Proposed: Cllr French Seconded: Cllr Morris Vote: Unanimous **Action Clerk**

**d)** invitation to Local Government Re-organisation Drop-in sessions – Cllr French will attend one of the suggested sessions. **Action Clerk**

**5. 5.1 C/A - £13,739.17 as at 21/05/2025 BBI/A - £1872.05 as at 09/05/25**  
**Income: 25/4 First ½ precept - £8,280**

**The Council resolved to pay the following invoices: -**

**5.2 Clerk's Salary – 4 weeks x 10 hours a week Gross pay - £574.40**  
 Net pay to Clerk £459.60 + expenses £38.45= **£498.05**

**5.3 BG - Lengthsman's tasks for May – £100**

**5.4 ICO – Annual subscription - £52**

**5.5 HMRC PAYE - Q1 - £373.20 + NI £92.37 =Total £465.57**

**5.6 Teignbridge District Council – Steps Bridge Dog bin emptying – £770.40**

**5.7 Dunsford Stores – refreshments for Annual Parish meeting - £50.90**

**5.8 Tony Chadwick – Remainder of payment for fabrication and installation of benches for Village Green - £2140**

**5.9 CPRE membership subscription - £84**

**5a) Q1 reconciliation for approval** – This could not be signed as we are awaiting the bank statement. However, the Clerk updated the Council with the expected balances.

**6. Village Green** – Cllr Webber has carried out a monthly inspection and the report will be sent to all Cllrs. She requested that a large elder bush next to the gate is cut down along with brambles coming through the decking. The Clerk will liaise with the Lengthsman. It was noted that the tree trunks left in the Green are being moved around and the safety aspect of this needs to be assessed. There has been an increase in litter since the bins were removed on a trial period. A poll had been undertaken at school as to whether the bins should be reinstated or not. The result was 22 people for reinstating them and 1 against. A suggestion was made to add

some new recycling signs to make it easier for young children to understand. Cllr Webber will liaise with the Eco forum at school to suggest the signs needed. The Council agreed to reinstate the bins. Proposed: Cllr Morris Seconded: Cllr Squire  
Vote: Unanimous **Cllr Webber/Clerk**

**7. Planning: Applications: 7.1 None**

**Decisions: 7.2 Dartmoor National Park 25/0017** - Action taken on Notification to carry out tree works – East Steps Cottage, Dunsford EX6 7AA – Proposal: T1 - removal of Prunus Serrula – DNPA has no objection to this proposal.

- 8. Lengthsman** – tasks for July were discussed. These include work in the VG a) Cutting back of large elder b) cutting back of bramble growing under decking c) monitoring of usual areas that get overgrown. A resident has said ‘thankyou’ for the vegetation on the raised path being cut back. It is much appreciated. **Action Clerk**

- 9. Casual Vacancy** – The Council instructed the Clerk to follow due process when she hears the outcome of the Casual Vacancy notice from Teignbridge District Council.

**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 –None. b) it is noted that the streetlights are still not working properly. The newly installed lanterns have now been on constantly for about 6 weeks and others are not consistent in their timings. The Clerk will get back in touch with the Lighting team to see what progress has been made. c) Dog mess is a problem again, especially at Steps Bridge Nature reserve – The Clerk will take action to try to encourage people to use the bin provided. **Action Clerk**

- 11. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025 7:30 pm.**

*The Councillors will initially meet at the bus stop and then visit the Assets of the Parish to review the Assets Register. They will then convene in the Village Hall Dressing Rooms for the formal part of the meeting at approx. 8:30pm*

**There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9. 17pm**

**Signed as a true record..... (chairman)**

**Date .....**

### **Email circulation during the past month**

- Planning applications and decisions from DNPA and Teignbridge
- Rural Services Network Bulletin plus Funding Digests and newsletters
- DALC newsletters
- Devon Communities Together – various newsletters
- Teignbridge District Council newsletter
- Devon County Council newsletter
- Parish Planning forum info
- Devon Climate Emergency newsletter
- CPRE slides of planning workshop
- Report from street lighting team
- Emergency Plan leaflet
- BT Switchover info. for Telecare pendants