

DUNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Village Hall dressing rooms on Tuesday August 5th, 2025

Present: Cllrs French (Chairman), T Anderson, R Squire, P Lewis, District Cllr A Swain (for the second part of the meeting) and the Clerk Lynne Ogden

1 Member of the Public attended (Lengthsman)

The meeting began with a walk around the Village inspecting the Council Assets. Cllr Lewis kindly took photos and recorded the condition of each asset and any action that was required. The Lengthsman joined the meeting to discuss anything relevant to his role. It was agreed that this was a worthwhile and pleasant duty.

The second part of the meeting took part in the Village Hall dressing rooms and commenced at 8:30 pm.

1. a) Apologies – County Cllr Keeling; Cllrs Arnold, Webber, and Morris

b) Declaration of Interest/ Register of Interests: None

2. Minutes of the Council meeting held on July 1st, 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 – this will be sent before the next meeting 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 and District Cllr Swain had both sent reports which were circulated to all Cllrs.

District Cllr Swain reported that he is pleased with the outcome of saving public toilets in Teignbridge. He is also continuing with his work on the Fingle Glen planning application/landfill aspect. In his report which was sent to all Cllrs, he said ' The position is that with the local government reorganisation, after 2027 Teignbridge will in some way, be merged with a higher tier authority. Despite the gloomy long-term view TDC still has a healthy financial position now, which cannot be said for the higher tier authorities.

3.4 Housing Working Group – Cllr French has been in touch with Teignbridge and is awaiting a reply. **Action Cllrs French/Lewis**

3.5 Dunsford Emergency Response Team (DERT) – Nothing to report as Cllr Morris is away. She will continue with the leaflet when she returns. **Action Cllr Morris**

3.6 The Dunsford Climate Initiative (DCI) – A report had been sent to all Cllrs. The following topics are all ongoing 1) Footpaths 2) Teign River Initiative 3) Dark Skies 4) Village Green/Orchard rewilding

3.7 Reports from other meetings attended by Dunsford Cllrs – Cllr French attended an open meeting about the Devon Re-organisation. It was generally about the options available. He found it a useful meeting and quite well supported. More details in item 10

- 4. Correspondence:** - List of correspondence listed overleaf. Included and to be discussed – the visit to Dunsford by Mel Stride MP. Cllrs Morris and Squire hosted the event and a small but interested group of residents met with him to ask questions about local issues. The Council would like to thank him for making himself available to speak to its residents. It was appreciated. He concluded by inviting people to write to him directly about any issues.

- 5. 5.1 C/A - £8289.16 as at 24/07/2025 BBI/A - £1873.30 as at 09/06/25**

The Council resolved to pay the following invoices: -

5.2 Clerk's Salary – Net pay to Clerk £574.40 + expenses £41.08 = **£615.48**

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

5.4 Vision ICT - Website hosting for September 2025/26 - **£210**

5.5 Society of Local Council Clerks subs - **£144**

5.6 Q1 reconciliation was approved and signed by the Chairman and RFO

- 6. Village Green** – a) Cllr Webber is currently away and will do the monthly inspection on her return. b) The Council would like to thank **Dunsford Amateur Dramatics Society for staging the play 'The Merry Wives of Devon', outdoors in the Village Green.** The three performances were a great success and well supported. The weather certainly helped, but it was a relaxed and happy community event. Everyone concerned worked hard to make this happen, not least in the efforts of taking down the scenery each night and putting up again for the next performance. It was lovely to see the Green being made available to a different group of people and the Council agreed that it would be good to see more of these events happening and, as such, would be very happy to work with DADs again in the future.

Cllr Webber/Clerk

- 7. Planning: Applications: 7.1 None**

Decisions: 7.2 Teignbridge 25/00955/NPA – Westview Farm/Refusal for 8 dwellings.

- 8. Lengthsman** – tasks for August were discussed. These include work in Butt's Pond, Thomas Cross and sign cleaning around the Village.

Action Clerk

- 9. Casual Vacancy/co-option** – The Council discussed this matter and decided to invite Charles Parry to be co-opted onto the Council at the September meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Squire Seconded: Cllr Anderson Vote: unanimous

After August 7th, the Council will be able to know if it can co-opt another councillor. It was decided that any other candidates who had applied for the first position will be considered.

Action Clerk

10. Reorganisation of Devon – Cllr French reported that 5 restructuring options were displayed/discussed. Subsequently Exter City Council have submitted a sixth, with Greater Exeter expanding to include some outlying communities, but not Dunsford or any other Teign Valley villages.

Option 1 has two unitary authorities, Plymouth and the rest of Devon; **Option 2** again has two unitary authorities, Plymouth plus South Hams, Torbay and Teignbridge, the second the rest of Devon; **Option 3** is similar to option 2 but excludes Teignbridge and adds in West Devon; **Option 4** has three authorities, Plymouth, Exeter plus East Devon and Mid-Devon; **Option 5** also has 3 authorities: Plymouth, South Hams, Torbay, Teignbridge and West Devon, then the rest of the county. This is sometimes referred to as the 5,4,1 or 1,4, 5 option and it is Teignbridge’s preferred way forward.

11. Dartmoor National Park – Consultation of the following: -

a) Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) b) Planning Application Local Validation Checklist The closing date is 25th August and therefore before the next meeting. **Councillors are to send their comments to the Clerk by 22nd August, to be collated and sent on.**

Action All Cllrs and Clerk

12. 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) Grit bins need checking in readiness for Winter c) sandbags are disintegrating and need new covers.

Action Clerk

13. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 2nd September 2025 7:30 pm in the Village Hall Dressing rooms

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9. 30 pm

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