

DUNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Village Hall dressing rooms on Tuesday September 2nd, 2025

Present: Cllrs French (Chairman), T Anderson, K Morris, R Squire, P Lewis, C Parry, B Webber, and the Clerk Lynne Ogden 0 Members of the Public attended

Charles Parry met with the Clerk prior to the meeting to complete the necessary paperwork

1. a) The Chairman formally co-opted and welcomed Charles Parry to his first Council meeting.

b) Apologies – County Cllr Keeling, District Cllr Swain, Cllrs Arnold (who accessed the meeting via mobile phone)

c) Declaration of Interest/ Register of Interests: The Clerk had provided Cllr Parry with the Register of Interests form to be completed for Teignbridge District Council

2. Minutes of the Council meeting held on August 5th, 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 Financial Regulations policy b) setting up of online banking. c) dealing with 2nd Cllr vacancy matters d) sandbags

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 had been circulated to all Cllrs.

3.4 Housing Working Group – Cllr French reported that he has had an update from the owners of site 1. They have terminated the option agreement with the agent and would like to work with the Council to see if there is a way forward. Teignbridge District Council have been informed of this. Cllr French explained the situation for the benefit of the new councillors. It was agreed that Cllr French would ask the landowners to put their intentions/wishes in writing for the Council. The HWG will try to meet before Christmas in order to discuss the situation and present full council with recommendations.

Action Cllrs French/Lewis

3.5 Dunsford Emergency Response Team (DERT) – There are two outstanding actions a) printing of emergency leaflet b) contacting NG from Teignbridge

Action Cllr Morris

3.6 The Dunsford Climate Initiative (DCI) – Have not met this month. Next meeting is to be arranged.

Action Cllrs French/Squire

3.7 Reports from other meetings attended by Dunsford Cllrs – Cllr French discussed the stepping stones with Pete Rich, the Dartmoor National Park Warden. They are still investigating different options but have ruled out installing a bridge, due to cost.

4. **Correspondence:** - List of correspondence listed overleaf. Dartmoor National Park have made a plea to all residents to complete the recent survey. A lot of visitors have completed it, but they are concerned that their views may differ from the people who live and work on the Moor.

5. **5.1 C/A - £8,289.16 as at 24/07/2025 BBI/A - £1874.38 as at 09/07/25**

The Council resolved to pay the following invoices: -

5.2 Clerk's Salary (at new rate) – Net pay to Clerk £536.80 (includes £62.56 back pay) + expenses £39.45 = £576.25 chq 1625

5.3 BG - Lengthsman's tasks for August – £100 chq 1626

5.4 Village Hall management committee, room hire June/July - £25 chq 1627

5.5 Devon Communities Together subs. - £50 chq 1628

5.6 The Clerk informed the Council that it was good practice to review the Auditor if they had been the Auditor for more than three years. The Council discussed and resolved to have Mrs Penny Clapham as the Auditor for next year 26/27

Proposed: Cllr Lewis Seconded: Cllr French Vote: Unanimous

6. **Village Green – a)** Cllr Webber had carried out the monthly report and this had been sent to all Councillors. Some trailing brambles need to be removed (ask Lengthsman) and the situation with the logs needs to be monitored. The Council had originally considered removing the logs, but the children are playing constructively with them. Cllr Webber will refer to the Risk assessment and keep the Council updated. Recycling in the bins needs more attention. She will increase the work with the school on making the recycling more successful. **Cllr Webber/Clerk**

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

Decisions: 7.2 Teignbridge 25/01229/AGR/ – Halstow, Tedburn St Mary, Dunsford – General agricultural storage building – Prior Approval Not Required

8. **Lengthsman** – tasks for September were discussed. These include continuing to check the drains for Berry Lane; Thomas Cross; Butts area. To continue with the turf around the benches and to continue tidying the area around the wall at Butt's.

It was noted that Lea Lane had not flooded in the recent downpour and water could be heard flowing freely, in the drains. **Action Clerk**

9. **Co-option of second Cllr – The application and personal statement of the Candidate was shared with the Council.** It was decided to invite Peter Harper to be co-opted onto the Council at the October meeting

Proposed: Cllr Morris, Seconded: Cllr Anderson, Vote: Unanimous

Action Clerk

10. Grit bins – The Clerk had requested support from the Councillors to prepare the grit bins ready for the Winter. Cllrs Squire, Webber and Parry offered to organise this. The Clerk shared the information required with them. **Action Cllrs Squire, Webber and Parry**

11. Devon Association for Local Councils AGM and Conference – the Council agreed for the Clerk to attend. Cllrs Squire and Parry were interested in attending and will check their diaries. The Council agreed for both Cllrs to attend, if they can. **Action 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 **b)** Dartmoor National Park have notified the Council that the new Link member for Dunsford is Pamela Woods. **c)** The Clerk has had notification the Dartmoor Devil Cycle Ride will be taking place on Sunday, 26th October and will pass through Dunsford from about 9:40am until 12:30. There will be 200 riders who will be well spaced to prevent bunching. **d)** All streetlights in Browning's Mead are going off at night. But this is not happening everywhere. **e)** overgrown hedge leaving the Village towards Butt's **f)** Trees in Reedy Lane are looking unsafe. **g)** Cllr Parry updated the Council about a project he is involved in. Dunsford Millenium Project 1999 recently had the Council's permission to take the photos out of the Archives, to get it digitised. DNPA offered to sponsor this, but the process has stalled due to a backlog of work. Therefore, the photos need to be returned to the Archives. (Add to October agenda) **h)** Cllr French, who is a member of the Christow and Environs Land Trust Board, representing "and Environs", informed the Council that there is a pot of money that is to be used for the benefit of the Community. Christow has acquired stickers etc. to be used for the 20s Plenty campaign. Cllr French asked the Clerk to liaise with the Christow Clerk about this. **Action Clerk**

13. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 7th October 2025 7:30 pm in the Village Hall Dressing Rooms

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9. 19 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 weekly newsletters
- DALC newsletters
- Devon Communities Together – various newsletters
- Teignbridge District Council newsletter
- Devon County Council newsletter
- Wild about Devon Grants info
- ACT Newsletter
- BT/EE digital Voice update
- DNP partnership Plan survey reminder
- Country Bus shuttle bus info for when the road to Moreton is closed.