



Minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 11th November 2025

These minutes are provisional until they are signed by the chair at the next meeting of the parish council
Meeting No 738

Present:- Cllrs Leroy St Louis (Chair), Law (Vice chair), Alexander, Chick, Lorna St Louis, Terry.
Cllr Chris Edmonds (WDBC), Peter van Delft (clerk)

Meeting opened 7.32pm

1. Apologies – All present
2. Members of the public open forum – no members present.
3. Dispensations & declarations of interest. - none
4. Minutes of previous meeting 737 were signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting, proposed by Cllr Lorna St Louis, seconded Cllr Alexander, motion carried.
5. Finance –
 - 5.1 Payments were authorised for the following invoices:-
Peter van Delft – clerk salary (Sept/Oct) £370.00, Royal British Legion (wreath) £20.00,
Vision ICT – annual website hosting service £199.76. Proposed Cllr Terry, seconded Cllr Chick,
Motion carried.
 - 5.2 R.F.O. reported a credit balance after payments of £5,248.24, motion proposed Cllr Alexander,
seconded Cllr Law, all in favour.
 - 5.3 Draft budget for 2026-27 – A review of anticipated receipts and expenses were considered, it was
resolved that the money set aside for grants should be reduced to £400 and that a sum of £125 is set
aside for supporting the table tennis events at the hall.
6. Cllr Edmonds WDBC reported on the proposed local government reorganisation. The 'Districts' proposal
is a '4-5-1' model, this includes the following:-
 - A unitary authority for West Devon, Teignbridge, South Hams and Torbay
 - A unitary authority for North Devon, Torridge, Mid Devon, East Devon and Exeter
 - Plymouth to remain a standalone unitary authority
 - The full case for change will be submitted to the government by 28th November
 - The government's decision is expected June 2026
 - Implementation is to commence on 1st April 2028.

Cllr Edmonds also reported that the Appeal No Q1153/W/25/3365752 Sunnybrook Farm has been dismissed. Cllr Law thanked Cllr Edmonds and mentioned that it was useful to know the outcome of the decisions when they become available.

7. Reports from Councillors –

Cllr Alexander reported that he checked all the grit bins and that they were all full, the pallet of grit bags held on land at the centrally located village place was still full.

Cllr Terry enquired when the fibre broadband would be rolled out in the village, the chair informed that work appeared to be progressing well and that spring 2026 was thought that the network would be fully installed.

Cllr Leroy St Louis reported that a parishioner expressed an interest in the vacant councillor seat.

8. Table Tennis – promotion and organisation. Cllr Leroy St Louis reported that at the last event 13 people attended an evening of T.T. Cllrs thought this to be successful enough to continue setting more events including 19th November and 2nd December, Cllr Law suggested that alternate Tuesday and Wednesdays could be an option. Cllr Chick suggested asking participants for their feedback. Further dates to be promoted on the Facebook page and Newslink once dates have been confirmed. Cllr Law thought that a donation sign should be more prominent. The chair thought that a £2 fee for adults could be charged

- with children going free under the age of 16.
9. Parish Questionnaire – draft questions and reply box – held over until the next meeting.
 10. Highways reports – Fly tipping in Portgate was reported with WDBC, the waste was collected in 2 days. Councillors thought this to be an excellent response time.
 11. Dog fouling –
 - 11.1 Nuisance dog(s), dog(s) of leads – Cllrs reported that several new signs that ask dog owners to respect the law have been pinned up on various positions in the village.
 - 11.2 Mobile Liaison Officer report and update – Cllr Edmonds reported that patrols were still in place and will continue for the time being.
 - 11.3 Dog fouling in church grounds – Cllr Chick reported that significant damage has been caused by loose dogs in the grounds, video footage of the damage was shown to identify tracks in and around graves, it showed that those dog owners have showed no respect has been given for the sacred ground.
 12. Mobile phone training – Training programme for parishioners – The chair reported that 13 members of the community have expressed a strong interest in the training. It was resolved that 'Devon Learning' will be contacted to provide a training programme in the new year. Advertisements will be placed in the Newslink and facebook once dates have been confirmed.
 13. V.E. Day 75yr commemoration tree – Replacement of existing dead tree. It was resolved that a Silver Birch should be purchased for a sum of £65-£90, motion proposed Cllr Chick, seconded Cllr Law, all were in favour.
 14. Meeting dates for 2026 were provided.

Meeting closed 8.50pm

Date, time, place of next meeting; 13th January 2026, 7.30pm at Stowford Parish Hall.