

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

**Church Room, Shebbear,
Tuesday 9th June 2026, at 7.30pm.**

Minutes.

Present, Cllr Quance (Chair) Cllr Goode (Vice Chair) Cllr Jax Curtis, Cllr Whatley, Cllr Saywell, Cllr Walker, Cllr Joan Curtis, Cllr Chamberlain, Cllr Hockin (late) District Cllr Wheatley, Selina Woollacott (Clerk)

Part 1.

Chairperson's opening remarks. Welcome all to the June meeting.

019. Apologies for Absence. Cllr Watts, County Cllr Rowsell, District Cllr Cottle-Hunkin.

020. Declarations of any Councillors Interests in Items on the Agenda.

(a) Disclosable pecuniary interests (Prejudicial). None.

(b) Registerable Interests. None.

(c) Any variations to Members Registration of Interests. None.

(d) Requests for Dispensations. None.

021. To Agree any items to be dealt with in Part 2, closed session, of the meeting. None.

022. Public Participation Period of 15 minutes. Please registered in advance with the Clerk. No members of the public present.

023. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

Any matters raised during the Public Participation period. None.

024. Minutes of the Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed. Annual Parish Meeting Minutes, Cllr Joan Curtis proposed the Minutes are an accurate record of the meeting. Cllr Whatley seconded the proposal and all Councillors agreed. Cllr Quance signed the Minutes.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes, Cllr Joan Curtis proposed the Minutes are an accurate record of the meeting, Cllr Chamberlain seconded the proposal. All Councillors agreed. Cllr Quance signed the Minutes.

025. Any matters arising from the Minutes. None.

026. County Councillor's Report. Report read out by the Clerk.

There is not much to pass on from DCC now as they are concentrating on trying to review any changes that may need to be made should unitary options and information be announced soon. Any other news I could give you would only be duplicated when you see the district councillors but of course if you want to ask me to help with anything I shall be only too please to do so and if anything, important arise in between times I shall email you. Please feel free to contact me if required.

Cllr Quance proposed raising with DCC that our County Councillor has only attended 2 of our meetings. That reports are hardly sent to us and when there is an update/report it seems nothing is going on at DCC. All Parish Councillors agreed that Cllr Quance can raise concerns to DCC on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Hockin arrived at the Meeting.

027. District Councillor's Report. Report given by Cllr Wheatley.

The Devon Parish Pothole Handbook from Devon County Council has just become available and will bring with me your handbooks this evening. I would like to ask the Parish to subscribe to the DCC Road Warden Scheme to equip, train and insure small volunteer teams. The Pothole Handbook is comprehensive and covers other areas including reporting issues with Grit bins, overgrown vegetation, Public rights of way, Broken inspection covers, Debris or obstructions, Bridges, and retaining walls, Flooding, drainage issues. There are QR Codes throughout the handbook with quick access to the topic you require i.e. using a smart phone.

Reporting Potholes is categorised as **Defect Potholes** - Highways FIX THESE minimum 40 mm deep and minimum 300mm in length with a vertical edge after being reported where each report is allocated a reference number and an Inspector is sent to the location and determine its one for DCC to fix it and the speed of the fix is determined by the

safety risk of causing an immediate accident. Add your name to the defective Pothole and don't report it again as this will generate a new reference number and confuse the process. See page 2 in handbook.

Non-defect Potholes - should be reported to your Parish Council and the Clerk records the Reports on the Parish and full Agenda item and used to update the Parish Priorities List. Road Warden minimum 40mm and minimum of 400mm in length with a sloping edge. This could be a pin board inviting Parishioners to locate potholes on a map. DCC The Parish Road Wardens will undergo training and provided with necessary materials. Parish Road Wardens may not carry out the work yet is responsible for coordinating the works that take place. and can have a small team of volunteers who carry out the Works who also must undergo training and qualification requirements.

See also enhanced Road Warden Scheme, Paid Parish Lengthman and Pothole Ninjas,

External Overview and Scrutiny Committee

I recently attended the External Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting where we discussed the Chairman's Report regarding reinstating of the Bideford to railway link to Exeter and beyond via Barnstaple. It was agreed and voted for the following will be presented to Full Council to take the following steps.

- 1 - TDC should concentrate efforts to improve connectivity by looking at cheaper and more immediate measures such as a fast coach service linking Bedford and Tiverton Parkway railway station and/or London as proposed with the Bideford Regeneration Plan
- 2- TDC should develop a comprehensive more Active Travel network providing greater opportunities for cyclists and walkers to access the centre of Bideford from the various new developments around the Town and surrounding communities such as Northam and Westward Ho.
- 3 -TDC should prioritise looking to improve public transport links between Bideford and other Towns, villages, and rural communities within the District.
- 4- Although rails travel is greener than car travel to Exeter improving facilities locally would be better for the environment and local economy.

Water Safety - We received a Presentation from Mike Day Northam Burrows Manager and Lead Ranger and Matt Whitley Lead Lifeguard Supervisor North Devon and Somerset. With the unfortunate loss of lives mostly younger people recently in drowning incidents this was particularly prevalent at this time. We discussed and learnt about Active Torridge currently have 20 schools get delivered the Swim England Swimming Program that currently helps primary children. There is also an Ocean Academy Learn to Swim programme where water safety is embedded across each stage of swimming lessons and Active Torridge ensures every swimmer develops confidence and practical safety. Active Torridge also delivers a Rookie Lifeguard programme offering an introduction to lifesaving and rescue techniques.

Active Torridge currently has 2 employees at Torrington swimming pool who have completed both full Ocean Academy learn to swim programme and Rookie Lifeguard programme and have up skilled to now become fully qualified Lifeguards for Active Torridge.

028. Clerks Report. Street lights, Grade 2 Listed house. Barn Close Weeds. Asset Review. Member of the public enquires.

Street lights. The fault with the light was logged in November and in April. It is still showing on the site that the fault is unresolved. Workmen have been seen at the light. Councillors confirmed the light is now working.

Grade 2 Listed House. TDC were able to check the property and get drone footage. I have asked for an update and what the next steps are, when I get a reply, I will update you all.

Barn Close Weeds. The last we heard was that TDC would arrange for a street cleanser to attend when they are next in the area. The day after the meeting I was contacted by a member of the public saying that the Street Cleaner was in Ackland Close. A few days later I looked at Barn Close. The Street Cleaner may have been in to Barn Close. The issue is the weeds and trip hazards are not on the road they are on the pavement which is not cleaned by a Street Cleaner. Cllr Joan Curtis confirmed the Street Cleaner did go into Barn Close and days later all the weeds were stood back up again. Highways Officer is in the Village on 16th June I am sure Cllr Quance will bring this to her attention. **Asset Review.** This may happen after the Highways meeting on the 16th June. I do not want to complete until the new benches are in place. However, I do want it completed before the July meeting.

Members of the Public enquires. I have had a few members of the public contact me recently. One of the items is speeding in the Village and speed limits which is on this Agenda. I have also been contacted about the Wall which has been removed and the building work at Lavendar Cottage. I have sent the members of the public's questions and concerns to TDC planning department. I was also asked if the Balleroy Houses had any Section 106 or restrictions on them as one of the houses is up for sale. I asked TDC and this was the reply from TDC which I then sent to the member of the public. From what I can see from the planning history and land charges, there is not a S106 or occupancy condition on the properties here.

029. Chair Report.

I am Meeting with our Highways Officer on Tuesday 16th June. I will be taking her around all the roads with issues and will show her Barn Close. Highways are reporting in the news that they have 4 million pounds extra in funding however we are not seeing any of this extra money being spent in our parish. Again, we see funds being wasted like on the Monkleigh to Saltrens they have Tar and Chipped the road and days after it was completed it was wearing away.

030. Planning.

(a) New and amended Applications. No Planning Application.

(b) Application decisions. 9 Aish Park, Shebbear. Single storey rear extension. Granted Permission.

(c) Planning Appeal. No Appeals.

031. Finance.

(a) Bank Account balances and update.

The deposit account which is the reserve account on the 30th May 2026 had a balance of £15,469.70

May Interest £10.44

Current account on the 30th May 2026 had a balance of £10,033.60

Payments in £50 May Tiner Legacy

Written cheques not presented,

£400 Feb new cheque to youth club.

£300 Grant Shebbear Youth Club.

£100 Grant Citizens Advice.

£150 Grant History Society.

£22.75 stamps

£150 Grant St Micheal

£350 Grant Lake Chapel

Cheques on this evening agenda total £491.47

The Account holds

£463 P3 money,

£537 2025/26 Tiner Legacy funds.

£100 2026/2027 Tiner Legacy funds.

Leaving a useable balance of £6,969.38

(b) Adrian Caudwell. Grass Cutting £286

(c) Ink. £9.47

(d) Buckland Accounts. Audit Accounts £48

(e) Narkedesigns Dipper Mill Website £148

Cllr Saywell proposed the payment of items 31b – 31e. Cllr Walker seconded the proposal. All Councillors agreed.

The Cheques were signed at the end of the meeting.

(f) Invoices received not listed above. None.

032. Bank Account going online.

Clerk has contacted Natwest and Unity Trust Bank due to Sheepwash Parish Council use them as their bank.

Natwest, 2 accounts online on Bankline as this is the system that allows 2 signatories. Cost £20 a month.

Then 50p per Bacs payment.

Unity Bank. Online Current account £7 a month. No charge for savings account. No payment fees. No fee to switch.

Councillors discussed the use of cheques and paying them in. As well as the statement information being out of date.

As likely half the cheques listed above are now cashed but we only have information up until 30th May. Clerk

explained how the online system works with Unity Trust Bank and authorising transactions. Cllr Joan Curtis proposed moving to Unity Trust Bank one of the reasons being cost and the other being that the Parish Council have had a

number of issues with Natwest when changing address, changing signatories and getting cheque books. Cllr

Chamberlain seconded this proposal. All Councillors agreed. Cllr Quance asked how many signatories in total can

there be listed on Unity Trust Bank? Clerk knows there can be 4 and will check if it can be more. The current

signatories are Cllr Quance, Cllr Jax Curits, Cllr Whatley, Cllr Walker. Clerk to start the process of moving to Unity Trust Bank.

033. Dipper Mill update.

Update from Highways. we have borehole investigations booked in for 15th June so I would expect by the end of June we will have more certainty on options. In the past a sheet piling option was proposed, so this ground investigation work should allow us to confirm whether this option is likely to be achievable or not.

I will send through an update just after the investigations have taken place and explain the likely route of design work going forward.

034. Speed Limit in the Village.

Member of the public has contacted me with concerns over speeding in the village and the possibility of getting the speed limit reduced. I sent the member of the public the telephone number and email address for Highways so they can raise their concerns with Highways. From past experiences in other Parishes Highways are going to ask for the Parish Council view on the issue and ask what data the speed watch team have. Currently Shebbear does not have a speed watch team. Councillors discussed with points being raised about what speeds and where as there is always a number of parked cars in the village and the potholes. If it is lowered to 20mph it will not be policed. If a speed watch team is set up, they need to monitor the road by Aish Park not just the College Road like they did in the past. Cllr Saywell suggested asking our Highways Officer to conduct an informal speed check in the village. Cllr Quance agreed and he will talk to the Highways Officer about speeding at the 16th June meeting. The Council also agreed that the Clerk can send the member of the public the information on how to set up a speed watch team and they can set one up to collect the data needed.

035. Correspondence. The following were emailed to all Councillors since the last meeting.

a) DALC updates 21,22,23,24,25.

b) Road Closure. Monday 10th August 2026 - Friday 14th August 2026 (Both Dates Inclusive)

Between The Hours of 09:00-17:00

No person shall cause or permit any Vehicle to proceed on the sections of affected roads.

Roads Affected - Road from Highworthy Cross to Battledown Cross, Shebbear

This Temporary Restriction is considered necessary to enable -

Installation of new underground cables and replacing LV poles

The above was read out at the meeting.

036. Agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 14th July 2026 in the Church Room, Shebbear at 7.30pm. Footpath Signs, Cake Shed review. Q1 Accounts. Asset Review report.

Any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairperson's discretion. None.

Part 2. All members of the Press and Public will be asked to leave the meeting. No Part 2.

Meeting Closed 8.15pm

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Selina Woollacott

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