

Burrator Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Thursday 30th January 2025

At Meavy Parish Hall

Councillors present: Cllrs, F Glanville, Palmer, Wills, Paskins, R Glanville, Armon, T Rowe, Clifford, M Rowe, France, Milne and Radmore.

Also present: Katharine Griffiths (Parish Clerk) 3 members of the public, WDBC Cllr West, DCC Cllr P Sanders and a representative from Devon Communities Together

Absent: Cllrs Burbage and Carson

The meeting was opened by Cllr F Glanville at 7.30pm

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Carson and Burbage.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs F Glanville and R Glanville declared a personal interest in both planning applications and the application for a grant for Walkhampton Village hall.

Cllr France declared a personal interest in the grant application for Walkhampton Allotments and also the highways issue at Knowle Terrace.

3. To consider co-option

One member of the public had submitted an application for co-option. They spoke briefly about their background and interests.

It was agreed by a unanimous vote that they would be co-opted to Meavy ward.

Cllr Kevin Stribley was welcomed to the council; the clerk will send the relevant paperwork to them before the next meeting.

4. To have a talk regarding Emergency Planning from a representative of Devon Communities Together.

Rob Birtles attended the meeting from Devon Communities Together to provide information and discuss an Emergency Plan for the parish. He gave an informative talk about the process. Further information will be provided and circulated to members.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th November 2024

There were a couple of minor amendments. The clerk will add in Cllr T Rowe as being present, also the information provided by WDBC Cllr West and complete the sentence in paragraph 15. The above changes were agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr Milne and seconded by Cllr France and agreed by the council that the minutes be agreed as a true record.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes 28th November 2024

Cllr West gave an update from SWW with regarding the land at Dousland, SWW have as yet not made a firm decision and are still looking at a number of sites.

The clerk will pass the details of the noticeboard location at Dousland to Cllr P Sanders to confirm that highways are happy if a new noticeboard is installed there.

7. Planning Committee

[0028/25](#) - Extension to car park within playing fields at Memorial Hall, Walkhampton, Yelverton, PL20 6JN

The application was discussed, it was agreed that it was a good idea. It was proposed by Cllr T Rowe and seconded by Cllr Milne and agreed that the council would support the application.

[0493/24](#) - Construction of a yard and manure store cover at Eggworthy Farm, Sampford Spiney, Yelverton, PL20 6LJ

The application was discussed, it was proposed by Cllr Palmer that the council have No Objections to the development, this was seconded by Cllr Wills and agreed by the council.

8. Finance & General Purposes Committee

a. Bills for Payments

It was proposed by Cllr R Glanville seconded by Cllr Milne and **agreed** by the members present that the list of bills would be paid.

Cllr Wills queried the clerks wages, the clerk will circulate the current pay scales.

Payments to be made:

Payment	Amount
KG Reimbursement for Defib pads and Batteries	£105.54
Walkhampton Hall Hire	£28.00
Netwise – Website hosting and management	£396.00

b. Bank reconciliation.

Noted

c. To agree the precept for 2025/26

The finance documents had been circulated in November. There was a discussion with regard to the level of the precept. It was proposed by Cllr Wills that a precept of £28,000 be applied for, this was seconded by Cllr R Glanville and resolved by the council.

d. To consider the Grant applications received.

The council has received 4 grant applications. Each grant was considered in turn.

a) It was proposed by Cllr R Glanville that Walkham Valley Scouts be awarded £1000 towards a compostable toilet and shed, this was seconded by Cllr F Glanville and agreed by the council.

b) It was proposed by Cllr Palmer that Sheepstor Village Hall be awarded £1000 towards new chairs, this was seconded by Cllr Armon and agreed by the council.

c) It was proposed by Cllr France that Walkhampton Village Hall be awarded £2500 towards the creation of a new car park, this was seconded by Cllr T Rowe and agreed by the council.

d) It was proposed by Cllr Milne that the Walkhampton Allotments be awarded £500 towards seating and a shelter, this was seconded by Cllr F Glanville and agreed by the council.

9. To consider any recommendations from the Helen Rowett Garden committee.

Information with recommendation from the committee has been circulated and is attached as Annex A. Cllr Armon ran through them; it was proposed by Cllr T Rowe that the recommendations be accepted by full council this was seconded by Cllr France and agreed by the council.

10. Burrator Events

The clerk has received an email concerning the Burrator 10K that will be held on 31st May 2025. It was agreed a response will be sent requesting marshalling.

11. Burrator Beacon - <http://burrator.gov.uk/burrator-beacon/>

The deadline for the spring edition is coming up.

12. Reports from outside bodies

- a) WDBC Cllr West gave an update, which is attached. Annex B.
- b) DCC Cllr Sanders gave an update. The Devolution White paper means that both WDBC and DCC will be abolished and a new council formed. The details of the new council are unknown. Discussions regarding the boundaries are taking place and a proposal will be put to the government. There has been a blow to funding with the loss of the Rural Services Grant. The budget has been balanced and there will be a council tax increase of 4.99%.
Cllr Sanders also gave an update on National Parks, the information centre at Princetown will not be funded after October this year. The lease will be handed back to the Duchy in March 26. The DNPA do not know what their budget will be for 2026 yet.

13. Parish Property

a) Grit bin registration and filling.

The new grit bins are on the map, but do not have asset numbers, the clerk will chase the highways officer.

14. To consider appointing a new Snow Warden.

The council doesn't currently have a Snow Warden. It was suggested that a sub-committee could be formed to facilitate the Emergency Plan and this could incorporate the Snow Warden role. The formation of a sub-committee will be put on the next full council agenda.

15. Highway matters

a. To include considering traffic calming on Knowle Terrace.

Cllr France commented that the speed of the traffic along Knowle Terrace is unacceptable, and it is an accident waiting to happen. There have been a number of near misses, and it is causing great concern. It was suggested that incidents were logged and speed monitoring could also be carried out. This will be looked into further.

The clerk had been copied into an email sent to DCC Cllr Sanders addressing parking issues around Sheepstor and Burrator reservoir, including further yellow lines and repainting road markings. Cllr Sanders commented that he would look into the matter and pass to the highways department.

Issues can be reported using the link below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>

16. Correspondence

Nothing Further

17. Pursuant to Section 1(2) Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960, to resolve to exclude the public and press due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Resolved

18. The Royal Oak Inn Committee

It was noted that the inspection went well.

The landlady Jo, attended the meeting and provided information on the current situation.

It was agreed that there can be a temporary amendment to the trading hours, with a review at the end of February.

19. To resolve re-admittance of public and press to the meeting.

Resolved

20. Urgent additional business, by leave of The Chair

Nothing Further

21. Dates of next meeting.

13th February, Meavy Parish Hall, Planning followed by ROI (If required)

27th February Walkhampton Memorial Hall, Full Council at 7.30pm

Signed

Date

Meeting Finished at 22.35

Annex A

Helen Rowett Memorial Garden
Team Helen activity request January – April 2025

All costs are approximate and include VAT (Links are examples of products that have been used for costings)

TH Activ ity num ber	Description	When	Benefit	Cost	PC Sub Cttee recommendations.
6	Repair, clean and oil the existing two benches	By end April	Provide comfortable and welcoming seating	Donations	This proposed request will be presented to PC to consider a grant to support works.
5	Purchase and installation of picnic table	By end April	Will make space more flexible; useful for events and ad hoc community gatherings. Provides a focal point for decorative planting. Must be concreted in and needs to be wheelchair friendly eg. https://www.gardenbenches.com/kendal-8-seat-round-picnic-table	£650 – PC grant	Will not be recommended for approval to the PC at present. Subject to further consultation between both parties (for/against) regarding the garden project, before final decision by PC. <i>Request that Parish Clerk inform both parties and request their comments prior to PC consideration of the matter.</i>
10	Remounting of existing Helen Rowett Memorial Garden plaque		Current mount is old and needs replacing. Sign is not obvious to passers by https://www.etsy.com/uk/listing/949372957/solid-oak-engraved-house-signs?click_key=fe72959993389e2cf42151afe4c217e522e880af%3A9493	£100 – PC grant	PC will pay for new repair/new sign. Subject to full PC approval.

			72957&click_sum=401d83c1&ref=internal_similar_listing_bot-4&frs=1&sts=1&listing_id=949372957&listing_slug=solid-oak-engraved-house-signs		
27	Planting potted up spring bulbs	By mid February	For early pollinators, adds interest to the garden, makes welcoming community space	Donations	Sub Cttee recommend PC approval - indigenous plants only.
28	Use appropriate materials from the garden to start a dead hedge in wildlife area.	By end April	Reuses waste. uses woody prunings and offers instant wildlife cover. Creates a habitat for insects and beetles and a rich feeding ground for small mammals e.g hedgehogs.	£0	Sub Cttee recommend PC approval.
31	Siting bug hotels – donated or built	By end April	Gives a safe place for beneficial insects to live and reproduce. These insects help to pollinate plants, control pests, and improve soil health. By providing a habitat for these insects, we can encourage their populations and help to support a healthy ecosystem.	£0	Sub Cttee recommend PC approval.
41	Plant swap event	Sunday 27 th April 11 - 12	Community event, chance to show latest activities in the garden.	£0	<i>TH are to inform those in the immediate area of the event's happening in a timely manner, as well as their regular avenues of informing the community. Sub Cttee recommend PC approval.</i>
42	Begin creation of bed for planting of 'plug plants' later in spring	By end April	Prepare ground for planned planting areas, included sensory area, which add beauty and interest to the garden,	£0	Sub Cttee recommend PC approval.

			attract pollinators, and enhance biodiversity		
43	Monthly wildlife surveys	Ongoing to start February 2025	Gives ability to know what is in the garden and provide measure for success of wildlife areas		Sub Cttee recommend PC approval.

There is nothing currently planned regarding trees, awaiting outcome of tree survey. – Sub Cttee recommend PC approval for tree survey. This is primarily for community insurance and safety purposes.

Annex B

Borough councillor Report Burrator Parish Council 30th Jan 2025

Report of Actions:

1. King's Tor- spoken to portfolio holder for Housing and he is happy to follow up with officers were would we stand, with DNP, on potentially changing planning permissions. –

No feedback yet.

2. Parish Noticed board- Spoken to officers at WDBC. The piece of ground at the Bus Stop opposite Boundary Lane is owned by Devon Highways. So potentially no objections if asked.

3. Contacted SWW to get some clarity about what is happening with regard to the water works extension at Burrator. They have come back that there is no decision yet.

Report of Actions by WDBC:

1. Emergency meeting to discuss the Devolution Bill.

All eight district council leaders agreed they did not want a Devon wide unitary authority. The governments approach to this is strongly disagreed too. As a council we and the other seven councils are strongly opposed to postponing the County Council elections in MAY 2025 - which Devon County Council has suggested should be the case. Cancelled elections are forecast to only occur within first phase priority areas; which we do not expect to be listed as.

No regional Devon wide agreement between councils was made over proposing new boundary changes. It is felt that neither Devon as a whole, or as part of the broader southwest peninsular authority will work as one unitary authority; there is little evidence that merging rural authorities will result in financial savings, as many unitary councils are in debt or suffering financial difficulties. We have collectively stated that a merger of local councils without consultation will reduce democratic representation and remove decision making away from local people. We fear this would lead to less support for local people. It was welcomed that devolving power to regions and local communities was a good concept, but rural areas, and areas combining suburban and urban areas with rural and coastal areas need to be understood more thoroughly, it is also agreed that residents and elected representatives should feed into a consultation on devolution. It is thought that Devon will not be in the first phase of the reforms of change and any change that does occur may take far longer than some anticipate. Possibly many years. We will see as matters progress.

A letter from all eight Districts was sent to the minister raising their concerns. WDBC debated the issue, as other districts have done, and separate letters were sent from each council. A copy of WDBC's letter is attached for reference. This had to be sent in before the 10th Jan. The Bill was released on the 16th December.

2. Overview and Scrutiny Committee: (ONS)

The ONS welcomed South West Water (SWW) who presented their development plan for the next five years. Funding for bathing waters was stated as being prioritised to ensure the River Dart continues to meet bathing water status. This will reduce investment for West Devon.

There were stated to be no discharges issues in West Devon due to improvements and upgrades; although during the meeting I examined live data from the River Trust which uses SWW live data to find that there was a live active discharge at Mary Tavy. They said they were aware of this! SWW stated they had no shellfish waters within the borough so nothing to share; however, when asked about the shellfish in the Tamar and why this wasn't mentioned, they stated that this wasn't within their designated area to monitor, neither was the River Walkham which isn't designated as a bathing water. This raised concerns and statements in the chamber especially about our children swimming in our local rivers and where designated areas lie. The speakers explained that the Environment Agency and OFWAT define SWW's areas of monitoring. There was strong discussion about responsibility, and it was stated that we have 20,000 km (about 12427.42 miles) of underground sewerage networks. A discussion about their age and integrity was raised, it is known that many are old and may well be leaching sewerage into our subterranean environment, SWW commented that they had 12,000 sewerage monitors in the region, but it was impossible to replace all pipe work and monitor all sewers. They acknowledged there may well be undetected leaks but that they could also use CCTV to examine the sewers too. They stated that there would be increases in bills in the future to cover the cost of future upgrade works, this was then debated - questioning if it was the water users responsibility to pay or the share holders responsibility to agree to works from SWW profits. There will be more information from SWW to follow regarding their investment into the area.

3. Budget 25/26:

The council will be looking to set a balanced budget. Council tax will not exceed the maximum increase of 2.99%, the actual increase has not been decided yet. If an increase of 2.99 % was to be set it would increase payments by just over £7 maximum a year based on a band D property. Council Tax Has been modelled at 2.5% and 2.99%.

This is despite a number of changes in the funding agreement from the Government. Money has been redirected from the Rural Services Grant, which recognised the issues Rural Councils faced with a more widespread population. The Grant was put into another pot which favoured Metropolitan areas.

There is great uncertainty about 26-27 budget which could be a deficit of 1.6 million if the Government does not replace some of the Grants it has repurposed.

4. Housing and Temporary Accommodation:

Spring Hill and Plymouth Road Temporary accommodation will, all being well, be completed in days by the end of January or early February. The accommodation is to be used for families. The delay at Spring Hill was due to a adjoining roofing issue and some leakage. We have 23 households in temporary accommodation which equates to 6 families and 17 single people. There is a high need nationally for one bed homes.

As a result of demand within this financial year WDBC has an overspend of £160,000 on this budget. As we have a statutory duty to provide accommodation the provision of 'inhouse' Temporary accommodation will save the council money while generating income to address housing need across the Borough.

A new Social Housing development of 9 houses at Prince Town is currently going through planning. It is a joint venture between WDBC and the DNP.

Cllr Chris West
30-01-25