

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council held on Thursday 26th June 2025 at 7.30pm at the Woolwell Centre, Woolwell

Present: Cllr Brian Hill (Chair) Cllr Paul Blight, Cllr Andrew Clarke, Cllr Nicky Hopwood, Cllr Geoff Pithouse, Mrs H Broughton (Clerk / RFO) .

In attendance: District Cllr Chris Oram, County Cllr Tony Carson and 3 members of the public

Minute number: 2506:

Open Forum

The Chair of Woolwell in Bloom gave the following updates:

- *Judging Date for Woolwell in Bloom is taking place on 23rd July.*
- *Councillor Carson has been invited to visit and learn more about what Woolwell in Bloom brings to the community. He has kindly agreed to continue the support previously provided by the former County Councillor and will be making a contribution from his Locality Budget towards Woolwell in Bloom.*
- *Every two months, the group aims to publish an article in 'Plymlinks' and last month saw excellent input and support from the wider community.*
- *Advised by South Hams District Council that a bench would have to be installed by the District Council and funded by Woolwell in Bloom at a cost of over £1,000. The Group has therefore decided to decline this offer and instead use our resources for other community projects.*

Concerned residents from Bickleigh Village raised concerns about the trees located behind a property at their address which backs onto land believed to belong to the MOD. The RM Barracks have denied responsibility for the trees and South Hams District Council has confirmed that the land does not fall under their ownership. Councillor Chris Oram has agreed to investigate further to determine who is responsible for the land and the trees.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Jackie Taylor and Cllr Larry Taylor. These were accepted by the Council.
2. There were no **declarations of interest** arising from the agenda.
3. A **dispensation** had been received by Cllr Blight, and approved, to speak (but not vote) on matters relating to the Woolwell Centre.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 22nd May 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. **Reports and updates**

a. **The following reports were received:**

County Cllr Tony Carson

A written report had been received from the County Councillor and circulated (Appendix A), which Cllr Carson reviewed during the meeting.

Cllr Hopwood made the following observations and requests:

- Double yellow lines need to be repainted.
- Concerns regarding the use of Caron Lane and Bickleigh Down Road during roadworks. The area was dangerous and unsafe for pedestrians as these roads were being used as a 'rat run' for drivers attempting to beat the queues on Tavistock Road.
- The hedge along the right-hand side of Woolwell Road, backing onto a car park and owned by Devon County Council (DCC), has not been cut for approximately five years. In addition, hedges belonging to houses between The Heathers and Pickpie Drive on either side are now encroaching onto the pavement. It was suggested that Devon County Council be asked to write to these homeowners requesting that letters be sent to affected households.
- Request that funding be provided from the County Councillors locality grant for the Parish Council to remove weeds on the highway.

It was agreed that an email should be sent to formally request the above from the County Councillor, which would then be followed up accordingly.

District Cllr Chris Oram

Sadlers Way in Tamerton has had long standing issues with drainage which has now been resolved. Nothing else to report.

b. **Updates on local government re-organisation.**

Councillor Hill attended a briefing by South Hams District Council regarding local government reorganisation with no real update to present at this time. He also reported that Plymouth City Council would be giving a presentation on the topic in July at the Woolwell Centre, residents can attend but as space is limited, tickets must be booked in advance. Additionally, Plymouth City Council will be providing Parish Councils with monthly updates.

6. **Clerks Report**

The Action List was noted.

7. **Finance and Administration**

a. It was resolved to re-adopt the **Freedom of Information Policy** / Publication Scheme.

b. **Receipts and payments** against budget as at 31st May 2025 were noted.

c. **Bank reconciliations** to the 31st May 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

d. **Meeting arrangements** were considered and it was agreed that meetings remain at the Woolwell Centre for the time being. (5 in favour – 1 against).

e. The following **payments** were approved. It was noted that invoices had been sent electronically to Councillors and had been examined and verified' by the RFO.

Pre-paid

SUPPLIER	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
Cutec	MS 365 and hosting fee	71.16	11.86	59.30
Arborcure	Grass cutting May	1004.30	167.38	836.92
Unity Bank	Service Charge	7.95	0	7.95

For approval

SUPPLIER	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
H Broughton	Salary June	707.35	0	707.35
Nest	Pension May	67.46	0	67.46
Woolwell Centre	Room hire July	78.00	0	78.00
Rialtas	Finance Software	243.60	40.60	203.00
Dodd Group	Application no 5	18366.31	3061.05	15305.26
HMRC	6 th April to 5 th June 25	512.98	0	512.98

8.

Woolwell Centre

a. The Clerk had approached five contractors for a quotation to provide an electrical condition report on the Woolwell Centre. Only one quotation had been received and it was therefore agreed to wait until the next meeting to agree a contractor and expenditure.

b. Update on the Woolwell Centre.

- Work at the Woolwell Centre is progressing well. A training session has been arranged by Dodds, and all councillors have been invited to attend. Councillors Blight and Hill have confirmed their attendance.
- There was a minor issue regarding a security key, which Cllr Hill is currently investigating. However, as there are several keys in circulation, it is unlikely that any locks will need to be changed.
- The contractor responsible for replacing defective parts on the fire doors will be contacted to confirm when he can return to complete the work. While the doors meet fire safety requirements, they are not suitable for regular daily use.
- It was suggested that a meeting of the Woolwell Centre Working Group be held to review the completed works and ensure they meet expectations. A separate meeting with the Trustees and the Centre Manager will also planned for later in the year, once the financial accounts are available.
- The building lease remains under discussion, and Cllr Hopwood will follow up to obtain a response.
- Boxing-in of pipes in the cafe was quoted at £3,600 and it has been agreed that this work would not be carried out as the project is already well over budget.

9. **Planning**
No planning applications for consideration.
10. **Church Park Road Bus shelter**
Cllr Hill had contacted Devon County Council, who confirmed that the Church Park bus shelter is included in their replacement programme due over the coming period. He has since requested that its replacement be prioritised and is currently awaiting a response.
11. **Roborough Village Hall (RVH)**
Cllr Pithouse reported that the AGM had been held and Hospital Radio had been present. A date for a meeting between RVH Trustees and Councillors to advise on improvements to the building would requested via the Clerk in due course. Planning permission had been approved and local businesses were being contracted for financial assistance.
12. The **date of the next meeting** was agreed as 24th July 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm

Appendix A

26th June 2025

Devon County Council report
Cllr Tony Carson

Good evening and thank you for inviting me to your Parish Council meeting.

The political landscape at DCC has changed considerably with the Liberal Democrats taking 27 out of the 60 seats making them the largest party. Reform have 18 seats, the Conservatives 7, the greens 6 and independents 2.

The leadership is an informal alliance of the LDs and the Greens.

Cllr Julian Brazil has given up his post as leader of SHDC to become the leader of DCC.

I am sitting on the following committees at County Hall;

Children's Scrutiny Committee.

Development Management Committee.

Farm Estates Committee.

South Hams Highways and Traffic Orders Committee.

Mining Committee. (Local Member for Hemerdon)

And a couple of other outside bodies, Tamar Estuary, and Devonport Dockyard.

General Bickleigh and Wembury Division Items

A visit to Hemerdon Mine to meet with Tungsten West and the DCC Planner on 11th June to see how they were progressing with reopening the mine.

Numerous reports of HGV Satnav misdirection in the lanes over the area has led to a request to our MP to lobby Parliament to make it a legal requirement for commercial drivers to use commercial Satnav software.

Plenty of issues with roads generally, from potholes to speeding.

Local to Bickleigh Parish

Local Government Reorganisation

It was good to see your Chair Cllr Brian Hall, and Cllr Nicky Hopwood at the LGR meeting on Wednesday 18th June

Locality Budget agreed for Woolwell In Bloom.

Locality Budget agreed for The Woolwell Centre to support the Christmas Lunch initiative.

Poor parking issues on Long Park Drive.

Speeding on New Road.

Poor driving behaviour on Tamerton Road being looked into.

Over grown hedges at RM Bickleigh.

Many thanks to Cllr Nicky Hopwood for her assistance and support in dealing with matters that cross over between SHDC and DCC.