

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council held on Thursday 2nd October 2025 at 7.30pm at the Woolwell Centre, Woolwell

Present: Cllr Brian Hill (Chair), Cllr Andrew Clarke, Cllr Gary Stewart, Cllr Nicky Hopwood, Mrs Helen Broughton (Clerk)

In attendance: District Cllr Chris Oram and two members of the public.

Minute number: 251002:

Open Forum

The Chair of Woolwell in Bloom informed the Council of the following:

- *The awards for Britain in Bloom were taking place next week and Woolwell in Bloom was entered into 3 categories with the Junior section having been entered separately and Bumblebees Nursery in the 'It's Your School' category.*
- *A grant of £2,500 had been received from Plymouth City Council and Balfour Beatty as part of the Community Fund from The George Extension works.*
- *A concern was raised regarding a conversation held between the Chair of Woolwell in Bloom and a Parish Councillor however the Chair advised this was not a Parish Council issue.*

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Larry Taylor, Cllr Jackie Taylor, Cllr Paul Blight and Cllr Geoff Pithouse
2. There were no **declarations of interests** pertaining to items on the agenda.
3. There were no requests for **dispensations**.
4. **Minutes**
It was resolved that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th July 2025 be signed by the Chair as a true record.
5. **Reports and updates**
 - i. There were no reports from the District Councillors.
 - ii. The County Councillor had submitted a written report which the Chair outlined. (Appendix A)
6. **Clerks Report**
The action list was noted.
7. **Finance and Administration**
 - i. Receipts and payments against budget as at 31st August 2025 were noted.

- ii. The bank reconciliations to the 31st August 2025 were agreed.
- iii. A draft budget as recommended by the Finance Committee had been circulated. This was noted and would be considered at the next meeting.
- iv. A grant application from Plymouth Argum Rugby Football Club had been received and a grant of £1,000 was approved.
- v. A second half grant of £5,000 to the Woolwell Centre was approved.
- vi. The following payments were approved and it was noted that invoices 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
Unity Bank	Service Charge	7.20	0	7.20
Arborcure	Monthly grass cutting	1004.30	167.38	836.92
H Broughton	Salary August	707.35	0	707.35
H Broughton	Salary September	707.35	0	707.35
Nest	Pension August	67.46	0	67.46
Nest	Pension September	67.46	0	67.46
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	1008.00	168.00	840.00
J T Greaves	Electrical report	3580.80	596.80	2984.00
Watertight Roofing	Retention	750.00	125.00	625.00
Bloom renewables	Retention	2586.47	431.08	2155.39
PWLB	Loan repayment – Oct 1st	4934.21	0	4934.21

For approval

SUPPLIER	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
Woolwell Centre	Room hire – October 23rd	52.00	0	52.00
South Hams DC	Dog bin emptying	156.00	26.00	130.00

8.

Woolwell Centre

- i. It was noted that an electrical conditioning report had been received with recommendations from this report being actioned under delegated action authority.
- ii. It was agreed to appoint J T Greaves as a preferred supplier for the Parish Council due to the companies competitive pricing, knowledge of the Woolwell Centre and good quality of work.
- iii. Woolwell Centre Update
There was concern that the savings reported after the installation of the solar panels and battery were lower than predicted. It was agreed to request copies of the electricity bills so that the Parish Council could seek clarification from the suppliers and decide whether further action was necessary.

The Parish Council solicitor has recently contacted the South Hams solicitor regarding the lease.

- iv. Correspondence received from the Centre Manager regarding a community allotment was noted.

9. **Planning:**

There were no planning applications to consider.

10. **Environment**

i. Weed clearing

Quotations for weed clearing had been requested with only two responses being received. Cllr Chris Oram was thanked for agreeing to give £1000 from his councillors grant towards weed clearing in Woolwell. In addition, the Parish Council had received £2,000 from grants in the previous year, towards this project.

Further investigation was needed to ensure that any contractor was qualified to work on the highway. It was suggested that Chapter 8 training would be sufficient. This item would be further considered at the next meeting.

- ii. Councillors agreed to look at the trees that required work on Roborough Green, with the clerk delegated to authorise the contractor to proceed if councillors considered it necessary.

- iii. It was agreed to have a tree survey undertaken next year as one had been recently commissioned.

- iv. It was agreed to ask the contractor to cut the Roborough green hedges in October and to get quotations to cut one area that could not be accessed by the tractor by hand. Cllr Hopwood requested that she be able to meet the contractors on site.

11. **Upcoming events**

It was noted that the South Hams Energy Assembly taking place on 18th October 8.30am to 3.30pm, anyone wishing to attend may do so.

12. **Roborough Village Hall:** Cllr Pithouse had circulated an update as follows:

- Hall bookings remained steady, although one regular Sunday booking had been cancelled. The Committee continued to promote the hall via the Facebook page and planned to contact the new local crematorium to explore the possibility of hosting wakes at the hall.
- The Pavilion Project was still awaiting the outcome of potential grants from the Football Association and the National Lottery. An application had also been submitted for a Community Resilience Grant.
- A structural engineer was due to assess the Pavilion in relation to building regulations requirements.
- The recent meeting at the Pavilion with Cllr Carson was positive, and it was hoped that a £500 grant could be secured from his locality budget

13. The **date of the next meeting was noted** as 23rd October 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Appendix A

Bickleigh Parish Council
To the Chairman and members of the Bickleigh Parish Council
2nd October 2025
DCC report
Cllr Tony Carson

LGR

The 9:1:1 Model has been determined by DCC as their preferred choice.



The 11 key benefits of a New Devon Unitary Authority:

How New Devon would be Stronger:

Financial Sustainability and Efficiency

It creates a more financially resilient Devon with a highest scope for efficiencies, helping to cover forecasted budget deficits, short payback period (2 years), and avoids high transition costs.

Smarter Use of Resources

Maximises economies of scale, reduces duplication, and enables rapid integration of services for better value and delivery. Merging key services that have an important stake in enabling sustainable development will help to unleash our economic and housing potential.

Protects and Improves Key Services

Maintains momentum in improving children's and SEND services, avoids disruption to county-wide services, including adult social care, and enhances public protection.

Supports Public Sector Workforce

Aids recruitment and retention, offers career stability, and strengthens the public sector workforce.

Agile and Responsive

Greater capacity to respond to risks and opportunities through streamlined governance and service delivery.

Strengthened Partnerships

Builds on existing collaborations with NHS, police, and voluntary sectors to improve outcomes and reduce operational risks.

How New Devon would be shaped by Communities:

Keeps Democracy Local

Enhances local governance, supports town and parish councils, and ensures decisions are made close to where people live.

One Front Door for Services

Simplifies access to all council services—online, by phone, or in person—making it easier for residents.

Respects Local Identity

Maintains existing boundaries and recognises the unique identities of Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay.

Empowers Local Communities

Focuses on place-based delivery, recognising the unique strengths and needs of different communities.

Minimises Disruption and Confusion

Avoids splitting services or creating uncertainty during transition, ensuring continuity and clarity for residents.

Strategic Plan for the next four years

Setting out a vision to build “a positive future for Devon where everyone thrives”, has been approved by councillors today (Thursday 4 September).

The Strategic Plan for 2025-2029 has been developed with input from County Councillors, the Devon Youth Council and interim findings from the New Devon survey which has been running since July to ask people for their views on local authority services.

The plan has a clear focus on children and young people across all of its priorities and we will seek regular feedback from the Devon Youth Council. A separate Strategic Plan is also being developed for Devon Children, Young People and Family Wellbeing.

Six priorities and a series of commitments will ensure delivery of the plan. These are:

- **Positive Futures for every child and young person:** delivering inclusive and compassionate services that meet the needs of children and young people, ensuring they are safe from harm, reducing inequality and improving life outcomes;
- **Supporting independence and dignity:** promoting personalised care to enable people to live independently as long as possible and strengthen access to preventative support. It includes a commitment to support young people with a disability or complex need to be supported to lead independent and fulfilling lives into adulthood;
- **Continuous service improvement:** focusing on continuous improvement of services to deliver high standard, value for money services that people can rely on;
- **A green Devon for future generations:** empowering communities to lead environmental action, promoting green jobs and skills, reducing carbon emissions and protecting the natural environment;
- **Economic inclusion and local prosperity:** improving access to housing, transport and digital connectivity, especially in rural areas. It also includes improving skills, training and employment, and support for small businesses. There is a strong emphasis on opportunities for young people and retaining investment within the local economy;

- **Stronger communities and safer places:** includes supporting the voluntary and community sector, enhancing community safety, and improving access to health and wellbeing services. It places an emphasis on supporting young people to feel safe in their communities to access local services and activities.

Could You Foster a Child in Devon?

Fostering Devon is looking for kind, patient, and committed individuals to provide safe and loving homes for children who need them most.

Whether you're single, married, retired, working, or have never parented before—if you have a spare room and a big heart, you could make a life-changing difference.

Why foster with Devon County Council?

- ☒ Not-for-profit service focused on children's wellbeing
- ☒ Full training and 24/7 support
- ☒ Generous weekly allowance
- ☒ Local support groups and events
- ☒ Flexible options to suit your lifestyle

Types of fostering include:

- Short-term and long-term care
- Emergency placements
- Parent and child fostering
- Respite care
- Therapeutic fostering

Interested?

Call **0345 155 1077** or email foster@devon.gov.uk

Visit www.fosteringindevon.org.uk to learn more.

Let's build a brighter future—**one child, one home, one heart at a time.**

Devon 20 is Plenty – Safer Streets for Everyone!

This was an initiative raised as a Note of Motion at Full Council and passed by the majority of the Council. The idea being that the criteria to have 20mph limits is community not incident driven. This is a good initiative seeing communities speak up. There is no funding for this from the Council so the idea is you fund it from Parish Council Precept or other sources.

Devon County Council is supporting the “20 is Plenty” campaign, aiming to make 20mph the norm in residential areas and village centres. Lower speeds mean safer roads for children, older people, cyclists, and everyone who walks or wheels in our community.

Why 20mph?

- Reduces accidents and injuries
- Makes streets quieter and more pleasant
- Encourages walking and cycling
- Supports safer journeys to school

How can you help?

- Drive at 20mph where you see the signs
- Support local 20mph schemes
- Talk to your parish council if you'd like to see a 20mph limit in your area

Let's work together for safer, healthier, and friendlier streets in Devon!

For more information or to get involved, visit:

www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/traffic-regulation-orders/20mphschemes/

Pot Holes

The first repairs of a seven-week pothole repair trial have been carried out in Devon.

Work has started on the pilot scheme which will see Devon Highways filling all potholes, not just safety defects, in selected trial areas of the county for the rest of this month and throughout October.

The trial areas cover parts of Barnstaple as well as areas in Hatherleigh, Chagford and North Tawton. The aim will be to establish the implications of taking a more proactive approach to fixing potholes before they become “safety defects”.

Under the trial, when highway safety inspectors investigate potholes reported by the public they will be asked to record all other potholes within 500 metres in each direction, or to the nearest highway junction.

Repair teams will then fix those recorded potholes within their traffic management set-up at the same time. Depending on the size of potholes, different teams may be needed where different types of repair are required.



Library users visiting our libraries

You can now borrow a blood pressure monitor and a book at the same time.

It's all part of The 'One Devon' initiative, led by Devon County Council Public Health, Libraries Unlimited and NHS Devon ICB, and has been launched as part of the local Check Your Blood Pressure campaign to mark Know Your Numbers! Week

Over 50 of our libraries now have blood pressure kits which can be borrowed for up to three weeks. The kits include a monitor, a simple instruction leaflet, a blood pressure diary to record the readings, and advice on what to do if numbers are high.

Our aim is to encourage more people to regularly check their blood pressure at home – and submit their reading to their local surgery – as it could save their life. It also saves time for patients and clinicians, freeing up valuable GP appointments.

New young people's grant fund.

[PLACES TO GO THINGS TO DO Grant Fund - for Young People - Communities](#)

CQC Inspection

Teams across Integrated Adult Social Care are preparing for the council's CQC inspection of the delivery of Care Act duties. The CQC will be in Devon across the week commencing Monday 29 September.

Local to Bickleigh Parish

At the request of a resident I viewed some Top Dressing road repairs in Meadowlands which he was not happy about. We agreed that it had worn in with vehicle traffic bedding it in and agreed to monitor it.

I meet with the Roborough Hall Committee to discuss and signpost potential funding routes for the sports field changing rooms.