

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Council Offices, The Woolwell Centre, Darklake Lane, Woolwell, PL6 7TR

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Minutes of a meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council held on Thursday 23rd October 2025 at 7.30pm at the Woolwell Centre, Woolwell

Present: Cllr Brian Hill (Chair), Cllr Paul Blight, Cllr Andrew Clarke, Cllr Nicky Hopwood, Cllr Jackie Taylor, Cllr Larry Taylor, Mrs Helen Broughton (Clerk)

In attendance: County Cllr Tony Carson

Minute number: 251023:

Public Forum

There were no members of the public

1. There were no **apologies for absence**.
2. There were no **pecuniary and other interests** pertaining to items on the agenda.
3. No **dispensations** had been received.
4. **Minutes**
It was resolved to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2nd October 2025. It was noted that the County Cllr had given a grant of £500 to Woolwell and £500 to Roborough for weed killing, rather than £1,000 for Woolwell as stated in the minutes of October 2nd.
5. **Reports and updates**
 - i. A written report had been received from the County Councillor (appendix A) and Cllr Carson ran through the key points in this report.
 - ii. There was nothing further to add from the District Councillor.
 - iii. There was no further update on local government re-organisation.
6. **Clerks Report**
The action list was noted. The Clerk was to chase for electricity bills from the Woolwell Centre.
7. **Finance and Administration**
 - i. **Receipts and payments** against budget as at 30th September were noted.
 - ii. **Bank reconciliations** to the 30th September 2025 were reviewed and had been checked by Cllr Clarke.
 - iii. A **grant application** from Roborough Village Hall (RVH) was further considered. A meeting had been held between representatives of RVH and Parish Council. Advice had been provided by Cllrs, and questions raised regarding how the facility would be

managed — including arrangements for bookings, maintenance, and whether it would be accessible to local residents rather than solely for use by a single football team.

Details of the level of reserves held by RVH had also been requested. It was noted that the S106 funds are required to be spent on sports-related projects.

As there were still concerns over the project and additional information was required, it was agreed to keep this item on the agenda for future meetings.

- iv. The following payments were approved and it was noted that invoices had been sent electronically to Councillors and 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
SW Security Ltd	Key service callout	57.60	9.60	48.00

For approval

SUPPLIER	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
Woolwell Centre	Room hire – November	52.00	0	52.00
H Broughton	Salary October	707.35	0	707.35
Nest	Pension September	67.46	0	67.46
H Broughton	Refund remembrance wreath	59.25	0	59.25

8.

Woolwell Centre

- i. It was reported that the Woolwell Centre programs for Halloween and Christmas had been published.
- ii. The keyholding contract with South West Security was reviewed. As the security of the contents is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, it was questioned whether the Council should continue to fund this service.
It was proposed that the Clerk confirm whether the keyholding service and security alarm are required for insurance purposes. If they are not, the Council should give two months' notice to cancel the contract and inform the Woolwell Centre of this decision. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

9.

Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

Combe Park Farm - 3096/25/FUL had been received after the agenda had been circulated so an extension would be requested to enable this to be considered at the November meeting.

10.

Environment

i. Appointment of Contractor for Weed Clearing

It was proposed to appoint Scott Boyland as a contractor for weed clearing at a rate of £15 per hour, plus £50 for waste disposal per six bags. The appointment subject to the following conditions:

- Approval from the Highways Authority.
- Submission of the contractor's risk assessment, method statement, insurance details, and Chapter 8 qualification.
- The work to be carried out in stages, within allocated budgets. The results would then be reviewed before authorising further work, up to the total amount of grant funding received.

The proposal was seconded and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Hopwood also agreed to contribute £1,000 towards the project from her locality fund.

ii. Tree works / Roborough Green hedge

Cllrs Hill and Hopwood met on site with Arborcure to inspect the trees identified for maintenance. It was proposed to approve the quotation for the recommended tree works. The proposal was seconded and unanimously agreed.

It was further agreed not to cut back a section of the Roborough Green hedge, which was inaccessible to the tractor, as the dividing hedge was very high.

11. **Roborough Village Hall:** Policies were being updated and additional bookings had resulted from publicity.
12. The **date of the next meeting** was agreed as 27th November 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Appendix A

Bickleigh Parish Council

To the Chairman and members of the Bickleigh Parish Council

23rd October 2025

DCC report

Cllr Tony Carson

LGR

Our leading option for a simpler, stronger and more resilient Devon

Devon County Council sent this bulletin at 23-10-2025 02:33 PM BST



October 2025

The government has said that Devon's current two-tier council system, which sees services split between the county council and eight district councils, must change.

They want simpler 'unitary authorities' to be responsible for all local services in one area, so that they are more efficient and responsive.



New Devon - a single unitary authority

Our leading option is to create a single unitary 'New Devon' to replace the current two-tier system of eight district councils and the county council, and work alongside Plymouth and Torbay's existing unitary authorities.

It is the most logical option for a simpler, stronger and more resilient Devon and comes after many months of extensive research, community engagement, and expert advice.

A stronger Devon

A new single unitary council for Devon is the best way to protect vital services, give Devon a stronger voice, and avoid unnecessary disruption.

It would make local services easier to manage and more resilient so that they can support those who need it most.

It would also give communities a stronger voice, bringing together representatives from town and parish councils, the police, health services, and other local organisations to help shape decisions.

Shaped by you

Our leading option of a single unitary council isn't just about changing structures, it's about building a stronger, more responsive Devon, shaped by the people who live here.

We've been out across Devon speaking with residents, and your feedback has been vital in shaping and supporting our leading option to create a single unitary 'New Devon'.



More than 7,500 of you have shared your views, either through our online survey or at one of our 27 roadshow events over the last few months. Thank you!

Lots of your feedback strongly supports the principles behind our leading option. Here's what you told us:

You want decisions made locally and services to reflect local needs

- **"Local people, local knowledge, local decisions."**
- **"We need to feel part of Devon, for which we are proud to live in."**
- **"Residents want to feel properly represented in decisions."**

Many residents told us they want transparency, fairness, and stronger local representation. Concerns about decisions being made too far from home, especially in rural and coastal areas, were common.

Our leading option to create a single unitary 'New Devon' takes this into account and introduces Neighbourhood Area Committees to ensure local priorities are heard and give town and parish councils a stronger voice to shape decisions.

The proposed model keeps existing boundaries and celebrates what makes each place unique. Services would be shaped around local strengths and identities, helping communities thrive.

You want simpler, better, more accessible services

- **"The less bureaucracy, the better."**
- **"One system to tick all boxes."**
- **"We need joined-up thinking."**

You expressed frustration with the complexity of the current two-tier system and asked for more joined-up services that are improved with better coordination and investment.

A single unitary council for Devon would mean all services under one roof, in one system and with one point of contact, making it easier to access the services you need.

Simpler governance would also protect and enhance these services, ensuring they remain accessible and responsive to local challenges and opportunities.

You want better value for money and fairness across Devon

- **"We pay huge amounts in council tax but get nothing."**
- **"Northern Devon must not be forgotten."**
- **"We need local connections, services and representation."**

Concerns were raised about overlap, bureaucracy, and stretched resources, and residents in Northern and rural Devon told us they often feel overlooked.

A single unitary council would make smarter use of resources by reducing duplication, improving efficiency, speeding up delivery and freeing up more funding for frontline services.

Our leading option also recognises the unique identity of Devon's communities, and the challenges of rural areas, aiming to balance investment across the county, not just in urban centres.



11 reasons why a new unitary council for Devon is our leading option

A new Devon unitary authority could bring a range of improvements for residents, communities, and public services across the county. Here's how:

- **Easier access to services:** A “one front door” approach would make it simpler to access council services online, by phone, or in person.
- **Smarter use of resources:** Joining up services would improve value for money, speed up delivery, and support economic growth and housing.
- **Empowering communities:** Services would be shaped around local needs and strengths, helping communities thrive.
- **Financial resilience:** Streamlining services would reduce duplication, close budget gaps, and deliver savings within two years, without high transition costs.
- **Local democracy protected:** Town and parish councils would remain central, keeping decisions close to communities.

- **More responsive and agile:** Simpler governance would help the council act quickly in response to local challenges and opportunities.
- **Protecting vital services:** Children's services, SEND support, adult social care, and public protection would be safeguarded and improved.
- **Stronger workforce:** A single authority would attract and retain skilled staff, offering more stability and career development.
- **Better partnerships:** Closer collaboration with the NHS, police, and voluntary sector would improve outcomes and reduce risks.
- **Respect for local identity:** Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay's unique identities and boundaries would be preserved and celebrated.
- **Minimal disruption:** The transition would be carefully managed to ensure clarity and continuity for residents.

What next?

Final proposals need to be submitted to government by Friday 28 November. The Secretary of State will then decide which one(s) will go to statutory stakeholders for consultation during the first half of 2026.

A final decision is expected to be made in the summer, following which any required legislation needs to be passed before a shadow authority is created in 2027, with the new authority 'vesting' or commencing from 2028.

[Find out more about the local government reorganisation process](#)



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- 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 of 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/

Grant funding sources.

Species Recovery Programme

21-10-2025 02:45 PM BST

APPLY BY 2 NOVEMBER 2025 Natural England has opened a new programme under the Species Recovery Programme aimed at supporting the recovery of threatened species in England. The scheme seeks ideas that target the species listed in the Threatened Species Recovery Actions (TSRA) dataset – this includes plant and animal species that require bespoke interventions [...]

[Percy Bilton Charity](#)

20-10-2025 10:23 AM BST

The Percy Bilton Charity provides grants for the purchase of furniture and equipment to support people in need. Applications are accepted from registered charities that are supporting one or more of the following groups: You can apply for a large grant for capital expenditure of approximately £2,000 and over (the majority of grants fall within [...])

[W.G. Edwards Charitable Foundation](#)

20-10-2025 09:45 AM BST

The W.G. Edwards Charitable Foundation provides grants to registered charities that provide care and improve the wellbeing of people over the age of 65. You can apply for a grant of £1,000 to £1,500 for capital works and innovative projects: Salaries and everyday running costs cannot be covered. This funding is for registered charities that [...]

[Clothworkers' Foundation](#)

15-10-2025 03:56 PM BST

The Clothworkers' Foundation makes grants through its Open Programme for capital projects such as buildings, equipment, vehicles and digital infrastructure such as websites, databases and apps. You can apply to the Clothworkers' Foundation if you are a registered charity, CIO, CIC, exempt charity or special school. Projects should fit with one or more of the [...]

[BlueSpark Foundation](#)

15-10-2025 10:07 AM BST

BlueSpark Foundation supports the education and development of children and young people by providing grants for educational, cultural, sporting and other projects. The foundation aims to help children and young people between the ages of 5 and 22 to reach their full potential by supporting projects that: Projects can include a range of activities such as academic [...]

[Help the Homeless](#)

14-10-2025 02:25 PM BST

Help the Homeless provides small grants (up to £5,000) for registered charities that are supporting homeless people. The funding is for capital costs only. The aim of the funding is to assist individuals to return to mainstream society and rebuild their lives. Registered charities with an annual turnover of less than £500,000 may apply.

[Yapp Charitable Trust](#)

14-10-2025 11:09 AM BST

The Yapp Charitable Trust offers grants towards the core funding of registered charities with a total annual expenditure of less than £40,000. The support is for charities whose work focuses on the following priority groups: Grants can be made towards running costs for up to three years, for a maximum of £3,000 per year. Funding [...]

[Foundervine Breakthrough](#)

13-10-2025 10:58 AM BST

This is a new accelerator programme, running from November 2025 to February 2026, to support disabled entrepreneurs who want to expand their business. The initiative combines expert-led training, tailored funding advice and opportunities to connect with peers who have lived experience. There are twenty places available on the programme, which includes access to an £18,000 [...]

[Arnold Clark Community Fund](#)

13-10-2025 10:13 AM BST

Grants are available for community projects and for organisations supporting people experiencing hardship or you can apply for a free youth sports kit for your team. The funding comes from the Arnold Clark Community Fund which was set up to support community groups and charities that benefit their local community. There are three separate funds: [...]

[Nature save Trust](#)

08-10-2025 03:24 PM BST

The Naturesave Trust has announced that its theme for grant applications this autumn is 'biodiversity'. Grants of up to £5,000 are available for biodiversity projects such as: Applications can be submitted by any organisation: the preference is to fund charities, social enterprises and grassroots community organisations. Your organisation and/or project must have a website. The [...]

Devon Funding News is produced by the Economy, Enterprise & Skills team at Devon County Council. Email: economy@devon.gov.uk

Local to Bickleigh Parish

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