

Minutes of Clovelly Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 11 March 2025 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillor C West (Chairman), Councillors Mrs V Foster, D Garnett, C Huxtable, R Phelps, N Sanders, P Slee, A Tucker.

District Councillor Dart

2 Members of the public

138. Representations from the public.

138.1 The Road Warden for the Parish wanted to make a start on repairing potholes now that the signs had been delivered and he had a new whacker plate, but had heard nothing more from the Neighbourhood Highway Officer. Councillors suggested that as he has had the relevant training, that he proceeds as planned and that the Parish Council will reimburse him for petrol expenses relating to the wacker plate.

138.2 Emails from a resident of Woolsery had been circulated to Councillors regarding a complaint against TDC. The details were discussed and noted.

139. Apologies. None.

140. Declarations of Interest.

Councillors Mrs Foster and Slee have a Dispensation for matters relating to Clovelly Estate.

141. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting Minutes held on 11 February 2025.

Approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor Slee.

Seconded by Councillor Huxtable and unanimously agreed.

142. Reports:

142.1 County Councillor J Wilton-Love. Not present.

142.2 District Councillors:

Mrs A Dart – written Report received and circulated as follows:

Firstly some good news to happen by March 2027:

Torridge District Council has been awarded £20,700,000 in capital investment with £250,000 revenue funding to support a number of projects to benefit residents across the district. The projects announced by government today, are being funded as part of the Community Regeneration Partnership Scheme and will support the council's strategic ambitions and deliver lasting benefits to Torridge.

The capital projects being supported by the Government are geographically spread across the district and cover a wide variety of themes:

- **Bideford Business Park (£2.6m)** – acquisition and development toward high value manufacturing and engineering facilities.
- **Bideford Pannier Market (£1.475m)** – modernisation and improvements to make fit for future and wider use.
- **Hatchmoor Industrial Estate (£1.6m)** – The project will design a scheme, achieve the necessary consents and then deliver the services and infrastructure to site for future development of workspace for high value manufacturing and engineering facilities

- **Holsworthy Agri-Business Park (£7.3m)** – development of agri-related innovation, retail and professional space.
- **Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre (£2m)**– additional funding to support the build.
- **Agri-tech nutrient pilot scheme (£0.3m)** - testing the adaptation of a slurry condensing unit to recover nutrients and reduce the pollutants going into rivers.
- **Westward Ho! Water Quality Monitoring Buoy (£0.1m)** - Installation of water quality monitoring buoy to provide real-time water quality data for beach users, tourism businesses and for managers of environmental systems.
- **Cleave Wood, Bideford (£1.2m)** – The design and delivery of site servicing and infrastructure as a first phase of a residential scheme in response to local housing needs.
- **Social housing decarbonisation and EPC rating improvements (£1.5m)** – pipeline of works to improve 57 properties with E & F ratings to C or B.
- **Bideford Hospital (£0.75m)** – reconfiguration site to create a “Community Health & Wellbeing Hub” with multi-purpose space.
- **The Globe Hotel, Great Torrington (£0.52m)** - Initial capital works on Grade II Listed long-derelict hotel to redevelop into an 11-bedroom hotel and restaurant (in a town with neither) with a strong training presence.
- **Holsworthy Manor Offices (£0.725m)** - Phased redevelopment inc. decarbonisation, remodelling to enable improved accessibility, flow and to increase opportunity for flexible community space (for example, co- working)

Then the not so good news!!

Torridge Councillors met at Full Council on Monday 24th February, to finalise the budget and determine the Council Tax rate for the 2025/26 financial year. The approved increase of £5.67 (2.99%), which is lower than inflation at 4.6% (CPIH, January 2025), will represent a rise of just over ten pence per week for the majority of Torridge residents.

For the remaining elements which constitutes the full council tax payment Devon County Council approved a rise of £85.59 (4.99%), Police & Crime Commissioner £13.70 (4.99%), Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service £5.00 (5.02%) and the various Town and Parish councils an average of £6.22 (7.44%).

Update on local government re organisation:.....

There is concern that the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) as stipulated by government including the timetable runs the real risk of financial unsustainability from inception. The most significant funding challenges facing the people of Devon concern Adult and Children Social Care, SEND, and NHS funding. Government proposals address none of these, but rather risks uprooting the very organisations holding the line today.

However, it is our duty to respond to answer national government's demand for structural change through LGR.

We are united in our belief that the interests of the nearly 1 million people of Devon and Torbay will not best be served by a single 'mega' Council covering the entirety of this area. As districts, we have therefore reached initial agreement to work towards the formation of two new Councils that combine our existing areas as follows:

- **A Unitary combining the South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon areas with Torbay**
- **A Unitary including East, Mid and North Devon alongside Torridge District and the City of Exeter**

There is considerable further work to do to develop these proposals. We want to

maintain local distinctiveness whilst seeking to secure ongoing service improvements. We are having to move at pace to meet the initial deadline set by national government for Interim Plans to be submitted by the 21st March. Final decisions on the content of the Interim Plans will continue to be made by individual Councils and we will engage with all our Devon council colleagues on an ongoing basis. We are mindful that the LGR process is fast-changing still and until submission date further options may need to be considered in addition to the currently preferred option.

We are in active dialogue with Torbay Council concerning the potential for a new unitary council covering a wider geography encompassing the 4 areas described above.

We also recognise that Plymouth City will be looking to change their boundaries, which is a matter for government to decide on.

We are resolute in our shared commitment to engaging with our residents, partners and stakeholders to help shape these proposals going forward. This includes in the period through to November and the submission of final proposals. We will provide ongoing updates as we reach key milestones.

Entrepreneur? Win free space at Bideford panier market

The project, known as **LaunchBideford**, is offering **at least two businesses** the chance to win **six months of free space** in Butchers Row at Bideford Pannier Market, along with a comprehensive package of hands-on, expert support to ensure their success!

The goal is to strengthen the local economy by incubating the most promising local businesses in vacant shop units, while inspiring many others to embark on their entrepreneurial journey. The competition officially opens on 28th February 2025 and winners will be selected before the end of March 2025.

For further information and for details on how to apply, please visit: <https://savethehighstreet.org/bideford>.

That's all I have for now, any issues, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Email: councillor.dart@torridge.gov.uk. Phone : 01237 441011

Councillor Huxtable asked about a figure in Councillor Dart's January Report concerning the increased amount of Precept to be paid, enquiring if it should have read 'per month' and not 'per year', and the figure was clarified as being correct for 'per year'.

District Councillor Dart has reported a caravan and van which had been in a lay by at Fairy Cross for a considerable time, and also a portable toilet at Milky Way.

Councillor Mrs Foster was concerned that the van in the lay by at Fairy Cross is parked in front of an emergency telephone, which she had previously raised and had been reported to Highways on behalf of the Parish Council. The reply received from the Neighbourhood Highways Officer was that he believed travellers were living in the caravan and would try and make contact with them, it being the only place for them to live. He was not certain that the emergency telephones were in working order.

142.3 Defibrillator Check – Councillors Sanders and Phelps. In order.

Action: Clerk to report to The Circuit and also make a diary note that the pads with the defibrillator at the Parish Hall expire in August 2025, although a reminder would be received from The Circuit.

143. Finance.

143.1 Payments. To approve the following payments.

Proposed by Councillor West.

Seconded by Councillor Garnett and unanimously agreed, including the Invoice from Mr Wonnacott which had been received after the Agenda had been published.

Mrs S Squire March Salary £237.60; Expenses £21.85	£259.45
Clovelly Estate. Producing 2 litter bins	£936.00
RBLI. Lamp post signs to commemorate the 80 th Anniversary of VE Day.	£ 60.97
N Wonnacott. Grass cutting as per quotation	£365.00

143.2 Online Banking. The Clerk had finally managed to progress this with Lloyds Bank and had been given a reference number – CB 3775818.
The bank did not have Councillor Phelps' ID and requested that he provides this in a branch.

In the meantime, paperwork from the bank is expected for completion at the next meeting for the account to be opened.

The Chairman expressed thanks to all involved to get to this stage.

Action: Councillor Phelps to present two forms of ID at a Lloyds Bank branch.

143.3 Grass Cutting. To agree a quotation for the next season.

Mr N Wonnacott had quoted the sum of £460.00 for the season.

£90.00 per half day or £160.00 for a full day.

He was aware that the price of £460.00 is a jump from previous years, but having done the work over the years, he now knows how long the work will take.

Action: Councillor West to ask for a revised price excluding Wrinkleberry Lane, but to include the area around the flower planters.

144. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 11 February 2025.

144.1 Litter Bins. The Clerk ascertained that the Locality Grant application deadline was 14/2/25 and submitted the application on 13/2/25. It was successful and the amount of £780.00 agreed from County Councillor Wilton-Love's allocation.

An e-card of thanks has been sent to Councillor Wilton-Love on behalf of the Council.

TDC has confirmed it will empty them.

144.2 Play Equipment. Cllr Sanders - site meeting with resident who raised this at the last meeting. No meeting has yet been held.

145. Clerk's Actions:

- ❖ Defibrillator Report sent to The Circuit
- ❖ Dealt with payments
- ❖ Emergency Plan Meeting – 3/3/25 in Clovelly Parish Hall. Councillor Slee did not feel that the event was helpful and this had been echoed by others.

It was common sense that anyone would help others in a close knit village such as Clovelly.

District Councillor Dart spoke about proposals for analogue telephones to be discontinued which she considered was counter intuitive adding that various organisations already have emergency plans in place.

At the meeting, it was emphasised that the Parish Council does not compile an emergency plan and that other people in the Parish should be encouraged to do this.

- ❖ **Lithium Ion Battery Safety.** Confirmation sent that the Parish Council's supports the campaign. Sir Geoffrey Cox MP KC requested to speak in favour at the 2nd Reading in Parliament. A reply has been received: 'As it is a Lords Bill, Sir Geoffrey wouldn't have been unable to speak in proceedings however, he is keen to look at the contents of the bill in more detail and will study the work of the campaign. As technologies continue to modernise, and new power sources including lithium-ion batteries play more of a central role in our lives, more attention must be given to the risks and their safety'.
- ❖ **Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Automatic Fire Alarms Consultation**
- ❖ **Arranged for a proforma invoice for lamp post signs (3rd item under payments)**
- ❖ **Highways – responded as directed regarding grit bins, list of the worst roads and asked for priority signage at the road narrows near Turnpike Close. Reply from NHO:**
'I think its fair to say there is no perfect road in the Parish and looking around I am somewhat shocked at what I am finding in the Parishes. It's all going to keep me very busy and not be an overnight solution. The comments below fall in with what I am finding and I have bids in this year for the main B road, which I hope will attract the funding.

Turnpike Close, the rules of the road would apply to, which is give way to traffic coming up hill, but I will ask traffic to take a look and get their opinion'.

- 146. Planning & Planning Correspondence.** The following application was considered:
1/0162/2025/FUL – Proposed agricultural worker's bungalow and access (Removal of Condition 5 of planning approval NJ1859) – 1 South View, Higher Clovelly. Response required by 28/3/25.

Proposed by Councillor Tucker to respond 'no objections'.

Seconded by Councillor Garnett and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to submit response to TDC.

- 147. Correspondence:**
The Great British Spring Clean – 21 March to 6 April. Details were circulated to Councillors on 14/2/25.

Action: Councillor West to ask Clovelly Estate if they intend to take part.

- 147.2 Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of World War II ending.**
Councillor West had asked Clovelly Estate if there are any plans to commemorate the anniversary in The Street or at the Court and was waiting for a reply.
Action: Councillor West to ask the PCC of All Saints Church about a specially designed flag to be flown from church towers and public buildings.

- 148. Highways.**
The Neighbourhood Highways Officer had circulated details of Causeway One.network, a comprehensive platform designed to plan, monitor, communicate, and analyse traffic disruptions. It is widely used by highway authorities, utility companies, contractors, and other stakeholders to manage roadworks and traffic management interventions and instructions for use were given to Councillors.

149. Matters Raised by Councillors / Clerk.

149.1 Preparation for the 2024/25 Audit.

To agree that Westcotts Accountants of Barnstaple be appointed as the internal auditor.

The fee involved will be £280.00 plus reclaimable VAT.

Proposed by Councillor West.

Seconded by Councillor Mrs Foster and unanimously agreed.

Asset Register sent to Councillors for checking and agreeing that the details are correct.

Proposed by Councillor Slee.

Seconded by Councillor Tucker and unanimously agreed. AT, all agreed.

149.2 Flowers in village planters.

Action: Councillor Huxtable to organise. He will also sponsor a planter.

149.3 Councillor Mrs Foster advised that false £20 notes were being circulated in the area as evidenced by one in the RNLI box and some at Merry Harriers and the Milky Way.

149.4 Councillor Mrs Foster spoke about the XLinks Morocco – UK Electric Project and questioned who would pay for the scheme.

She was advised that there is a public consultation running until 13/3/25 and could voice her concerns on that platform.

Action: Clerk to send link for the consultation.

149.5 Councillor Slee advised there was fly tipping in Burford layby (directions – Burford Cross towards the main road where the Council uses it as a stone depot).

Action: Clerk to advise TDC.

150. Any matters raised under Public Participation for further consideration. None.

151. Urgent items raised at the discretion of the Chairman. None.

152. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 8 April 2024 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30pm ahead of the Parish Council Meeting which will then follow the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.39pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 February 2025**
- **Payments**
- **Planning**
- **Westcotts Accountants to carry out the 2024/25 internal audit**
- **Details of the Asset Register in connection with the 2024/25 audit**

Chairman

Date