

Minutes of Clovelly Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026 in Clovelly Parish War Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

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

County Councillor R Julian until Minute No. 115.3

District Councillors Dart and Harding until Minute No. 115.3

2 Members of the public

Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk

111. Representations from the public.

The Road Warden reported that due to the long spell of bad weather, it had not been possible to repair any potholes and this was completely understood.

112. Apologies.

Councillor Mrs G Colwill.

Councillor Mrs V Foster had tendered her resignation and a Notice of Vacancy is currently on display.

Members of the public have until 20/2/26 to request a by-election (a minimum of 10 requests are required), the cost for which would have to be borne by the Parish Council. If the 10 requests are not received, the Parish Council can co-opt a new Member.

113. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Slee has a Dispensation in respect of matters relating to Clovelly Estate.

114. Approval of the Parish Council Meeting Minutes held on 9 December 2025.

Approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor Garnett.

Seconded by Councillor Huxtable and unanimously agreed.

115. Reports:

115.1 County Councillor R Julian.

- He could help in some way with the play equipment owned by the Village Hall Committee which was condemned at the local RoSPA Inspection, resulting in the play area having to be shut.
- There will be a meeting at Holsworthy on 12 February 2026 regarding the proposed Beacon Solar Farm, and the implications of this being sited were given.
- DCC has held meetings regarding the budget, adult social care, children's security and foster care.
- The government has not yet advised DCC of the amount it is to receive from central government.
- County Councillor Julian is driving on the A39 and surrounding Parishes with a highways executive to see the very poor state of the roads. DCC has £84 million to spend on repairs and Exeter has been given an extra £25 million.
- The County Council is carrying out emergency repairs and all recent repairs have blown due to porous material being used and the consistently wet weather. Many of the ironworks such as drain covers and gratings had sunk.
- The Local Government Review proposal has been submitted to central government.

115.2 District Councillors.

A Dart.

- A fair funding review favoured urban councils. Business rates collected goes to central government and there is a drop of £530,000 for 2027/28.
- TDC has £11.7 million in capital reserves which cannot be spent on revenue.
- TDC has a budget stabilisation reserve of £2 million and a total of £16,169,000 of reserves. It cannot be seen to be exhausting reserves as this would be classed as illegal in connection with the Local Government Review.
- A challenge is being made over rural penalisation.
- The health grant is £25 million under what it should be.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez is holding a meeting in Bideford on 13 February 2026.
- The Beacon Solar Farm proposal is on pause.
- District Councillor Dart's grant allocation has to be spent by March and we have a small amount of funding left. There was a discussion on the play equipment for which the Parish Hall Committee is responsible.
- She is Chairman of Hartland Parish Council and has asked for the criteria about potholes (depth and width) and the position of others beside a pothole not being repaired which does not meet the criteria.

S Harding.

- There has been a Scrutiny meeting regarding medium term financial strategy.
- The government has had a fair trading review which has not been implemented until now and will start taking money away from the rural Councils and put to the urban areas. TDC will be £300k worse off just on having the business rates percentage, without all the other things to be taken into account.
- The books are balanced for this year. Next year, reserves to be taken until Council Tax rise comes into effect and other ways of saving money identified. At present, TDC is £1.4 million short for 2027/28. This is without having to pay for the Local Government Review.
- There is a briefing on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) expected with a meeting on Teams for Councillors can attend.
- The Operation Centre at East the Water has been completed. It had been necessary to move out of the Appledore dock for the Regeneration Centre to be built.
- Efforts are being made to meet the deadlines to spend funding.

Councillor Slee asked where cutbacks will be.

Answer: The Sub Committee has always worked out how it can be done and will continue to do so. It had been thought that everything possible had been done. TDC has been hit hard with the recent increases in National Insurance and a wage increase.

115.3 Defibrillator Checks.

Councillors Sanders and Phelps confirmed that both devices were in order. The door on the device at the Parish Hall is constantly being left open for no reason.

Councillor Phelps advised he cannot submit the monthly reports to The Circuit.

Action: Clerk to submit the reports to The Circuit and ask for Councillor Phelps to have access to reporting.

116. Finance.

116.1 Request for a donation of £200.00 from Crimestoppers South West. Details were circulated to Councillors on 31/1/26.

Action: Clerk to reply that it is a very small Parish and the Parish Council does not have the budget to support the request for a donation.

- 116.2 Payments. To approve the following payments.**
Proposed by Councillor West.
Seconded by Councillor Tucker and unanimously agreed.

116.2.1 Mrs S Squire

January and February Salary	£243.74 x 2	
Expenses		
(photocopying, stationery, broadband, mileage (£36.55))		Total: £524.03

116.2.2 HM Revenue & Customs. PAYE. £60.80 x 2 January & February **£121.60**

- 116.2.3 The following Invoice was received on the day of the meeting and Councillors were asked to approve the payment, despite it not being included on the Agenda, as the work had already been approved.**
Proposed by Councillor Tucker.
Seconded by Councillor West and unanimously agreed.

Mr N Wonnacott. Grass cutting (previous season) **£480.00**

Grass cutting quote for 2026. Although not on the Agenda for discussion, the Chairman authorised this to be considered from Mr N Wonnacott:

Parish council quote for work in 2026

Strimming the bottom of the hedge along footpath opposite Turnpike Close to opposite the telephone exchange.

Grass cutting around 2 benches in the parish: Sierra hill and by the bus stop in higher Clovelly.

All of the above to be done twice a year. This will be in the Spring when the grass is overhanging the path and after the hedge has been cut in August/September.

Strimming around the flower planters three times a year.

1] Coming down from Clovelly Cross immediately on the left.

2] Again on the left above the bus lay-by.

3] 2 on the right at the bus lay-by.

Total cost of work per year. £520

Additional work at £100 per half day or £180 for full day.

Proposed by Councillor West.
Seconded by Councillor Huxtable and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to pay invoices and advise Mr Wonnacott that his quotation has been accepted.

- 116.3 Internet Banking.** The Clerk had partially completed the application by phone and brought forms for completion by the named signatories so that the application for a new Community Account and internet banking can be finalised.
Action: Clerk to take the forms to Lloyds Bank, Barnstaple Branch for scanning and submitting for the application to be finalised.

- 116.4 It was noted that a VAT reclaim has been submitted to HMRC for the period 1/1/25 to 31/12/25 for the sum of £359.14.**
This brought the reclaim of VAT fully up to date.

117. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 9 December 2025.

- **Cllr Mrs Colwill - Household Fund.** When sending her apologies, it was advised that no reply had been received from Sir Geoffrey Cox's office and she would continue to send fortnightly reminders for a response.

- **Repair of Dyke Green Bus Shelter and progression of funding from County Councillor Julian's Locality Grant to pay for this in the 2026/27 financial year.**

Action: Councillor West to ask Nick Roe for a quotation.

The item to be on the March Agenda.

118. Clerk's Actions where not included elsewhere:

- ⇒ Defibrillator Report sent to The Circuit
- ⇒ Payments
- ⇒ DALC – rejoined the Organisation
- ⇒ TDC Call for Sites / Housing – additional information given & a comprehensive response received from TDC, circulated to Councillors
- ⇒ TDC Town and Parish Settlement Forms returned and acknowledged.

119. Planning & Planning Correspondence.

The following Application was considered:

1/0934/2025/FULM – Erection of 250 holiday units, facilities building, lakes and associated infrastructure (Variation of conditions 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20 and 21 of planning approval 1/0604/2023/FULM – land at Grid Reference 233069 123049, Bucks Cross (Downland Farm)).

Proposed by Councillor West to reply: Clovelly Parish Council's position has not changed from the last submission, and continue to recommend approval.

Seconded by Councillor Slee and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to submit the response the TDC.

120. Correspondence:

120.1 South West Coastal Access – Natural England. Email regarding the King Charles III England Coast Path (KCIIIIECP) – Commencement of new access rights between Combe Martin to Marsland Mouth.

The 78 mile stretch is now open to the public and coastal access rights came into force on 17/12/25 by order of the Secretary of State. Circulated to Councillors on 19/12/25.

121. Highways.

121.1 Reply as a result of representations from the public regarding speeding vehicles in road towards Woolsery.

'The National Speed limit is not a target and an allowance to go as fast as the standard National Speed Limit, if it is safe to do so, which is true of all speed limits. The onus is always on the driver to drive to the conditions of the road, such as narrow lanes and many rural lanes have well managed speeds. If the driver causes an accident due to dangerous driving, they will of course bear the consequences'.

122. Matters Raised by Councillors / Clerk.

122.1 Facebook. A volunteer is required to upload items. Defer to the March meeting.

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

124. Urgent items raised at the discretion of the Chairman.

124.1 Potholes:

- ⇒ Downland Farm to Hobby Drive (A39)
- ⇒ B3248 into Hartland, there are many potholes between West Dyke and Providence Chapel and a pothole near the Chapel.
- ⇒ There are a lot of small potholes between Higher Clovelly and Nether Velly Lane.

Flooding:

- ⇒ On the B3248, at the end of the Hollaford Road on the bottom of the first hill, as a result of a lot of soil being washed out from the field. There are 3 drains along the side of the road and none of them work. The flooding is 1' deep when at its worse.

Road Defect: Trench across the road at Woolsery outside the Primary School.

Action: Clerk to report all the above to DCC Highways.

124.2 Councillor Sanders thanked the Parish Council for the birthday card to celebrate his milestone birthday.

124.3 Cyber Crime Presentation on Thursday, 5 March 2026 in Clovelly Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

125. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 10/3/26 in Clovelly War Memorial Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.38pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 December 2025**
- **Payments, including a late invoice from the grass cutting contractor**
- **Acceptance of the 2026 grass cutting quotation**
- **Planning**

Chairman

Date