

# BUCKLAND FILLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes.

### Community Day Centre, West Heanton

Thursday 6th November 2025, 7.30pm

Present, Cllr Bond (Chair) Cllr Nethacott (Vice Chair) Cllr Davies, Cllr Salter.

District Cllr Wheatley, Selina Woollacott (Clerk)

1. **Apologies**, Cllr Balsdon, County Cllr Cottle-Hunkin.

2. **Declarations of interest**, Councillors to declare any interests in matters on the agenda. None.

3. **Open Session for members of the public to speak.**

3.1) **Discussion of matters raised by members of the public.** No members of the public present.

#### 4. Reports

4.1) **Report from District Councillor. Given by Cllr Wheatley.**

**External Overview and Scrutiny Committee** We received a presentation from the Chief Executive Beki Sharples of TTVS (Taw and Torridge Voluntary Services) who are committed to providing free services to those in need. This included a homelessness pilot run this year which provided a drop-in service for the homeless and statistics were shared with Public Health. TTVS provided us with Hidden Stars which provides support for carers. Other work is with pensioners, community development and befriending services, memory cafe peer mentoring for those people recovering from addiction and cancer awareness/smoking. This valued work of inclusion continues to provide a huge cost benefit with over £3 million in unclaimed benefits brought back into the community. Members of the Committee noted and reflected upon TTVS request for core funding particularly the impact of LGR (Local Government Reorganisation) was put to members and it was explained that without further financial support, TTVS would need to close by June 2026. TTVS requested funding was put to members for stability of £45,000 till September 2026 and an increase of TDC annual investment from £16,900 to £50,000 to sustain core services. The issues raised by TTVS would be taken up with the Officer.

Members of the Committee recognised the excellent work TTVS provides for the community. I know many councillors including myself support TTVS and are keen to keep it financially afloat.

**Full Council Meeting** A motion regarding TTVS was raised by Cllr Thomas regarding financial support. It was agreed that a report from TDC regarding full options would be provided for financial support in the immediate term and beyond into 2026 at our next Full Council Meeting.

We also received Reports :-

External Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report 2024/2025 from Cllr Thomas

Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report 2024/2025 from Cllr Hodgson

Annual Report from Chief Executive Steve Harse

Beacon Solar Project proposed around the vicinity of Holsworthy developed by Galileo Empower (GE) covering 2,700 acres presented by Head of Planning Helen Smith

**Licensing Committee** TAXI Policy Review We were presented with a report from the Lead licensing Officer regarding council licensing policy for Taxis and Private Hire Licences. After discussions it was agreed out of the three options(A, B and C) that the level of fare increases the committee voted for Option B which entails a flag fare (first 3/4 of a mile increase to £4.50 and then £3.30 per mile thereafter and to amend the nighttime rate to commence at 10pm instead of 11pm. The above amended fares to commence provided no objections and advertised for a period of not less than 14 days under s. 65(2) of the Local Government Provisions Act 1976 to be introduced on 1st November 2025.

**TDC - Local Government Reorganisation** Still very much ongoing and undecided is where we are at with Angela Rayner MP having resigned from government. We are waiting to see what is going to happen regarding LGR from the government as to where we stand! The intention by the government is that the structure of local councils be changed to replace the existing two-tier system of county and district with more unitary councils. So far, the favoured proposal is the 4-5-1 plan. The deadline for submission of final LGR proposals is November 28th, 2025.

**Taw and Torridge River Champions** - Are you worried about the state of the Water? Having joined this group, we are working together with the Biosphere Community Project, West Country Rivers West, for those people attending at Chigwell Street undertook a successful first Meeting recently for participants to become a new group of citizen scientists. The newly formed group learnt about how to spot pollution, learn about the water environment, take action

to improve our rivers and be part of the wider catchment community. Within our ward of Shebbear and Langtree we have three potential areas for river monitoring along the Torridge in particular Dipper Mill / Shebbear, Sheepwash and Taddipport. The next meeting is on Saturday 10am 6th December at 13 Chingswell street in Bideford.

#### **4.2) Report from County Councillor.** Report read out by the Clerk.

Please find my councillor report below. I've been out in the van with the Highways Officer and showed him how bad it is at Hembury gate, and I've chased it up but it's still "on the list". I was told the road at Battledown isn't in my division so hoping Lynne has followed this up with her neighbourhood officer.

**County Councillor Report** Last month we had an incredible day at Farmwise Devon at Westpoint! The whole event was absolutely buzzing with excitement as children got hands-on learning about where their food comes from - from farm to fork. It was fantastic to see so many young people inspired by farming, food, and the natural world around them. Events like this really show the power of education outside the classroom. At Devon County Council we are calling on the government to embed food and farming into the national curriculum — and to see more events like Farmwise happening right across the country. Farmwise returns to teach children in Devon where their food comes from | News - Greatest Hits Radio (Devon)

Devon Councillors urge government action to protect farming communities amid rising pressures - News

We are also having a consultation in relation to Devon's library service and this is being launched later this month- looking at how we can do things differently, taking into account the financial pressures but also looking at other opportunities- for example new technology and "open access" which is used successfully in other parts of the country to improve opening hours beyond staffed hours, and opening up opportunities for different groups to use the library spaces.

Residents to be asked for their views on the future of Devon's library service - News

I am organising lots of informal meetings at briefings at the moment with officers and organisations, particularly in relation to digital exclusion, rural deprivation, and how to better support isolated and rural communities. Hopefully we can help to develop more solutions in partnership.

Since being elected I have been approached by passionate advocates to help open up Devon's greenways, and today I brought them together with cabinet members at County Hall, to discuss new opportunities and the potential to open up and progress greenways across Torridge and West Devon. There was plenty of enthusiasm for new ways of working, for example in partnership with Forestry England.

We also had another meeting with the Chief executive of Stagecoach who has reconsidered the current pricing zones and we hope he will soon be making an announcement in relation to a bigger zone in North Devon (currently only the Barnstaple zone) which we hope will be an improvement, especially for those living in Great Torrington.

Also, here's a reminder if it's not too late- to recycle your pumpkins! Or feed them to your farm animals Recycle Devon is encouraging households to rescue their pumpkins from going to waste - News

Finally, I really want to emphasise again the new grant fund we have set up at Devon County Council. Designed by young people, for young people Please share with your local youth groups. I would encourage them to apply for the £3000 because you never know ! It's very easy to apply and has been designed by the Devon Youth Council who designed the fund and they are on the team who sign off the applications (and so am I!). The young people would really like to see new groups and activities being set up if possible so please encourage anyone who you think might be interested. With it being a brand new fund we really want to get the word out there. It doesn't require match funding and it can cover wages if needed.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/new-grant-fund-laims-to-enrich-the-lives-of-devons-young-people/>

If there are any safety defects or other highways type issues please do report them here: Report a problem - Roads and transport

Speed concerns can be raised from the "report a concern" link at Speeding, Speed Limits and SCARF - Roads and transport

**5. Approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 25th September 2025.** Minutes were sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting. All Councillors agreed the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting. Cllr Bond signed the minutes.

**6. Urgent matters raised by the Chairperson which are not included in the agenda.** None.

#### **7. Website and Email**

**7.1) Update on new look website.** The website has been updated, there is still some work needed. All the recent Minutes are on the website and the recent financial years accounts. From now on the Agendas will be on the website as well as in the noticeboard. Website address [www.bucklandfilleigh.net](http://www.bucklandfilleigh.net)

**7.2) . Gov email address.** The Parish Council needs to start looking at having a .Gov email address and Cllr Bond suggested a .Gov website address. Cllr Bond is going to look into this for the Parish Council. All Councillors agreed as it will be needed for the 2026 AGAR.

**8. Clerk's Report. Grit Bins.** I have informed Highways that the Parish Council are not happy with the way the new grit bin has been installed at Filleighmoor gate.

## **9. Finance**

### **9.1) Bank Account Balance and update on accounts.**

On the 3rd October 2025 the bank account balance was £14,949.48  
Payments in, VAT Reclaim £20.64 and 2nd Parish Precept £1,688.50  
Outstanding Cheques, £167 Shebbear Youth Club  
The account holds £398.22 of P3 Money.  
Cheques on this agenda total to £432.87  
This leaves a useable balance of £13,951.39

**9.2) Half Year Accounts.** Councillors were given a copy of the Income, Expenditure and Budget sheets before the meeting started. The Income up until 30th September 2025 is £3,397.64 I do not predict any more income as all the Parish Precept has been paid to the Parish Council and the VAT reclaim has been paid. I have asked for information on where the P3 funds are and as yet not been told. Expenditure up to the 30th September 2025 the Expenditure is £1,967.67 this will increase with second payment of Clerk's salary and Grants. The budget for Expenditure was £2,564.59 I feel the Council will overspend on this due to the new Grit bin. But will still spend less than the Income amount. The Parish Council has a healthy account balance and is hoping one day to be able to grant funds to the Village Hall roof project.

**9.3) Clerk Salary TDC £432.87** All Councillors agreed to this payment. Cheque signed.

**9.4) Invoices to be paid not listed above.** None.

**9.5) Citizen Advice Grant request.** The past few years the grant to Citizen Advice has been £100 and the Council have budgeted for £100. All Councillors agreed to grant £100 to Citizen Advice this year. Cheque written and signed.

## **10. Planning.**

**10.1) Review of Planning Applications in Buckland Filleigh and adjoining parishes.** None.

**10.2) Planning Decisions.** None.

**11) Clerk Salary review.** The new Salary Scale has been reviewed and agreed by the Unions. At the November 2023 meeting it was agreed the Clerk would be on scale level 12, working 60 hours a year. A pay increase would take effect from the 1st December each year inline with the Salary Scale increase. The per hour rate for level 12 is now £14.82 which is a 46p increase per hour and will be a £27.60 increase per year on 60 hours. Councillors discussed this and looked at the Salary Scale and agreed that the Clerk should be put up to Level 13 which is £15.06 per hour. The Clerk thanked the Councillors. The Clerk and Chair to inform TDC.

## **12. Footpaths and Roads**

**12.1) Footpath update. Checking footpaths.** The Clerk has emailed Cllr Balsdon and his wife is likely going to be happy to check the footpaths for the Parish Council. I will contact her soon.

**12.2) Drainage update. Galmington and Glebe roads.** Update from Highways officer, Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to CCTV survey the Galmington gully, but we will do so as soon as we can.

The ditching request for the Glebe House area is already with our contractor but, as yet, they have not been allocated any budget for ditching works this year. As and when the budget is allocated, they will work through the list of ditching requests that they have.

**12.3) Bridge.** Horseshoe bridge has been inspected and is not classed as urgent work. The bridge will be repaired at some point.

**12.4) Filleighmoor Gate road.** As reported by Cllr Cottle-Hunakin, the road from Filleighmoor Gate to Hembury is on the list.

## **13. Correspondence email to Councillors prior to the meeting.**

**1.Torridge District Council invites businesses and residents to view plans for a new business park at Hatchmoor, Great Torrington.**

**2.Devon CPRE Invite to meeting - Mega solar site planned in Devon.**

**3.Road Closed. Monday 19th January 2026 Between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30**

**ROAD FROM FARTHINGLAND TO STONEMOOR CROSS.**

**This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - POLE TEST.**

**Road Closed. FRIDAY 23rd JANUARY 2026 Between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30**

**ROAD FROM BONDS CROSS TO HORSESHOE BRIDGE, BUCKLAND FILLEIGH**

**This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable -POLE TEST.**

**14. Matters for inclusion in the next meeting.**

**The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.30pm.**

Parish Precept. P3.

Meeting Closed 8.06pm

Selina Woollacott, Buckland Filleigh Parish Clerk.

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