

DUNSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in the Village Hall Dressing Rooms on Tuesday September 1st, 2026

Present: Cllrs P French (Chair), K Morris, P Lewis, R Squire, P Harper, District Cllr A Swain and the Clerk Lynne Ogden. 0 Members of the Public attended

1. **a) Apologies** – Cllrs Parry, Arnold, Anderson, Webber and County Cllr Keeling sent apologies. Noted and accepted.

b) Declaration of Interest/ Register of Interests: None

2. **Minutes of the Council meeting held on August 4th, 2026**, had been distributed, were approved and signed.

3. **Progress reports** (on items not covered elsewhere on the agenda).

3.1 Action Points from last meeting- all actions completed, except for Gov.uk process, Community Self Help Scheme and Noise complaints during recent events which are all ongoing.

3.2 Clerk's report – sent to all Cllrs. with Highways report. The Clerk also informed the Council that the pay award for Clerks had been approved at 3.3%. This is backdated to April 2026.

3.3 Reports from other councillors/ representatives – report received from County Cllr Richard Keeling and sent to all Cllrs. District Cllr Swain reported that: - there is a consultation about play parks/there are changes in Teignbridge Planning in that planning applications can now not be called into Committee by District or Parish Cllrs. They have lost these powers/he is aware of an issue with a music event/he is supporting a judicial review about Local Reorganisation/Parish Council elections will be held a year later to align with Teignbridge District Council. Their Cllrs will continue for an extra year, rather than have elections which would only be a term of one year. Therefore, Elections will take place in May 2028. It is beneficial for Parish Councils to be in alignment to save costs.

3.4 Housing Working Group – Cllr French reported that there was nothing to report except that Mary Ridgeway had left Teignbridge and, as yet, he had not been given another contact to work with.

Action Cllrs French/Lewis

3.5 Dunsford Emergency Response Team (DERT) – Cllr Squire reported that she had not received the support box but would chase it up. Otherwise, nothing new to report.

Action Cllr Squire

3.6 Dunsford Climate Initiative (DCI) – A meeting has been arranged for 15th October. Ongoing work includes an update on the stepping stones – it is hoped that they will be mended in the Autumn. Thanks to Pete Rich for working hard to get all the different organisations to be ready to do this. Also, Cllr French reported that he had sent a letter to the residents who would be affected by the gravel path being installed on the B3212. There is a concern about the position of the stopcocks and how they will be affected. The Council have offered to facilitate a meeting of all those involved and the residents would welcome this. The Clerk will action this process. **Action Cllr French/Clerk/DCI members**

3.7 Reports from other meetings attended by Dunsford Councillors - None

4. Correspondence: - List of correspondence listed overleaf. The Council discussed the following: -

a) Local Activity Opportunities – Holly Cavanna – the Council feel that there is already quite a wide variety of activities that take place in Dunsford and the wider community. The Clerk will reply to this and check if anything else can be done. b) There is concern in the Village about the switchover to digital phone lines. Cllr Morris reported that the shop phone has been switched without any notice and, as this line is included in the Village Emergency Plan, we should look to get a battery back - up for it. BT don't seem to realise that the mobile signal is not 100% reliable and, if there is a power cut and the mast is affected, there is no mobile signal.

Action Clerk

5. Finance 5.1 C/A - £12,230.15 as at 22/07/2026 BBI/A - £1,885.11 as at 09/07/26

The Council resolved to pay the following invoices: -

5.2 Clerk's Salary (4 weeks) – Net pay to Clerk £474.40 + £32.49 expenses = £506.89 chq 1676

5.3 BG - Lengthsman's tasks for July and August – £0 - No invoices for these months

5.4 SLCC subs- £164 (£158 for this year and £6 outstanding from last invoice) chq 1677

5.5 Budget 2027-2028 – the Council discussed this and the following suggestions were noted as most probably needing funds – The gravel path on the B3212; Reviewing and updating the Local parish plan; research into the possible purchase of land for amenities like a woodland area, in the future; Updating of any play area equipment; increasing the vegetation around the boundary of the Village Green and possibly netting to stop the balls going over into the gardens.

6. Village Green – a) Cllr Webber had carried out the monthly report, and this had been sent to all Councillors. All is in good order. There are two tasks for the Lengthsman b) Rospa recommendations - the weather conditions have not been conducive to addressing all these actions. These will be carried out as soon as is practical.

Action Cllr Webber/Clerk

7. Planning: Applications: 7.1 None Decisions: 7.2 None

8. Lengthsman – tasks for September were discussed. These included reinstalling the Verge markers. They need to be concreted in place due to the lack of soil depth. Some brambles and an elder tree need removing from the Village Green. Drains are becoming clogged with the early leaf fall. The painting of benches etc stated in the Asset register Review needs to be completed by someone else. The Council agreed to this, and the Clerk will action this.

Action Clerk

9. Council Transfer to Gov.uk domain – The process has made progress but one of the Cllrs emails has been hacked. The Clerk will report this to Vision ICT. There are still a few issues to be addressed, and the Clerk will help with this.

Action Clerk/all Cllrs

10. Training – Code of Conduct being run by TDC – Cllr Harper agreed to attend this. The Clerk will contact the other Cllrs who need to do this and were not at the meeting.

Action Clerk

11. Three Parish meeting – The Council discussed possible agenda items to submit to the Christow Clerk. They are: -

20's plenty update; Local Government Reorganisation; Police presence in the Valley; Facilitation of communication between the whole valley

Action Clerk

12. Matters brought forward by the Chair (for information only /possible addition to next month's agenda including: - a) pothole near Green bridge on turning to Christow and one at end of Briton Street.

Action Clerk

13. Date of future meetings - Tuesday 6th October 2026 – 7:30 pm in the Village Hall Dressing Rooms

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9:20pm

Signed as a true record..... (Chair) Date

Email circulation during the past month

- Planning applications and decisions from DNPA and Teignbridge -None
- Rural Services Network Bulletin plus Funding Digests and weekly newsletters
- DALC newsletters
- Devon Communities Together – various newsletters
- Teignbridge District Council newsletter
- Devon County Council newsletter
- DCT – Wild about Devon Community Wildlife grants
- Teignbridge Community updates – funding opportunities / Tom Pearce
- Standards/Code of Conduct training -Charlie Fisher
- Devon CPRE August bulletin
- Local Leaders Update info for 24th September 2026