

PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting of **PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL** held in
Sampford Spiney Church on Thursday 19th September 2024 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr R Phillips (Chair of the Council), Cllr I Walton, Cllr E Cole, Cllr S Ware and Cllr. Sturmer

In Attendance: Caroline Metcalf (Clerk) and Cllr. Philip Sanders.

191/24. Apologies

Cllrs. Pearson-Bunt and Davies sent their apologies. The Council accepted their apology.

192/24. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

193/24. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

194/24. Approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th July 2024

It was AGREED by all that the minutes be formally adopted.

195/24. Approval of the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 29th August 2024

It was AGREED by all that the minutes be formally adopted.

196/24. Receive updates from the Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Sanders's update:

Cllr. John Hart has stood down as the Leader of the Council and will become Chair of the Council. Cllr. James McInnes will become the new Leader of the Council and Cllr. Andrea Davis will be the Deputy Leader. The budget is OK, but the government are helping, as the Council had £200 million overspend on children's services. The New chief Executive Donna Manson started 12 months ago and really shaking things up.

The National Park is struggling because for 8 consecutive years, no inflation has been added to the budget. If it had, the budget now would be just over £8 million, but it is now just under £4 million. The Park is now up to strength with two new Planning Officers.

The Visitors Centre at Princetown continues to be an issue, and decisions are having to make in the next month on whether the park will continue to occupy the building until the lease expires in March 2026, or whether to shut down in March 2025. As a County Councillor and a member of the National Park, Cllr. Sanders said he was very nervous about the situation of the prison and currently cannot get sense from anyone on how much it will cost to get rid of radon, which is the question everyone is asking. Cllr. Sanders is on record saying I cannot personally see the prison reopening. The staff, who normally work at the prison, are currently being bussed to other prisons daily. Their travel time is being taken out of their shift. The cost of putting right the radon will be a lot and the lease as a prison runs out in 2033, so it is worth spending the money doing up, considering a lot say it is already an inappropriate prison. It is worrying times for the residents of Princetown. The Dartmoor Prison Museum will remain open.

With regards to the Tiny Wild School, due to GPDR, there is a limit on what Cllr. Sanders can update the Council with but confirmed that there is a progress being followed and investigation going on and Devon County Council are satisfied that the safeguarding and education is according to the rules.

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197/24. Previous matters arising from the minutes not listed as separate items on this agenda.

- a) **Bus Shelter** - An article about the rejuvenation of the bus shelter appeared in the Tavistock Times and an advert to recruit more Councillors has been placed in the noticeboard. A member of public wished to ask whether the Council could provide a litter bin? After discussion the Council noted the request but agreed not to install one at this time but will monitor the situation.
- b) **Update on signposts** – The Brook Crossroads fingerpost has been completed. The Clerk to chase Devon Highways on an update on when the Huckworthy and Moorshop signposts will be repaired.
- c) **New Boundary Stones** – The Clerk thanked Cllr. Sanders for a donation of £200 towards the purchasing and inscriptions of the two new stones. Cllr. Sturmer asked whether the name Plasterdown Grouped Parish Council should be added to the stones? Discussions took place on whether it should just state the Parish. It was agreed to defer the decision till the next meeting.
- d) **Update on Internet Banking** – The Clerk, Cllrs. Sturmer and Walton to arrange a meeting to complete the online banking.
- e) **To appoint Whitchurch Community Hall Trustees** – no potential Trustees have come forward. The Council to readvertise and ask around. Cllr. Sturmer agreed to attend their upcoming Annual General Meeting, with a view to potentially becoming a Trustee.

198/24. Beating the Bounds – 20th October 2024

Cllr. Sturmer gave an update on the event and requested that all Councillors either join the walk, or meet up at the end of the walk, in the Dartmoor Inn.

199/24. Review and adopt Complaints Policy

The Clerk had sent the policy to all members prior to the meeting. The Council agreed to approve the policy.

200/24. National Planning Policy Framework

The Clerk sent details of the policy prior to the meeting and the deadline to submit comments is 24th September 2024. Noted by the members.

201/24. Consultation for the Tavistock Neighbourhood Plan

Discussion took place on the plan and the mention of the Whitchurch Stocks, located in the St. Andrew's Church yard. Cllr. Cole to review the plan and report back at the next Council meeting scheduled for 23rd October 2024.

202/24. Draft Management Plan for Tamar Valley National Landscape

Cllr. Sanders as Vice Chair for the Tamar Valley National Landscape gave further information on the management plan. It was agreed all members would review the plan and discuss further at the next Council meeting scheduled for 23rd October 2024.

203/24. Councillors' training opportunities

The Clerk highlighted upcoming training opportunities for Councillors. Cllr. Sturmer wished to be sent further information on Charing Meeting. The Clerk to action.

204/24. Approve the following invoices for Payment:

- a) Clerk August Salary - £190.75.
- b) Clerk September Salary - £190.75.
- c) HMRC ending September - £41.20
- d) HMRC ending October - £41.20

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- e) Church donation - £450
- f) PC Easy Accounts (for 2024-25) - £45

All payments were approved.

205/24. Confirm 2025 meeting dates

The Clerk had circulated the proposed dates prior to the meeting. All agreed on the dates. It was noted that meeting dates will be confirmed annually at the Annual General Meeting.

206/24. Update on councillors adopting gov.uk email addresses.

The Clerk gave an update on the roll out and is currently looking into a different email providers which may be more useful friendly for Clerks. It is hoped the adoption of gov.uk email addresses for all Councillors will be from April 2025.

207/24. Agenda items for next meeting to be held on Wednesday 23rd October 2024, 7.30 pm at Whitchurch Community Hall

A Planning application has been submitted and all agreed to schedule the next Planning Meeting on 3rd October 2024, 6 pm at Stampford Spiney Church.

Items for the next meeting:

- a) Review the proposed Tavistock Neighbourhood Plan
- b) Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan for 2025-2030
- c) Update on appointment of Whitchurch Trustees.
- d) VE Day 80th Anniversary 8th May 2025.
- e) Whitchurch Stocks

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Council

Date: