

PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting of **PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL** held in
Whitchurch Community Hall on Wednesday 12th February at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr R. Phillips (Chair of the Council), Cllr. R. Pearson-Bunt, Cllr. Sturmer, Cllr. S. Ware, Cllr. I. Walton.

In Attendance: Caroline Metcalf, Parish Clerk, Cllr. M. Renders, West Devon Borough Councillor, Cllr. P. Sanders, County Councillor and a member of the public.

281/25. Apologies for absence

Cllrs. Cole and Davies sent their apologies. Accepted by the Council.

282/25. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Walton declared an interest in the item, Public Question Time.

283/25. Public Question Time

Cllr. Walton left the room. A member of the public, speaking on behalf of a Parishioner, raised concerns regarding caravans and a newly constructed car park/driveway on a neighboring property. Although the property has a right of way over the Parishioner's land, the new driveway is not included. The caravans first appeared in April 2022, and the Parishioner requested that the Parish Council write to the Chair of the Dartmoor Planning Department and the Chief Executive, seeking clarification that the four-year certificate of lawfulness, starting from April 2022, would not be granted and how Enforcement Officers are monitoring the situation. All members of the Parish Council agreed to send the letter. Cllr. Walton rejoined the meeting.

284/25. Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th January 2025

It was AGREED by all to formally adopt the minutes.

285/25. Receive reports from the County and Borough Councillors

Cllr. Renders, West Devon Borough Councillor:

The Government's planned devolution is the main talking subject, and the Council are waiting to see what happens. To reduce the cost of housing families in temporary accommodation, Spring Hill in Tavistock, is being redeveloped into temporary accommodation.

Cllr. Sanders, County Councillor:

Devolution is also the main subject being talked about at County level and the May 2025 Council's election will go ahead, having had their request to postpone declined by the Government.

In two weeks, the Council will meet to agree on the budget. There continues to be an overspend on children's services.

Dartmoor National Park are still unaware what their budget will be for the next financial year.

Except the private businesses located in the building, the Dartmoor Visitors Centre in Princetown will close and the National Park will hand back the building to the Duchy of Cornwall on 31st March 2026.

There has been a change in personnel at the Duchy of Cornwall and there is talk of a reorganisation.

286/25. Previous matters arising from the minutes not listed as separate items on this agenda:

- a) **Update on signposts** –Cllr. Cole has forwarded photos of the incorrect sign to the Clerk, but the Clerk requested the exact location, i.e. What Three Words. The member of the public to forward. The signpost at Long Ash is also down.
- b) **Update on Boundary Stones/Engravings on Ward Bridge** – The Building Conservation Officer has responded, stating, "The proposal has been discussed." Aside from noting that the bridge is a non-designated heritage asset and not a listed building, we have no further comments on the proposal. The Council are still awaiting a response from the County Archaeologist and Cllr. Sanders said he would follow up.

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Prior to the meeting the Clerk had sent all members an email from a member of the public, objecting to the Council's idea of engraving the bridge. The decision will be deferred until the Council consults the County Archaeologist. Cllr. Sturmer highlighted an article in the Dartmoor News, featured October 2024 last Beating the Bounds event. Cllrs. Walton and Sturmer have visited Merrivale and picked the additional boundary stones, which are now with Pascoe's & Son for engraving. Locations on where to place the stones were discussed and will need a Working Party when the stones need to be positioned.

- c) **Tiny Wilds School** – Officer activity is ongoing.
- d) **Drake's Café nomination for Community Asset** – West Devon Borough Council had sent a reply regarding the Council's submitted community asset nomination. No further action required at this time.
- e) **Sampford Spiney defibrillator** - The Church's application to purchase a defibrillator had been rejected and the Church are requesting a donation from the Parish Council of 50% towards its purchase. After discussions, all agreed that the Council would be happy to donate the money for the purchase, but the ongoing maintenance would be the responsibility of the Church. The exact donation will be discussed at a future meeting. The member of the public stated they were happy to start a fund raising from the community, if one was required.
- f) **VE Day – 8th May 2025** – The owner of Pew Tor has agreed that the event can be held on their land and request that Neil Howe manage the Beacon. The event will follow the same format as the D-Day gathering on 6th June 2024—an informal gathering of parishioners; bring a chair and some food. To be advertised on social media/noticeboards.
- g) **South Hams Motor Club Primrose Rally – 11/12th January 2025** – The Clerk had contacted the Police, who said to contact UK Motorsport, as this event had been organised by them. Cllr. Sanders confirmed it had been reported to Dartmoor National Park, and although the Park can say no to such events, they do not have the power to stop them from happening, that is for the Police to do. It was agreed that the Clerk to chase up a response from UK Motorsport UK and to contact the Police again highlighting how dangerous the event is for residents and livestock.

287/25. Discuss the Parish Snow's Plan

After discussions it was agreed the Council had enough salt for the remainder of the winter but would like to request some shovels. The Clerk to action.

288/25. Review and approve the Training and Development Policy

The Policy had been sent out to all Councillors, prior to the meeting. After discussions, Cllr. Pearson-Bunt proposed approval of the policy, seconded by Cllr. Phillips. A vote was taken, three for, one against and one abstained. Motion carried.

289/25. Review and approve 2025-26 Standing Orders

All agreed to approve.

290/25. Whitchurch Down Consultative Group Update

Cllr. Phillips and Cllr. Sturmer attended their last meeting and asked if there was anything the Parish would like to add to their five-year plan? All agreed on more dog bins on Whitchurch Down. The Group also has a plan to stop cars encroaching onto land, at certain car parks on the Down. The Tavistock Town Council's Works Department will be undertaking Gorse Management on Whitchurch Down next week (w/c 17 February 2025). The Clerk to ask the Town Council whether this information can be advertised on the Parish's social media.

291/25. Discuss and consider response to the devolution and local government reorganization, following the publication of the government's English Devolution White Paper

Cllr. Pearson-Bunt updated the Council on the Government's plans and that DALC, wishing to champion the views of Parish and Town Councils on this, are requesting a written statement been sent to them, capturing Council's views on the following questions:

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- What's important to your community?
- What do you do for your community now?
- What would you like to do for your community?

All reviewing and discussion each question, the Clerk to write up the request, sent to members for final approval and send onto DALC. Discussions also took place on the possible assets/powers that the Parish Council might like to take over, including speed limits, signposts, dog bins and maintenance of cattle grids.

All agreed to suspend Standing Orders as the meeting had now gone over two hours.

292/25. Discuss and consider response on the Code of Conduct consultation

All Councillors were asked to review and submit their individual response to the consultation, if they so wished.

293/25. Approve the following Invoices for Payment:

- Clerk's February 2025 monthly salary - £198.40
- HMRC ending 5 March 2025 - £43
- Whitchurch Community Hall - £32

Payments approved by all.

One payment not listed on the agenda was stationery expenses incurred by Cllr. Sturmer of £79.4. Payment approved by all.

294/245. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.30pm at Whitchurch Community Hall.

1. Sampford Spiney defibrillator.
2. Boundary Stones/Ward Bridge
3. Tiny Wilds School
4. VE Day – 8th May 2025
5. Code of Conduct and Civility & Respect training

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Council

Date: