

PLASTERDOWN GROUPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting of **PLASTERDOWN GROUPE PARISH COUNCIL** held in
Whitchurch Community Hall on Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 7.30 pm

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

In Attendance: Caroline Metcalf, Parish Clerk, Cllr. M. Renders, West Devon Borough Councilor,

321/25. Apologies for absence

None.

322/25. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Walton declared an interest in the Council purchasing a projector.

Cllr. Cole and Cllr. Sturmer declared an interest in Council's donation towards purchase of the Sampford Spiney defibrator.

323/25. Public Question Time

The members of the public presented, wished to ask their questions under item, to discuss Drake Café's community asset nomination.

324/25. Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th March 2025

All agreed to adopt the minutes.

325/25. Receive reports from the County and Borough Councillors

Cllr. P. Sanders, Devon County Councillor had sent his apologies. Cllr. Sturmer read out a comment received from Cllr. Sanders 'Enquires are still on going with Tiny Wilds.'

Cllr. Renders, West Devon Borough Councilor:

There was nothing major to report; however, he had recently been dealing with a group from the Travellers' community, who had been camping illegally on Whitchurch Down. The issue is now resolved, and the group has moved on.

326/25. Code of Conduct & Civility & Respect Training

Cllr. Pearson-Bunt distributed training notes to all Councillors, after which all members received training in the Code of Conduct and Civility & Respect. Cllr. Phillips thanked Cllr. Pearson-Bunt for compiling and delivering the training.

327/25. To Discuss Drake Café's community asset nomination

Cllr. Phillips updated members on the reasons behind the Council's nomination of the café as a community asset, explaining that the Council believes it would serve as a valuable resource for the local community. However, due to limited time and resources, the Council is unable to take the application forward themselves. A notice was therefore placed in the Tavistock Times inviting any interested members of the community to take the lead on the application. Four members of the public were present and voiced their support for the nomination. Cllr. Renders shared his experience of the process, advising that further interest should be encouraged within the community. He also emphasised the importance of highlighting both the commercial nature and historical significance of the building in the application.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Phillips would contact an individual involved in the nomination of the Cornwood Inn as a community asset, to ask for their advice. The Clerk to liaise with West Devon Borough Council to ask what additional information is required for the application and members of the public present agreed to help generate interest among residents in Grenofen and to liaise with the Clerk moving forward.

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328/25. To review and approve the Finance Committee's donation recommendation towards the purchase of the Sampford Spiney defibrillator.

The Finance Committee recommended that the Council donate £334 towards the purchase of the defibrillator. All members, apart from those who had declared an interest, agreed to the donation.

329/25. Previous matters arising from the minutes not listed as separate items on this agenda:

- a) **Update on issues raised to Devon Highways** – There is no further update at this time.
- b) **Discussion on the Parish employing a Lengthman** – The Clerk confirmed that Devon Highways would not provide funding for this service. The Clerk also contacted several Parish Clerks who employed Lengthman, and they advised that the cost was mainly covered by their Parish precept. Following discussion, it was agreed to consider budgeting for this service in the next financial year.
- c) **Update on Boundary Stones/Engravings on Ward Bridge** – The Devon County Archaeologist had replied that he had been unable to visit the bridge yet, so his response was relying on photographic evidence and Google Streetview for the moment. Therefore, his advice at this time, would be 'not to engrave the current stonework of the bridge. Although not Listed, I think it is of Listable quality, and engraving would be altering the historic fabric. I would suggest either fixing a metal plaque to the bridge (a simple brass plaque, or something like a 'Blue Plaque'), or, as my Highways colleagues have suggested, placing a separate engraved stone beside it. I'd take Highway's advice regarding the siting of a stone on the bridge itself, or at either end.' After discussions, Cllr. Sturmer proposed deferring a decision until after the Council County Elections. Seconded by Cllr. Davies. Three for, one against. Motion Carried.
- d) **Update following the South Hams Motor Club Primrose Rally – 11th/12th January 2025** - Motor UK Sports had replied 'Whilst we have not got received information to fully resolve this situation, if acceptable to you, I would like to add the location of Plasterdown Parish to our Sensitive Area list which will assist in preventing a repeat of any disturbance in the future. This will include preventing nighttime events such as the Primrose Rally (which require authorisation through this office) passing your location for a period of five years. After this period, if an event plans to pass close by, they will be required to personally notify residents of their intentions so that any concerns may be discussed.' The Clerk was asked to circulate this information on the Council's website and social media page.
- e) **VE Day – 8th May 2025** – The owner of Pew Tor has kindly given permission to the Council to light the beacon on Pew Tor, but after discussions, it was agreed to hold the event on Plasterdown due to logistics and being more accessible. Cllr. Philips to inform the Dartmoor National Park Ranger of the event. Cllr. Walton to ask Mr. Neil Howse for permission to use his mesh container for the bonfire.

330/25. Approve Asset Register for 2024-2025

Following the review at the Finance meeting held earlier in the evening, all unanimously approved.

331/25. Approve and adopt Council's Accessibility Statement

The statement had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and was unanimously approved.

332/25. Update on the Government's Devolution

Nine proposals for Devon have been submitted to the Government. It is expected that, within the coming weeks, confirmation will be received as to which proposals will not progress to the next stage of consideration.

333/25. Planning applications to consider and updates

There were no planning applications to consider.

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334/25. Discuss and consider the Council purchasing a projector

Cllr. Phillips had suggested the purchase of a projector for use in Whitchurch Hall. Cllr. Walton noted that the Trustees of the Whitchurch Community had already discussed the matter, and the general view was that they would not proceed unless a grant could be secured to fund the purchase. Following discussions, it was agreed that the Clerk would seek advice from other halls known to have projectors in place.

335/25. Approve the following Invoices for Payment:

- Clerk's April 2025 monthly salary - £198.40
- HMRC ending 5 April 2025 - £43
- DALC/NALC annual subscription - £251.84
- Hire of Whitchurch Community Hall - £32

Payments approved by all.

336/25. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.30pm at Whitchurch Community Hall.

1. Boundary Stones/Ward Bridge.
2. Removal of BT phone boxes in Merrivale and Sampford Spiney.
3. Drake's Café nomination for Community Asset.
4. Grenofren Bus Shelter.
5. Cyclists on Pew Tor.
6. invitation to the new Dartmoor National Park Warden to attend the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed by the Chair of the Council

Date: