

# PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of **PLASTERDOWN PARISH COUNCIL** held in **Whitchurch Community Hall**  
On **WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026** at **7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr. A. Davies, Cllr. E. Cole, Cllr. J Sturmer and Cllr. S. Ware

**In Attendance:** Caroline Metcalf (Clerk), Cllr. M. Fife Cook, Devon Council Councillor, Cllr. M. Renders, West Devon Borough Councillor and Wendy Hall.

## **27/26. Apologies for absence**

Cllr. R. Philips, Cllr. R. Pearson-Bunt and Cllr. Walton sent their apologies.

## **28/26. Declaration of Interest**

None.

## **29/26. Public Question Time**

The member of the public present had no questions.

## **30/26. Co-option of Parish Councillor**

Cllr. Sturmer welcomed Wendy Hall, who wished to be co-opted onto the Council. Her application form had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. All members unanimously agreed to her co-option. Cllr. Sturmer formally welcomed Wendy to the Council.

## **31/26. Approval of minutes of the Annual Parish meeting and Annual General Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and deal with any matters arising.**

There were no matters arising.

All agreed to approve and adopt the minutes.

## **32/26. Receive updates from the Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr. Mark Renders, West Devon Borough Councillor:

- There is still no further update regarding Local Government Reorganisation.
- The newly elected Mayor for West Devon is Cllr. Chris Edmonds.
- The newly elected Mayor for Tavistock Town Council is Cllr. Anne Johnson
- The Duchy of Cornwall is investing in Princetown, primarily through the redevelopment of the former Dartmoor Visitor Centre. The site is being prepared for reopening and will provide a café workspace and a visitor information centre.

Cllr. Michael Fife-Cook report:

- The new CEO of the Dartmoor National Park Authority is keen to bring forward fresh ideas and initiatives for the future of the National Park.
- Wished it noted that the Government is encouraging National Parks to become more self-funding and this is likely to present challenges for Dartmoor.
- The current Devon Highways Neighbourhood Highway Officer is leaving, and his successor is scheduled to take up the role from 1 July.
- Devon County Council have found additional funding for pothole and highway repairs. However, there appears to be very little of this investment allocated to West Devon. Further clarification has been requested on how and where the funding is being spent, as it is important that resources are distributed fairly and equitably across the whole of Devon.

## **33/26. Previous matters arising from the minutes not listed as separate items on this agenda:**

- Boundary Stones/Ward Bridge

The Clerk was asked to write to the landowner at Sortridge Farm to thank them for kindly allowing the Parish boundary stone to be installed on their land. The Council very much appreciated it.

As reported at the last meeting, the East Crowndale Farm landowner has requested that the stone be installed later in the year, following the completion of haymaking.

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Cllr. Sturmer read out a letter from the Monumental Masons who confirmed that the letters on Ward Bridge would be hand cut and no machinery will need to be on site. The work should take less than 2 hours and there is no need for the road to be closed. Cllr. Sturmer will though be on site wearing high viz. The three boundary letters of SS and W (for Walkhampton) will be discrete and unpainted, neither the bridge nor the surroundings will be damaged. Time and date to be arranged in due course.

It was suggested that the third stone be located at grid reference SX517 705, where the parish boundary leaves Jordan's Lane and heads east across farmland. Cllr. Fife-Cook agreed to investigate obtaining permission. Cllr. Sturmer to forward all relevant information to him.

Horrabridge Parish Council will be conducting their own beating of the bounds in September 2026.

- Update on restoration of 1843 Whitchurch Parish Map

Following the decision at the last meeting to proceed with the restoration of the map, the restorer will aim to begin work at the end of the summer and will keep the Clerk updated on its progress.

Cllr. Sturmer advised that, at the next meeting of the Whitchurch Trustees, she would request that they fund a digital copy of the map and a suitable frame for display in Whitchurch Community Hall.

### **34. Update on Broadband coverage within the Parish**

Cllr. Pearson-Bunt had sent her apologies and provided an update by email. She reported that the bid had now been submitted and was currently being assessed for eligibility and relative merit against other applications. It is hoped that they will hear the outcome within the next month. In the meantime, work is continuing on the route planning. Representatives of the project hope to meet with local landowners and farmers over the coming weeks to discuss the proposed routes and identify the most suitable option. Should the bid be successful, the next stage will be to publicise the scheme and encourage individual property owners to participate. However, it was noted that no further preparatory work would be undertaken until the outcome of the bid is known. Informal discussions held to date have generally been supportive of the project.

The Clerk reported that after contacting his office, Sir Geoffrey Cox MP is happy to support the project and provide a covering letter for the bid.

### **35. Approve purchase of new noticeboard for Whitchurch**

At the previous meeting it was resolved to purchase a new noticeboard for outside Whitchurch Post Office at a cost of £286 plus VAT, but the final cost of the chosen noticeboard will be approx. £306 plus VAT. Approval was therefore sought to increase the budget previously agreed. Following discussion, all agreed to approve the purchase of a new noticeboard at a cost of up to £320 excluding VAT.

Cllr. Renders enquired whether a contribution from his Locality Fund had already been made towards the purchase. The Clerk to check and let him know.

### **36. Planning Matters –**

- Dartmoor 0149/26 – Application for land at Heckwood Farm, Sampford Spiney, PL20 6LG

Members discussed background information on the application. It was noted that the Council could only consider and determine the application currently before it.

Following discussion, Cllr. Cole proposed that the Council object to the application on the grounds that it is agricultural land and it has a detrimental impact on both the land and its rural character. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Ware. All unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Fife confirmed that a decision should be known by 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

### **37. Consider request from the Dartmoor National Park Highway Heritage Project to restore certain cast iron signposts within the Parish**

The Clerk reported that, as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Dartmoor National Park Authority, a locally focused Highway Heritage Project is being undertaken to restore several historic cast iron signposts within, and just outside, the National Park boundary. The proposed works would involve repainting signposts and, where necessary, replacing missing

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arms and finials. They have highlighted one cast iron signpost at Huckworthy Crossroads in Sampford Spiney Parish, which is missing one of its fingerpost arms. Members welcomed the restoration of this signpost. They also asked whether any additional signposts within the Parish could be put forward for consideration. Cllr. Ware suggested a signpost at Rix's Hill and agreed to provide a photo to the Clerk, who would forward the details on for consideration.

## **38. Review and approve Co-option policy and application form**

The policy and application forms were circulated to all members prior to the meeting. All agreed to approve and adopt.

## **39. Approve Invoices for payment**

- Clerk's salary – £203.90
- HMRC ending 5 July 2026 - £44.40 (direct debit)
- Whitchurch Community Hall (April 2026) – £34
- Zurich Insurance - £481

At the previous meeting, the Council had approved a payment of £481 to renew the Council's insurance policy with Zurich Insurance. However, the cheque, posted to Zurich, was never received. The Clerk confirmed that the original cheque had been cancelled and requested that a replacement cheque be issued.

Members approved all payments presented, including the reissue of the cheque to Zurich for the insurance renewal.

## **40. Items raised by Councillors (for information/ brief updates only. No decisions can be made)**

Following the attendance of many members at the funeral of the late Michael Doidge, Cllr. Davies noted that Mr Doidge had served on the Parish Council for numerous years and suggested that the Council acknowledge his contribution to the parish. It was noted that, upon his retirement from the Council, he had been presented with a painting in recognition of his service. After discussion, members unanimously agreed that the Council should send flowers or a potted plant to his widow as a gesture of sympathy and appreciation for his service to the Parish. Cllr. Sturmer volunteered to arrange this.

## **41. Correspondence**

1. The Clerk reported that a resident had contacted her and raised concerns regarding a property in Grenofen. The Clerk advised them to raise the matter directly with West Devon Borough Council, as they deal with all Planning issues. Cllr. Renders requested that the correspondence be forwarded to him so that he could follow up the matter.

## **42. Agenda items for the Council meeting to be held on Thursday 16th July 2026 at 7.30 pm, at Stampford Spiney Church**

1. Consider adopting an official Parish Council logo.
2. Receive an update on the requested training to be provided by the Dartmoor National Park Authority.

There be no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.