

PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting of **PLASTERDOWN PARISH COUNCIL** held in **Whitchurch Community Hall**
On **Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr. J. Sturmer, Chair of the Council, Cllr. E. Cole, Cllr. A. Davies, Cllr. R. Philips and Cllr. S Ware.

In Attendance: Cllr. M. Renders, Cllr. M. Fife Cook and members of the public.

86/25. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Pearson-Bunt and Cllr. I. Walton sent their apologies. Accepted by the Committee.

87/25. Declaration of Interest

Cllr. Philips declared an interest in both planning applications.

88/25. Public Question Time

Mr Steve Hunt outlined his proposed plans for the Old Drake Café site in Grenofen.

The sale of the site has been agreed but not yet exchanged. The site already benefits from pre-planning approval to convert the existing building into residential properties, consisting of three cottages, and two cottages proposed to the rear of the car park and Mr Hunt intends to proceed with this scheme.

He emphasised that he wishes to engage with the Parish Council and the local community regarding his plans and overall intentions. Once constructed, the properties will be placed on the open market.

Cllr Philips highlighted that there is a covenant preventing any construction over the tunnel and noted that the site has long-standing drainage issues. Mr Hunt confirmed he is aware of the drainage issue and is looking into solutions.

When asked about the floor plans, Mr Hunt confirmed that two of the cottages will be three-bedroom properties, one will be a two-bedroom property, and the remaining two will be four-bedroom properties. The two larger cottages are likely to be built at a later stage, although all will be included within a single planning application.

It was noted that the Council had previously explored the possibility of designating the site as a community asset; however, there had been insufficient interest and no individuals willing to take on its management. Once the sale has been completed and the planning application submitted, the application will be considered by the Council at a future meeting, and a comment will be submitted to the West Devon Planning Department.

89/25. Receive updates from the Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. M. Renders:

There is nothing major to report; however, West Devon's proposed devolution plan has now been submitted to the Government.

Interviews for the position of Chief Executive at Dartmoor National Park have taken place. No appointment has yet been made, but it is hoped that a decision will be confirmed this week.

Cllr. Fife Cook:

Has put together an information pack on broadband, which will be sent out shortly. Many of the parishes recently visited have raised concerns about the lack of broadband in rural areas. The Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs is putting paperwork through to the Prime Minister about rural issues, for example post offices and when Bank are going to stop accepting cheques. In addition, the lack of broadband connectivity in rural areas will be included. Once this information has been sent, it will be shared with parishes.

Although just outside the Parish boundary, efforts are still ongoing to reduce the speed limit at Magpie Bridge Bend. They are also possibly looking to reduce the speed limit between Tavistock and Plymouth to 40 mph, which should be relatively straightforward and not too expensive to implement. However, reducing the speed limit on the Yelverton to Plymouth stretch would be significantly more costly, as there are approximately nine roads joining that section.

There is currently no funding for village gateways or "20 is Plenty" schemes, so individual parishes would need to finance these themselves. However, we will not know all the requirements until the proposals have gone through

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Cabinet. As soon as that information is available, it will be forwarded to the Parishes.

90/25. Approval of minutes of the Council meeting held on the 15th October 2025

Cllr Ware wished it noted that she was at the meeting, but it had not been recorded in the minutes.

Subject to this amendment, all approved the minutes.

91/25. Previous matters arising from the minutes not listed as separate items on this agenda:

- Boundary Stones/Ward Bridge

Cllr. Sturmer reported that progress is being made and they may have approval to place a stone off Jordan Lane and East Crowndale. The stones will be engraved in January.

Cllr. Philips has spoken with Lindsay about installing a boundary stone on his property and, he said, according to his knowledge, there has never been a stone there. He confirmed though that he is happy for the Parish to install a boundary stone, on the condition that Cllr. Philips deals with it.

Ward Bridge – Cllr. Fife Cook has forwarded on all the information he has received from Devon County's Archaeologist & Historic Environment Manager, who has indicated that they do not particularly support the Council wishing to engrave the Bridge. The Clerk had been asked to contact the Clerk at Walkhampton Parish Council to explain what this Parish wishes to do and why.

Cllr. Fife Cook stated he has pushed the matter as much as possible and believes it is worth pursuing, as every generation should have the opportunity to leave a mark. He suggested revisiting the proposal later. Cllr. Philips thanked him for his support, noting that if the Officers are opposed, it raises the question of whether it is Officers or Councillors who should guide the Council. Cllr. Fife Cook acknowledged this point and agreed that on matters like this, it should ultimately be for the Parishes to agree. He also noted that, through devolution, more decision-making may come down to Parishes, giving local people greater say over local issues.

- Tiny Wilds School

Cllr. Davies stated that complaints have been received from residents on the fact they had not heard any updates on the matter. Cllr. Renders said he will try and get hold of the Enforcement Officer for an update.

- Update on adoption of BT phone box at Merrivale

Cllr. Sturmer has signed the lease agreement the Duchy of Cornwall and the Clerk will send it back.

- Purchase of projector

It was agreed that Cllr. Davies will purchase a projector in time for the next meeting.

- Restoration of 1843 Whitchurch Parish Map

Cllr Fife Cook has awarded a grant of £500 from his Locality Budget to help fund the restoration of the map. Cllr Sturmer advised that the Whitchurch Trustees would like to receive a copy and may also be willing to contribute towards the cost of the restoration.

92/25. To consider ideas for community use and future management of the Sampford Spiney phone box

It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

93/25. To discuss Snow Warden role and the location/storage of salt

It had been agreed at a previous meeting that the Clerk would function as the temporary Snow Warden.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Davies would check where the salt is currently being stored and report back at the next meeting.

If a grit bin is empty residents can log this and request a top up via the Devon Highways' report a problem page [Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

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94/25. Review and approve 2026-27 budget

It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

95/25. Approve 2026-27 precept

It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

96/25. Planning application to consider

- 0367/25 – Change of 0367/25 - Change of use of barn to dwelling at Ashmill Farm, Grenofen, Tavistock, PL19 9EW

Cllr Philips explained that there were previously two conditions attached to the application. The Section 106 financially contribution has since been withdrawn; however, the condition requiring the occupant to be a local person remains.

Cllr Philips then left the meeting.

Following discussion, all Members agreed to support the application.

Cllr Philips subsequently rejoined the meeting.

- 0396/25 - Single storey annex extension to existing dwelling, with variation of Conditions 2, 4 and 6, and removal of Condition 8 attached to planning permission ref: 0077/23 dated 25 April 2023 at Ashlands Farm, Grenofen, Tavistock, PL19 9EW

It was explained that planning consent had previously been granted for a two-storey extension; however, the revised proposal is now for a single-storey extension.

After discussion all, except Cllr. Philips who abstained from the vote, voted in favour of the application.

97/25. Approve accounts for payment

All approved payments.

98/25. Update on Devolution proposals

All District and County Councils in Devon have now submitted their proposals and a decision from the Government is expected in July 2026.

99/25. Items raised by Councillors (for information/brief updates only. No Decision can be made)

Cllr Davies reported incidents of fly-tipping and expressed concern that it was unfair for the responsibility for removal to fall on the landowner.

Cllr Fife Cook is in the process of putting together a training course on planning and asked whether Councillors would be interested in attending. All agreed that they would.

100/25. Correspondence

1. Email from a resident regarding the flooded road between Whitchurch and Grenofen caused by the heavy rain.

Cllr. Philips said he had reported this and residents can also report floods via the Devon Highways website, [Report a problem - Roads and transport](#). Cllr. Fife Cook said he will also investigate the continuing issues of flooding in that area.

101/25. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at Whitchurch Community Hall at 7:30 pm.

1. Tiny Wilds School
2. Boundary Stones
3. Snow Warden
4. Phone boxes
5. Budget and Precept for 2026-27

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm.