

**Minutes of the Meeting of Broadhempston Parish Council**  
**Thursday 11 December 2025**

Present: Cllrs Goddard (Chair), Widger, Bamford, Stevens, and Clarke.

Also present: County Cllr Stuart Rogers  
 3 members of public  
 Cathy Aubertin (Clerk)

No	Subject	
2025/ 26/129	The Chair will open the meeting and receive apologies.	Cllr Goddard opened the meeting at 7.32pm. Apologies received from Councillors White, Miles and Wright, and District Councillors Richard Daws and Paul Parker. Councillor Wright attended the meeting by Zoom but did not contribute to any resolutions.
2025/ 26/130	To declare any interests at this meeting.	None.
2025/ 26/131	Approval to consider, amend as agreed by the Council, and approve the minutes of the following meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 November 2025.</li> </ul>	<b><i>It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes.</i></b>
2025/ 26/132	<p><u>Public question time:</u> a period of 10 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comments regarding the work of the Council or other items that affect Broadhempston.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Councillor report.</li> <li>• County Councillor report</li> </ul>	<p>A member of public thanked councillors for all their efforts throughout the year in trying to improve the village.</p> <p>County Cllr Rogers noted that the Devon County Council (DCC) CEO was inspired by the meeting of towns and parishes and mentioned Broadhempston at a council meeting yesterday because she was impressed with the parish. An officer at DCC has agreed to contact the clerk about the road warden scheme so that progress can be made on this. The CEO has suggested that the Head of Highways should attend a future meeting with the parishes in County Cllr Rogers' division.</p> <p>County Cllr Rogers advised that he is currently focusing on fostering because there is such a shortage of foster carers in Devon and children in care are being sent to other counties.</p> <p>He asked that the Clerk submit a request for £750 of his community fund which could be used for village projects.  <b>The clerk will apply for this funding.</b>          He further advised that the county council is short on funding because the allocation from the government is not sufficient.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish Councillor reports</li> <li>• Grounds maintenance work.</li> <li>• Parish Lengths-man work.</li> </ul>	<p>County Cllr Rogers asked that parishioners let 101 know of any rural crime, which the Chief of Police is focusing on currently.</p> <p>Cllr Goddard thanked County Cllr Rogers for the event with other parishes and towns and commented that it was interesting to see the challenges that other towns and parishes face.</p> <p>County Cllr Rogers advised that a rural culture grant will be made available in 2026, and he will let us know more information when it is available.</p> <p>He further stated that he has asked the local Highways Officer to look at the issue of drainage at the small playing field, where the tiger mulch meets the tarmac, as this is now causing a puddle.</p> <p>It was noted that the response from DCC about a drainage issue was not satisfactory and the clerk was requested to forward the response to County Cllr Rogers for his view.  <b>The clerk will send the email to County Cllr Rogers.</b></p> <p>Cllr Wright reported that DCC have agreed to inspect the drain near No Place Hill it because it is suspected that it might have collapsed.  <b>Cllr Stevens will contact the contractor who were working in the area to ask if they will also inspect for damage.</b></p> <p><b>Following a report of an issue, Cllr White will be asked to look at the drain at Lee when he is back, although a parishioner has also done some work to clear it.</b></p> <p>Cllr Bamford reported that the drain at Easterways needs clearing.  <b>The clerk will report to DCC.</b></p>
2025/26/133	<p>To consider the following planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">25/01893/CAN   T2. 1x Hazel adjacent to driveway - Re Pollard to previous pruning points at 3m above ground level. T4. 1x Walnut - Prune to achieve 1m clearance from overhead BT lines. T5. 1x Field maple in western corner</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>It was RESOLVED to support the application.</b>  <b>The clerk will respond to TDC.</b></p>

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	<p><a href="#">of front garden - Re pollard to a height of approximately 5m above ground level to gain 2m clearance of overhead BT lines.   Saxondale Road From Wheelwrights To Lower Well Broadhempston Devon TQ9 6BD</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">25/01711/HOU   Replacement of garden shed with larger garden studio   Holly Cottage Littlehempston Devon TQ9 6NE</a></li> </ul>	<p><b><i>It was RESOLVED to support the application. The clerk will respond to TDC.</i></b></p>
2025/26/134	To receive an update in respect of phase 2 of the play area refurbishment.	<p>Cllr Wright reported that he has installed the required footfall counters. It was agreed that these should be read monthly.  <b>The clerk will collect the key from Cllr Wright so that she can read and record the footfall. In addition, the clerk will replace the batteries every six months.</b></p> <p>A team of volunteers planted the plants once building work had been completed.</p> <p>Cllr Wright notes that Earth Wrights have done a great job on the grass bank from phase 1.</p> <p>Some concern was raised about the joining of the tiger mulch between phase 1 and phase 2 at the small roundabout, but there is nothing that can be done.</p> <p>The headteacher at the school has asked if anything can be done about the grassed areas which are now churned up near the entrance. Councillors considered covering but this will mean that the grass won't re-establish itself, so it was suggested that some of the grassed areas are roped off for now and that the council consider re-seeding if necessary.  <b>Cllr Goddard volunteered to rope the area off so that people won't walk over it.</b></p> <p>It was noted that feedback about the play area has been really positive.</p> <p><b>The clerk will ensure that the required plaque is ordered and mounted in the playing field.</b></p>
2025/26/135	To receive an update in respect of the initiatives agreed at November's	It was noted that bin stickers are now available in the community shop for anyone who is happy to have bagged dog waste left in their bin.

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	meeting in respect of actions to reduce dog waste left on the ground in the village.	<p><b>Cllr Wright has 3-D printed dog waste bag dispensers, and he and Cllr Goddard will mount these throughout the village.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Bamford volunteered to add these to the Parish Online mapping system, for which the clerk will provide a log-in.</b></p>
2025/26/136	To consider the proposed closure of Torquay Police Station Custody Centre.	<p><b>Councillors considered the email from District Cllr Jane Taylor, in respect of the proposed pilot closure of Torquay Custody Centre, and RESOLVED to object to the proposal.</b></p> <p><b>The clerk will contact the Chief Constable and will put a post on Facebook to encourage parishioners to make their objections known.</b></p>
2025/26/137	To consider the request from Broadhempston Primary School for someone to talk to the children about how democracy in the local area works.	<p><b>Cllrs Wright and Goddard volunteered to attend on the afternoon of Friday 23 January 2026.</b></p>
2025/26/138	To consider the use of fireworks in the parish.	<p>Pet and livestock owners have asked that notification is given of planned fireworks so that preparation can be made in respect of keeping animals safe.</p> <p>Councillors agreed that the parish council blackboards be put out asking people to notify the council about any planned fireworks.</p> <p><b>Cllr Wright will pin a post on Shout Out Broadhempston ahead of New Year's Eve and he and Cllr Goddard will put the blackboards out on 27 December.</b></p> <p><b>The clerk will ensure that councillors are reminded of this again in September in preparation for Guy Fawkes fireworks.</b></p>
2025/26/139	Climate change emergency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bee Square.</li> <li>• Tree planting.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The clerk has not ordered seeds yet but will do.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Wright has discussed the planting of trees with the owner of the community woodland, and the clerk will invite him to the next meeting to discuss further.</b></p>
2025/26/140	Open spaces update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small playing field. Consider how to proceed in respect of tree maintenance.</li> <li>• Easterways play area.</li> <li>• Headlands.</li> </ul>	<p><b>It was RESOLVED that the clerk should seek quotes for the required tree work and arrange for the work to be carried out as soon as possible, and that Cllr Stevens will provide any detail required by contractors.</b></p> <p>The clerk is arranging for an inspection of the play area to take place, following the installation of the swing from the small playing field.</p> <p>The chair of Headlands committee attended to request that the council consider increasing the annual grant given to Headlands due to increasing costs (recent tree work cost £1,200).</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kings Close Field.</li> <li>• Community Orchard.</li> <li>• Allotments.</li> <li>• Car Park.</li> </ul>	<p>In addition, she reminded councillors that the council is now using a container at Headlands, which could have generated some income. She advised that, ideally, the committee request an increase of £500 on the current grant.</p> <p><b>The clerk will add this matter to the agenda for January.</b></p> <p>The resident whose fence was previously damaged by vehicles thanked the council for installing the posts in the car park</p>
2025/26/141	<p>Finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To agree payment of accounts.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>It was RESOLVED that payments should be approved. Clerk to make payments.</i></b></p> <p><b>All councillors were asked to look at the reports, created using the new financial system, and give the clerk feedback on what is useful and what else may be needed.</b></p>
2025/26/142	<p>Clerk's report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of actions in previous minutes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cllr Wright agreed to discuss rainwater storage with a parishioner who might be able to advise further on such a project for the allotments.</b> <b>The parishioner who advised on this is going to talk to a specialist and come back to Cllr Wright.</b></li> <li>• <b>Cllr Wright has arranged for the welding to be done to the mesh at the base of the basketball hoops, and it will be done shortly.</b> <b>Cllr Wright will chase this work.</b></li> <li>• <b>All councillors will check which bins need grit in them and report them to the clerk for action by DCC.</b> <b>Councillors were reminded of this requirement.</b></li> <li>• <b>Councillors to let clerk know of any other drains that need clearing.</b></li> <li>• <b>Cllr Clarke will ask whether the community shop is happy to give the kits to residents who request them and confirm to the clerk.</b> <b>Cllr Clarke advised that this matter will be considered at the next community shop meeting.</b></li> <li>• <b>It was noted that the self-seeded cherry tree in the allotments has outgrown its space.</b> <b>Cllr Wright and Cllr Stevens will inspect and either fell if necessary or prune.</b></li> </ul>
2025/26/143	Public question time.	
2025/26/144	<p>To note the date of the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thursday 8 January 2026.</b></li> </ul>	<p>This was noted and the meeting closed at 8.58pm.</p> <p><b>Councillors are reminded that they should all attend training on 14<sup>th</sup> January.</b></p>

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