

Minutes of the Meeting of Broadhempston Parish Council
Thursday 12 February 2026

Present: Cllrs Wright, Widger, Bamford, Stevens, Clarke, Goddard, Miles.

Also present: County Cllr Stuart Rogers
District Cllr Paul Parker
4 members of public
Cathy Aubertin (Clerk)

No	Subject	
2025/26/155	The Chair will open the meeting and receive apologies.	Cllr Wright opened the meeting at 7.34pm. Apologies received from Councillor White.
2025/26/156	To declare any interests at this meeting.	Cllr Wright noted that he carried out the land survey for the development of dwellings on land north of Easterways.
2025/26/157	Approval to consider, amend as agreed by the Council, and approve the minutes of the following meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 January 2026. 	<i>It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes.</i>
2025/26/158	<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"> • District Councillor report. • County Councillor report 	<p>A member of public mentioned that it was good to see that some of the potholes are being repaired.</p> <p>District Cllr Parker reported that he had attended a meeting about a master plan in Bradley Lane, and that 1100 responses have been received in this respect.</p> <p>He advised that Teignbridge District Council (TDC) is in the top 12 in the country for recycling.</p> <p>He further advised that TDC is starting work to stop illegal encampments in Newton Abbot.</p> <p>County Cllr Rogers advised that 27% of Devon County Council's (DCC) budget for 26-27 will be spent on child and adult care and that only 11% will be allocated for highways.</p> <p>He advised that a meeting is being arranged for 2.30pm on 17 March, to which the clerk will be invited, to look at grant funding for parish councils and officers will be given guidance on how to apply for funding.</p> <p>The follow-up meeting with the CEOs from DCC, TDC and Dartmoor National Park (DNP) will be held in Buckfastleigh on 24 April.</p>

CHAIR

DATE.....

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Councillor reports • Grounds maintenance work. • Parish Lengths-man work. 	<p>Cllr Rogers advised that parishioners should be encouraged to respond to the consultation in respect of the Local Government Review.</p> <p>He further advised that there is a shortage of foster care in Devon, which is resulting in children being sent to foster carers in other counties, which costs £200k per child. Cllr Rogers will provide posters for the council to display to encourage people to come forward to be foster parents.</p> <p>It was noted that the HATOC meeting will be held on 12 March and County Cllr Rogers asked that parish councillors let him know of any issues to be raised.</p> <p>It was further noted that DCC is looking at ways to identify where utility companies have carried out work which has resulted in damage and which impacts drainage at a later date.</p> <p>County Cllr Rogers will send on the DCC strategic plan for the next four years.</p> <p>In respect of the email from a parishioner, Cllr Bamford will call on the resident and arrange a time for he and Cllr Wright to go and help.</p>
2025/26/159	<p>To consider the following planning application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26/00127/CAN Poplar T1 - Fell because it recently lost one of its leaders and is constantly shading the branches, targeting the kids' playground. Walnut T2 - Prune the western aspect of the crown to maintain at least two metres of clearance from Chapel Cottage. K6 Telephone Kiosk At NGR 280153 66308 The Square Broadhempston • 25/01224/MAJ Outline application for the construction of up to 16 self or custom-build 	<p>Councillors support this application. Clerk to advise TDC.</p> <p>It was noted that the police response has asked for lighting. However, there is no street lighting in the village and councillors would like this to be maintained for the new development.</p>

CHAIR

DATE.....

	<p>dwellings (approval sought for access) Land North Of Easterways Broadhempston Devon</p>	<p>Concern was raised about the impact on drainage, bearing in mind the current issues in the village. Councillors asked that it is ensured that any surface drainage should not affect any nearby properties or the road, and that this is properly assessed and monitored. Further concern was raised about sewage going to the local pumping station, which doesn't cope with current capacity, and South West Water should be asked to review their response to the application.</p> <p>It was noted that further screening is required on the southern and eastern boundaries.</p> <p>Based on feedback from residents, there is a need for downsizing and affordable houses and bungalows rather than large family homes. Councillors would like to see covenants included to stop homeowners extending up or out.</p> <p>Clerk to draft a response for councillors to approve prior to submitting to TDC.</p>
2025/26/160	<p>To consider a subscription to office software that will allow the council to become more transparent.</p>	<p>Councillors postponed this item until next month.</p> <p>Cllr Wright will explore alternative options.</p>
2025/26/161	<p>To consider applications for parish grant funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadhempston Baby and Toddler Group. 	<p>Two representatives from the group attended to answer questions from councillors.</p> <p>They advised that there were previously 4-5 volunteers running the group, but those numbers have reduced to 2-3 and that continuing with the group is becoming difficult because of the low number of volunteers.</p> <p>Families attending vary from 5 to 25 and the attendees noted that attendance may be higher if someone is paid to facilitate the session for a couple of hours. A few people from the village attend, plus people from Dartington and Landscope.</p> <p>It was noted that the group is a benefit to the school and the community shop. However, it was also noted that some of the benefit will be for people who don't live in the village.</p> <p>It is hoped that the funding will stabilise the group for a year and allow funds to be accumulated for future years.</p> <p>Councillors considered the application and the comments from the attendees and RESOLVED that funding should be provided for a playgroup lead for 2.5 hours per week and for children's' snacks but not for the hire of the village hall. These items total £1,677.00. All councillors voted to appoint the playgroup lead and there was a majority vote to pay for snacks.</p> <p>The clerk will add this to the payments list for March 2026.</p>
2025/26/162	<p>To consider the request for additional waste bins in the village.</p>	<p>The request was considered but it was noted that there is no funding in the budget for this.</p> <p>Councillors RESOLVED to ask that TDC monitor Vicarage Cross to establish if a litter bin is needed there, and noted that, currently, dog waste is frequently left in the grit bin at this location.</p>

CHAIR

DATE.....

		<p>Clerk will make the request to TDC and respond to the parishioner.</p> <p>Cllr Bamford will talk to villagers who have stickers on their bins to see if they are happy for their bin to be put on a map.</p> <p><i>Following the installation of dog waste bag dispensers throughout the village, councillors RESOLVED that the clerk should order further bags to keep the dispensers topped up.</i></p>
2025/26/163	To consider the draft Tree Management Policy and to consider an initial inspection of all council-owned trees.	<p>Councillors considered the draft policy and RESOLVED that it should be adopted but, at this stage, for the Small Playing Field only, with further areas being added as trees mature.</p> <p>It was further RESOLVED that the clerk should arrange the first inspection as soon as possible, and that she should liaise with Headlands committee to see if inspection of trees are also required there.</p>
2025/26/164	To consider the information received from South West Water in respect of spillages from Broadhempston Sewage Treatment works for 2025.	<p>Having reviewed the figures, together with figures from previous years, it was RESOLVED that the clerk should approach Friends of the Dart to ask that someone attend a future council meeting to establish what the council can do to support the work of the group in respect of the Broadhempston Sewage Treatment Works.</p>
2025/26/165	To consider the roll out of broadband/ fibre in the parish.	<p>It was noted that things are improving but many people still have unreliable internet and phone lines. It was noted that the post office has been closed for three days because of poor connection. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should ask Martin Wrigley MP for clarity on how and when connection will be improved.</p>
2025/26/166	To consider next steps in respect of the Village Square project, including a review of the estimates received for the formation of parking bays in Kings Close Field.	<p>It was RESOLVED that the clerk should approach Teign Housing to ask for an updated valuation of the pavement and to ask if consideration could be given to the cost of purchasing, bearing in mind that this is a community project and will benefit all residents, including those in Teign Housing homes.</p> <p>The clerk will also update the working group and arrange a meeting of the group once the valuation of the pavement is received.</p> <p>The clerk will also seek clarity in respect of the estimates received.</p>
2025/26/167	To consider the Freedom of the Parish policy, a scheme that will recognise the contributions from people who have made an outstanding contribution to the parish.	<p>It was RESOLVED that the council WILL NOT adopt the policy, but that consideration will be given to cases as they arise.</p> <p>The clerk will contact the relatives of the person they wish to honour, possibly with the planting of a tree in the small playing field and seek advice on the type of tree that would be suitable for this.</p>
2025/26/168	To consider the format and when to hold the annual parish meeting.	<p>It was RESOLVED that the clerk should ask whether Martin Wrigley MP is able to attend and, following that, ask other organisations in the village to give an update.</p>

CHAIR

DATE.....

2025/ 26/169	Climate change emergency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bee Square. • Tree planting. 	<p>Cllr Clarke confirmed that the community shop is happy to give the bee saving kits away.</p> <p>The clerk will invite the owner to attend the next meeting. It was noted that the council would like to announce this initiative at the annual parish meeting.</p>
2025/ 26/170	Open spaces update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small playing field. To consider the quote for undertaking work to the fence and gate at the Square entrance. • To consider the request from Broadhempston Primary School to add small cost pegs to the fence. • Easterways play area. • Headlands. To consider concerns in respect of the access to the defib and the area being slippery in bad weather. • Kings Close Field. • Community Orchard. • Allotments. • Car Park. 	<p><i>It was RESOLVED to accept option 1 of the quote but to request that the council be permitted to pay for the wood directly, therefore enabling it to reclaim the VAT and save some money.</i></p> <p><i>It was RESOLVED that this would NOT be permitted as councillors are concerned about how sturdy the pegs are and that they may get broken off, leaving a health and safety risk.</i> The clerk will contact the school.</p> <p>By email, Cllr White advised that this work is schedule to be done.</p> <p>Cllr Wright will clarify what is planned and whether help will be required from the council.</p> <p>It was noted that some pruning is needed so a working party will be arranged by Cllr Wright.</p>
2025/ 26/171	Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To agree payment of accounts. 	<p><i>It was RESOLVED that payments should be approved.</i> Clerk to make payments.</p>
2025/ 26/172	Clerk's report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of actions in previous minutes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Cllr Wright has chased this working again. • Cllr Bamford volunteered to add the allotment plots, with plot numbers, to the council's mapping system and Cllr Wright agreed to provide the plans to facilitate this.
2025/ 26/173	<u>Public question time.</u>	

CHAIR

DATE.....

	CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – Public and press left the meeting room.	
2025/26/174	To discuss councillor training.	The importance of attending councillor training was considered by all. The clerk will contact Cllr White in this respect.
2025/26/175	If the Freedom of the Parish policy is adopted, to discuss a nomination from Cllr Wright for the award.	As the policy was not adopted, there is no further action to be taken.
2025/26/176	To note the date of the next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 12 March 2026. NOTE: Councillor training 7pm on 25 February 2026.	This was noted and the meeting closed at 10pm.

CHAIR

DATE.....