

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th August 2025 at 7.30.pm, at Bridgerule Village Hall.**

These minutes are provisional until signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.

**Present :**  Chairman: D Hale,

Councillors, F. Cogdell, J. McDougall, K. Bowditch, S. Whatmore, K. James, S. Cholwill

Apologies : M. Tape, J. Trayford, J. Philpott. DCC Cllr. L. Rowsell.

In Attendance : Clerk.

Public x 1

**Declarations of Interests:** The Chairman asked that interests be declared as they arise.

**3564. Public Open Question Time :**  DH said that due to Correspondence received , the member of the public could speak in reply to correspondence received.

**3565. County Councillors Report** : No report received.

**3565. District Councillors Report :** KJ had attended a meeting in TDC today, putting forward a positive case for TDC within the LGR plan. A representative from DCC was present. TDC did not want a big Unitary council for the whole of Devon and work and plans were still ongoing.

**3566. Council Meeting Minutes :** Minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2025 had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and were agreed by all present and signed by the chairman as correct. Proposed 1st, KB, 2nd JMD, all councillors in favour. Minutes of the EGM meeting held on the 5th August 2025 had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Apologies from FC had been omitted in error from these minutes, they had been amended post circulation to include, and the change was approved by councillors. Proposed 1st, SW, 2nd JMD, Minutes signed by the Chairman as correct.

**3567.**  **Matters Arising :** Some issues had been encountered when completing the TDC questionnaire or survey on LGR.

**3568:**  **To Receive Correspondence:** circulated to councillors prior to the meeting,

Received: email from resident regarding music noise levels and frequency at Glebe House. The resident wondered if any other properties in close proximity were affected and wished for advice in approaching the issue by them in a reasonable way. The granting of a music licence until 12.00am was also queried, given that Glebe House was in a residential area. The resident did not wish to make an official complaint. DH invited the member of the public to speak.

Mop said that as the owner of the property, it was a Wedding Venue and had relevant planning permission which it had complied with. The Music licence allowed for hours up to 2.am but they ceased at 12.00am. Around 3 years prior, Weddings held there were in a Marquee, but this was not sustainable, and they now had a Wedding barn, which had been soundproofed with windows opening on the East side only. They had a decibel meter to monitor noise levels. Wedding functions now averaged 2 per week. They had only received one other complaint.

They employ several local people and use local suppliers for catering and generate business for other local providers of accommodation for guests attending. One councillor living close by, said they did not hear any noise, but used to when the weddings were held in a marquee. Another mentioned a saxophone heard recently, and another said they and others could hear noise sometimes, further along the road, but it was not felt to be excessive. As no other complaints had been received, clerk to write to resident.

Member of the public left the meeting .

Letter of thanks received from SWAST, for donation of £100 to their appeal.

Email received from resident, former member of the Open Space group. Content discussed by councillors.

Bridgerule Open Space update- DH reported on the group to date here, as this was relevant to the correspondence. A new Risk Assessment had been prepared, discussion on validity, KB said it was a live document and had been adopted by the council previously. The group were planning to work on the hedge at the bottom, which needed cutting back and would allow more light to the site. A Mini- digger would be used to deal with and remove brambles which had now grown back. The group now had 7-8 volunteers. No access can be had currently from Under road to the site, but a gap had been noted in the hedge which may give access in future and could be used. The installation of a gate at the entrance was imminent, and funding for this had been previously approved by the council. The group had a bank account in their name from Nat West and were asking the council for a small donation to open the account. DH declared an interest and vacated the chair, at 8.05pm.

FC then chaired the meeting and councillors discussed. FC proposed that the council give the group £100, as this had been budgeted for, 1st, KJ, 2nd SW, chair asked for a show of hands, 6 for, 1 abstention. Motion carried. Clerk to write to group secretary.

**3567:** **Chairmans Report :** DH resumed the chair at 8.11pm. He had nothing to report this month.

**3568 :**  **Accounts and Accounts due for payment -** Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors,

Invoices this month, SC Garden Services, £240.00 for grass cutting

Current account balance agreed at £5939.24 on 31st July 2025.

Proposed 1st, FC, 2nd KB, show of hands, all councillors in favour.

**3569 : Playpark Update :** A quote for replacement fencing had been circulated. This would be for labour only as the materials required would be kindly donated by a local tradesperson. FC and PH would dismantle the existing fencing and remove. FC felt the Park should be closed whist this was being carried out, it was hoped it would be done by the end of next month. A closure notice would be placed on the park entrance when appropriate. All councillors agreed to accept the labour only quote, £1060.00, excl vat, £ option 1. Proposed 1st KB, 2nd KJ, sow of hands, all councillors in favour. FC will arrange .

Following the removal and demolition of the old bus shelter at the edge of the carpark, FC had obtained a quote for a new wooden bench and two planters for the area, of £350.00 for all. This would enhance the concrete base and the old wooden bench would be removed. A resident had offered to supply some plants. DH had soil that could be used. Proposed quote be accepted 1st JB, 2nd KJ, show of hands, all councillors in favour.

**3570: Vas Signs, Speedwatch Update and Highways :**

JT reported that a Speedwatch session was held during on the 15th August. 25 passing cars were recorded with none speeding.

Road closure – Wednesday 3rd September, anticipated for 1 day, B3254 Newacott Cross to Bevills Hill for pole replacements. Hours between 9.30am and 15.30pm.

SW provided Vas data for the month, Sign 1, Vicarage Hill,

15th July -18th August, 8073 passing vehicles, 6880 were travelling at speeds of over 20mph. 783 were travelling over 30mph which equates to 1 in 11. Average speed was 23.8mph, and maximum speed recorded 49.6 mph.

Sign 2, Middle Road, recorded 6532 passing vehicles, 413 speeding which equates to 1 in 16. Average speed recorded was 21.8 mph and maximum speed recorded was 46.3mph.

It was noted that the battery at the sign at Middle road, needed recharging a week before the Vicarage road sign.

Potholes and the poor road condition at Aquarius on the road to Dux to Furze farm and near to Furze cross was noted and needed reporting.

Clerk had received call from NHO regarding the grit bin at Littlebridge and potential funding. Councillors agreed to ask CC if it was possible for a contribution towards this.

**3571****: Grassed Area at Littlebridge :** A post had been placed on the Bridgerule FB page regarding maintenance of the area. DH confirmed that the garden contractor cuts and maintains the grass at council expense and had inspected the fence. It was not confirmed who owned the fence and the council may have to contribute to the costs of replacing with the adjoining owners, as the posts had rotted. Councillors discussed. Westward Housing own the alleyway leading to the shop. Cllr JT had in the past cut back some vegetation.

**3572 :** V**illage Hall/Shop Update :**  The Hall was continuing to do well and continued with regular bookings.

The shop had had a couple of very busy days last weekend, with record sales on Friday and Saturday. The committee were discussing future staffing of the shop.

**3573 : Clerks Report :** The free First Aid course was booked for Saturday 4th October, at the hall. SC would advertise in the next Buzz edition. Electoral Register changes this month, 1 deletion and 2 creations. Clerk had attended the DALC summer meeting on the 31st July.

**3574 :** **Exchange of Information :** Some concerns expressed regarding parking at Littlebridge, a car was parking on the pavement, nearby to junctions and a lorry was contributing to limiting access to entrances at early evening and overnight. Clerk to report to Holsworthy rural police team.

Problems with pavement obstructions were reported at 1 Bailey Terrace, rubbish and refuse containers were left permanently on the pavement and preventing those with pushchairs and other pedestrians from using the pavement, having to use the road with passing traffic. Clerk to write to resident in first instance. TDC policy was put out refuse for collection by 7.00am on the day of collection.

**3575 : Meeting closed at 8.51 pm :** Date of next meeting Tuesday 16th September at 7.30 pm.

**Signed by Meeting Chairman : …………………………………………………………………………………..**

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| **Date of signing : …………………………………………………………………………………….** |
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