

BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th October 2025 at 7.00pm **in Scoriton Village Hall**

Present – Cllrs Brent (Chairman), Feasey , Knowling , Le Marchant , Owen and Rolls
Dist Cllr Pannell and Clerk - Karen Gilbert.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - The applicants on 0090/25 Extension to dwelling approved by application 0281/24 (change of use of barn to dwelling) at Dribble Park Barn, Scoriton, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0JB attended the meeting to explain the reasoning behind the proposed extension and also the planning process involved to date

DEVON COUNTY

On Cllr Thomas's behalf , Cllr Pannell gave a brief update on the Local Government review from the Devon County perspective

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Local Government Reorganisation update

Public engagement sessions are still ongoing in the South Hams, finishing on 29 October at Marldon. SHDC will submit our *Case for Change* document, supporting our 4-5-1 proposal to Government on 28 November.

The feedback from the sessions will be combined with the results of the survey and social media comments to help inform the final plan we submit to Government and any future communication, including updated FAQs.

In the light of the timetable for reorganisation, with the Government not announcing its proposals for reorganisation until the Spring, it is expected that elections for the Shadow new unitary authorities will not now take place until May 2027. This would mean that the District Councils, including SHDC, would run on until April 2028, with the new authorities becoming effective at the same time.

Residents can have their say in our online survey at www.southhams.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation

South Hams Energy Assembly

Sustainable South Hams, South Dartmoor Community Energy and South Hams District Council are excited to be hosting the 2025 South Hams Energy Assembly alongside Octopus Energy.

Messages for residents:

- The event takes place on 18 October at Kingsbridge Community College.
- Spaces are limited so [book your space online here](#).
- The event aims to connect, support and inspire action to accelerate the transition to energy resilience in the South Hams.
- Sustainable South Hams is bringing together community organisations, councillors, rural businesses, housing associations and other local decision makers and interested individuals, together with experts from local energy organisations, installers and related companies.

DNPA - Full report available from Clerk

NEW DNP CEO

The process to appoint a new DNPA Chief Executive to replace Kevin Bishop is underway, the post is advertised and we hope to be in a position to confirm the new person by December. Kevin has agreed to delay his departure until the end of our financial year in March, to take account of notice periods and ensure a smooth handover.

POTENTIAL WATERING DOWN OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPES RULES

National Parks England have written to the Secretary of State Emma Reynolds expressing deep concern that Government may seek to water down or repeal the Protected Landscapes Duty in pursuit of housing and infrastructure targets. This is an essential structural mechanism to help improve our national resilience, recover nature, clean up our water and respects, restores and enhances Englands most loved landscapes

More information is available on the DNPA website

25/10/01 Apologies for absence - County Cllr Thomas

25/10/02 Approval of Minutes - The Minutes of the regular meeting held on 2nd September 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record

25/10/03. Declarations of interest - None **Dispensation requests** None

25/10/04- PC admin

a) To consider any Co-option requests and note any publicity of the Vacancy - **NONE**

Cllr Feasey provided the meeting with a draft IT Policy the contents of which were briefly discussed It was **AGREED** that Councillors and Clerk consider the Policy with a view to bringing it back to the October meeting for adoption

ACTION ; CLLRS/CLERK TO REVIEW IT POLICY

The Clerk confirmed she was now **only** communicating through the .gov emails

The Police report was **NOTED** and briefly discussed

25/10/05 - Clerks Report

The Clerk confirmed that Simon Birbeck had agreed to maintain the War Memorial area
The Council would like to thank Grahams Garden Services for the excellent work over the years

Cllr Feasey advised that the pads / battery for the existing Defibrillator had suddenly been delivered after a wait of 6 months . It was **AGREED** to go ahead with the purchase of a new model - should the machine be used it would require further leads / battery to put it back into service - It was not felt wise to take the risk of any further delays.

25/10/06- Planning

NO OBJECTION	Prior Approval	Bilberry Hill Merrifield Road, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0HD	Erection of agricultural storage barn
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Re-consulting on 0090/25

Extension to dwelling approved by application 0281/24 (change of use of barn to dwelling) at Dribble Park Barn, Scorriton, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0JB

Following the presentation by the applicants and also considerable debate , it was AGREED that the original comments still stood - namely

Buckfastleigh West P.C. discussed this at our meeting last night. There were concerns amongst all Councillors about increasing the footprint of the barn and all considered it best if this did not happen. The reasons were because the character of the old barn would be spoilt by any form of extension and that it may create an unwelcome precedent for both future and past barn conversions within the DNP.

25/10/07 Finance - Approval of cheques - AGREED by all

KAREN GILBERT	CLERKS EXPENSES / STAT 09/25	£48.00
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The Clerk advised that previous attempts to change the signatories to the Bank had seemingly been “misplaced “ by the Bank

A further form was completed at this meeting for onward transmission

IT should be **NOTED** that the remainder of the Meeting was affected by a power cut ,
Cllr Feasey left the meeting

25/10/08 Councillor reports

a) **Tree Warden report.** - No report

b) **Councillors reports from other meetings. Footpaths Warden Report.** - No report.

c) 25/10/09 - Village Matters

a) **Highways** - No specific issues were mentioned

b) **Village Hall** - No update

25/10/10. Date/time of next meeting - 4th November 2025

There being no further business the meeting was closed at. 8.10pm