

BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd February 2026 at 7.00pm in Scoriton Village Hall

Present – Cllrs Brent (Chairman) , Feasey , Le Marchant Knowling and Owen
Clerk - Karen Gilbert. - District Cllr Guy Pannell and County Cllr Dan Thomas

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

DEVON COUNTY

Cllr Thomas explained the process surrounding the Local Government Re-organisation and advised that every household will be receiving a leaflet showing all the proposals put forward to the Government for consideration

A Public consultation will commence on 5th February and last for seven weeks

Cllr Thomas and the Parish Council - hope that the Parishioners will take part

CLLR THOMAS LEFT THE MEETING

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Upcoming Consultations and Engagement Activity

February - Parking Permit Review: statutory consultation required by legislation to consult on the changes to parking permits.

February & March – LGR: Government run consultation on Local Government Reorganisation proposal(s) for Devon. Expected to start mid February and will run for 7 weeks.

TBC March - Local Plan: Engaging with statutory consultees to formally announce our intention to start a new local plan followed by a 6 to 8 weeks engagement process. Waiting for Government information.

Government cuts funding for SHDC

The Government's "Fair" Funding Review has seen the Council fall into the category of being the worse impacted in the country, where only 95% of the Council's previous levels of funding have been guaranteed by the Government in 2027/28 and 2028/29. This is a reduction in Government funding of £2.671m in 28/29 for example – a 41% reduction. The final Finance Settlement will be laid in Parliament in early February 2026. The Council is currently forecasting a £2.65m budget gap by the following year, 2027/28. The cumulative aggregated Budget Gap by 2028/29 is £6.96m, if no action has been taken in each individual year to close the budget gap annually.

Storm response

Our teams have been working with the resilience forum working in partnership in response to the most recent storms across Slapton, Torcross and Beesands. Strong winds and waves affected several locations, with surface erosion at the Memorial car park in Slapton and storm damage to Torcross toilet block and car park.

Strete Gate toilets have remained open throughout and Torcross Tank toilets were reopened on Thursday following electrical and drainage checks carried out by our property service teams, and a deep cleaned required by our cleansing team. Roof repairs will need to be carried out at Torcross Tank toilets in due course. Our waste and street cleansing team have also provided assistance to the residents with tackling the clear up.

DNPA NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Following our recent assessment process, I am pleased to confirm that we have appointed Tom Surrey as our next Chief Executive.

Tom is joining us from the Department of Health and Social Care, where he has served as Director of Adult Social Care Workforce and Policy for the past five years. Previously, Tom led the delivery of policy, strategy and legislation for National Parks, Forestry, Common Land and Rights of Way at DEFRA as well as spells in Housing, Local Government and the Cabinet Office. Tom has strong ties to Dartmoor with family members living in the area.

Tom will take up his new position from Wednesday 18 March 2026.

We thank Kevin Bishop for his 18 years of dedicated service as CEO of DNPA and wish him all the best for the future

26/02/01 Apologies for absence - Cllr Rolls - APPROVED

26/02/02 Approval of Minutes - The Minutes of the regular meeting held on 2nd December 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record

26/02/03. Declarations of interest - None

Dispensation requests None

26/02/04- PC admin

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

b) To adopt an IT policy -

Cllr Feasey presented a draft for comment and amendment where necessary

It was agreed that the updated version be presented to the MARCH meeting for adoption

ACTION ; IT POLICY ADOPTION DEFERRED TO 03/26

c) To agree the date of Annual Parish Council and Speaker if required (suggested 7/4/26)

The date was agreed 7th April 2026 - The Clerk was asked to make enquiries re one potential speaker and the Councillors to give the matter thought

ACTION ; CLERK/CLLRS TO SEEK SPEAKER FOR APM

d) Update re replacement defibrillator

Cllr Feasey explained that the new Defibrillator was in place at the Tradesmans Arms

A suggestion was made that the old machine - in perfect working order but subject to difficulty obtaining pads etc within next 2 years - be placed in the ex BT box in Combe

A heated cabinet would be required - but the Parish Council would plan to replace the machine in the not too distant future .

ACTION ; CLLRS TO ASSESS SUITABILITY OF BOX AND REPORT BACK IN 3/26

26/02/05 - Clerks Report

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Highways to clear buddle holes on the road past Mitchelcroft - **DONE**

She also had contacted Scoriton Village Hall to get the rental rate on recent invoices

reduced the rate advertised but it should be noted that the rate may increase in the future

The Clerk reminded the Chairman again of the need to switch to the dedicated email address

26/02/06- Planning - NONE

26/02/07. Finance - Approval of cheques - AGREED by all

KAREN GILBERT	EXPENSES 12/25 AND 1/26	82.00
SLCC	SUBS PART	50.00
SCORITON VILLAGE HALL	RENT 23 - 3/26 INCL	240.00

26/02/08 Councillor reports

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

26/02/09 - Village matters

- a) **Highways** -It was **NOTED** that The Parish was in need of a suitable Gritting machine for use by the Snow warden .
- b) **Village Hall** - No update

26/02/10. Date/time of next meeting - 3RD MARCH 2026 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at. 7.45pm