

BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

The Parish Council held one minutes silence to the memory of Tony Colwill who had recently passed away . Tony had given over 50 years to the community through his service as Parish Councillor

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

DEVON COUNTY - FULL REPORT AVAILABLE FROM THE CLERK

February and March have marked a significant moment for Devon. After months of scrutiny, debate and difficult decisions, the County Council has now agreed its 2026–27 budget. This is our first full budget of the new administration, and it sets a clear direction: stabilising essential services, repairing what has been neglected, and investing in the foundations that keep Devon moving. As you'd expect from a budget of over £2 billion, it has taken a long time to get to this point.

£19 Million Extra for Devon's Roads

The headline for many residents will rightly be highways.

This year's budget includes an additional £15 million investment in Devon's roads, alongside a commitment to maintain £10 million per year in additional funding over the following five years. This is a major shift in approach. For too long, highways funding has been reactive and insufficient, leading to a cycle of patching rather than repairing.

The extra funding will allow us to move beyond emergency pothole filling and begin tackling structural deterioration in a more strategic way. That means more resurfacing, more preventative maintenance, and more drainage work to stop water destroying road foundations in the first place.

After one of the worst winters on record for storm damage, this investment is both timely and essential. While it will not fix every problem overnight, it represents a serious and sustained commitment to improving the condition of Devon's roads.

At the same time, an extra £4 million of revenue funding will allow us to fix the potholes that we have now, as well as addressing the regular issue of blocked culverts, grips and buddle holes in quicker order.

LGR

At the same time, we continue to face uncertainty around Local Government Reorganisation and future national funding reforms. Large rural counties like Devon are still disadvantaged by the current funding formula. We will continue pressing for a fairer settlement that reflects the real cost of delivering services across a geographically large and dispersed county.

Two Labour-run councils up country have openly said that they will not be cooperating with the government on LGR. In the face of cancelled and then un-cancelled elections in Exeter and 29 other areas, it's looking more and more of a possibility that the government are about to U-turn on LGR.

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL - FULL REPORT AVAILABLE FROM CLERK

LGR Government consultation

The Government has now launched its formal consultation on Local Government Reorganisation proposals in Devon.

The consultation will run for seven weeks, closing on Thursday 26 March.

A single website containing all the proposals can be found at www.devonlgr.co.uk

SHDC is encouraging town and parish councils to submit a response to the consultation.

Fixed penalty notices

We've now issued our first Fixed Penalty Notices for abandoned vehicles and will continue to take action where necessary.

We're taking enforcement action where necessary against people who abandon their vehicles. Abandoning a vehicle is an offence and may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice under the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act, or further enforcement action.

Please dispose of vehicles responsibly.

Garden waste subscriptions

A reminder that it's time for residents to renew their subscription to the garden waste subscription service. Early bird renewal costs £70 if subscribed before 1 April 2026.

The price from 1 April will be £73.

The new subscription year runs from 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2027.

Renew subscriptions by card payment on our website.

The annual cost applies for fortnightly collections, excluding the weeks over the Christmas period when the service is suspended.

If you have decided not to renew this year, you will no longer receive garden waste collections from 1 April 2026.

DNPA

Guy Pannell updated the council on matters affecting Dartmoor and also advised that the new CEO will join the Authority in Mid March

26/03/01 Apologies for absence - C Cllr Thomas. Cllr Knowling

26/03/02 Approval of Minutes - The Minutes of the regular meeting held on 3rd February 2026 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record

26/03/03. Declarations of interest - None

Dispensation requests None

26/03/04- PC admin

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

b) To adopt an IT policy and confirm that website has been updated (assertion 10)

IT Policy **ADOPTED** and Privacy Policy posted to website

The Clerk asked that the Accessibility Policy be added to the website along with a Policies tab - to enable adopted policies to be listed online

c) To adopt a Internal controls Policy and Financial regulations - **ADOPTED**

d) To receive an update on arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting - 7/4/26

The Clerk confirmed she has sent an invitation to the new CEO of DNPA but had not heard back . Cllr Pannell kindly offered to make suitable enquiries

e) Update re replacement defibrillator - Cllr Feasey to progress

26/03/05 - Clerks Report

It was suggested that a suitable position be sought to accommodate a plaque marking the years of service given to the Parish and its residents by the late Tony Colwill

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

26/03/06- Planning

0055/26	Wotton Farm, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0HB	Erection of barn for machinery storage and livestock
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NO OBJECTION

26/03/07. Finance - Approval of cheques - AGREED by all

KAREN GILBERT	EXPENSES 2/26	45.39
INFORMATION COMM OFFICE	ANNUAL RENEWAL FEE	52.00

b) to consider request for grant to Graveyard

The Clerk was asked to look back at the Councils records before a decision was made

26/03/08 Councillor reports

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

26/03/09 - Village matters

- a) **Highways** - Various issues were discussed and the Chairman recommended that Councillors and residents should report defects online using the following link

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem>

- b) **Village Hall** - A Trustees meeting had recently taken place

26/03/10. Date/time of next meeting - 7th April 2026 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at. 7.40 pm