

BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th April 2026 at 7.45pm **in Scoriton Village Hall**

Present – Cllrs Brent (Chairman) , Feasey , Knowling , Le Marchant , Owen and Rolls
Clerk - Karen Gilbert. and District Cllr Guy Pannell (left 7.55pm)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

DEVON COUNTY - FULL REPORT AVAILABLE FROM THE CLERK

Highways

I have been able to introduce 2 projects to the department, with a third about to start:

The 'Common Sense' pothole trial

This ran across 2 electoral divisions in 2025 (1 urban, 1 rural) where the process was that for every pothole reported that met the safety criteria (300mm by 40mm vertical edge), the team would be empowered to fix other defects that did not (meet the criteria). So enthused were the gangs that they decided to use a range of 500m in either direction or to the nearest junction. In practical terms, this is too costly and too large an area. In 2026, a larger version of the trial will run across 7 divisions where the gangs will be asked to follow the 'reasonable person' test, ie would the public reasonably expect you to mend that pothole while you are there as well as this one. Locations will be picked on pothole data as well as those areas high in elderly, disabled and/or pregnant road users, who are disproportionately affected by poor road surfaces.

The Parish Protocol

We are in the process of employing a member of staff specifically to run the PP, which will support towns and parishes to buy bespoke schemes of work from DCC – this will include 20mph zones, parish white lining remarks, zebra crossings, extra road signage – anything in short that the county either does not feel is essential or which it has budgeted for, but not within the time frame requested by the Town or Parish Council.

The Fast Response Squads. These will be set up for 2026/27 as four geographically based teams with a short work programme, meaning that Councillors and their Neighbourhood Highways Officers will be able to get some quick results in areas that are causing particular issues for a community. This is precisely the short of rapid response that will help to change the 'Computer says no' belief that many have about the Highways Department.

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL - FULL REPORT AVAILABLE FROM CLERK

Crisis and Resilience Fund

Support for Low-Income Households with heating oil costs

The Government announced additional funding for heating oil to be delivered through the Crisis and Resilience Fund, due to the ongoing global events. South Hams' share of the funding from Devon County Council is £108,889. This funding is intended to go to low-income households experiencing a financial shock due to the spike in the cost of heating oil. The Benefits team have been contacting residents where existing datasets suggest they meet the eligibility criteria of the scheme and will fast-track these applications.

Further information can be found on our website www.southhams.gov.uk/crisis-resilience-fund and we would be grateful if you could make residents aware of the scheme. Officers are working on a delivery plan for the other strands of the Crisis and Resilience Fund and will provide further updates shortly.

Fusion Lifestyle and our leisure centres

Fusion Lifestyle, the operator of South Hams and West Devon leisure centres, has announced it has gone into administration. We have now awarded a short-term contract to Parkwood Leisure to operate our leisure centres. A national operator, Parkwood also runs leisure centres in Torbay and North Devon.

We are working closely with Fusion's administrator and Parkwood to ensure that the centres, their staff, swim school, fitness classes and memberships continue without any interruption and transfer seamlessly over to Parkwood.

26/04/01 Apologies for absence -None

26/04/02 Approval of Minutes - The Minutes of the regular meeting held on 3rd March 2026 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record

26/04/03. Declarations of interest - None

Dispensation requests None

26/04/04- PC admin

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

b) Update re replacement defibrillator - One quote had been obtained and Cllr Feasey confirmed he would attempt to obtain one more

ACTION - AGENDA ITEM 05/26

c) Website compliance - correct email usage

It was confirmed that the Chairman was now in a position to switch to the [.gov.uk](mailto:info@southhams.gov.uk) email address

Cllr Feasey advised that the Council now operated within the scope laid out in the Assertion 10 guidance

The Clerk requested that the accessibility Policy and also the Council's adopted Policies should be on the Website (NOTE - these had previously been uploaded but had disappeared when there had been problems with the website)

ACTION : CHAIR TO SWITCH TO .gov EMAIL ADDRESS

ACTION ; CLLR FEASEY TO UPDATE THE WEBSITE

26/04/05 - Clerks Report

The Clerk confirmed that the Accounts / Audit would be presented in May

26/04/06- Planning

0101/26	Full Planning Permission - Householder	Tan Yr Onen, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0HP	New logia to sou
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NO OBJECTION

26/04/07. Finance - Approval of cheques - AGREED by all

KAREN GILBERT	EXPENSES 3/26	41.00
BUCKFAST METHODIST CHURCH	GRAVEYARD MAINTENANCE S137.	250.00
DALC	SUBS 26/27	114.95

26/04/08 Councillor reports

- a) **Tree Warden report.** - No report
- b) **Councillors reports from other meetings.** No report
- c) **Footpaths Warden Report.** - NOTHING OF NOTE

26/04/09 - 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** - REPORT GIVEN AT APM

26/04/10. Date/time of next meeting - 5th MAY 2026 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting was closed at. 8.36 pm