

BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th July 2026 at 7.00pm **in Scoriton Village Hall**

Present – Cllrs Brent (Chairman) ,Knowling and Owen
Clerk - Karen Gilbert. and District Cllr David Hancock left 7.25pm)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - A Trustee from the Village Hall was present to explain the current situation . It was confirmed that there were still 2 Trustees in post and that steps were in place to encourage Volunteers to come forward to form a Management Committee The Trustee advised she would keep the Parish Council informed

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL - FULL REPORT AVAILABLE FROM CLERK

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government intends to announce its decision on the shape of Local Government Reform in Devon before the Summer Parliamentary Recess, which begins on 17th July. We wait with interest. It seems likely that the Town and Parish Councillors elected in May next year will hold their seats for five years. This is so future elections can continue to be synchronised with elections for the Unitary Councils.

This will save Officer time and considerable expenditure. The Unitaries will also sit for five years for their first term, as for the first year (2027-28) they will be Shadow Authorities, setting up the new bodies ready to take over in April 2028. From 2032 elections for these and for Town and Parish Councils will revert to a four-yearly

Crisis and Resilience Fund

Councillors are encouraged to help raise awareness of the Crisis and Resilience Fund with residents who may be struggling financially.

The fund is designed to support low-income households in the South Hams who are facing an unexpected financial shock, such as a sudden loss of income, the breakdown of an essential household item, or another urgent cost they cannot afford.

- The fund can also provide housing support, financial advice and wider services to help people avoid future crises and build longer-term resilience.
- Residents must be aged 16 or over and live in the South Hams as their main home.
- If councillors are contacted by residents in need of support, they can encourage them to check the eligibility criteria and apply online using this link southhams.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/other-available-support/crisis-and-resilience-fund

The team understands that not all residents are able to complete online applications. We can provide support by telephone and, longer term, we hope to develop a face-to-face offering.

If Members have any general questions or queries, please email the team on CrisisandResilienceFund@swdevon.gov.uk

The Chairman brought to the District Councillor's attention , the fact that one of the Live West homes had been empty for some time - with no attempt to seek interested parties

In addition a further was soon to be vacated and possibly another might well lose its tenants The Clerk had contacted Live West twice but had received no explanation as to the lack of replacement tenants

It was feared that these homes might be sold on the open market

Cllr Hancock advised he would make suitable enquiries

26/07/01 Apologies for absence - C.Cllr Thomas , Cllr Rolls (next day)

Cllrs Le Marchant and Feasey - absent

26/07/02 Approval of Minutes - The Minutes of the regular meeting held on 6th May 2026 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record

26/07/03. Declarations of interest - None. **Dispensation requests** None

26/07/04- PC admin

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

b) Update re replacement defibrillator cabinet - deferred until 09/26

c) To discuss current arrangements at Scoriton Village Hall and the Trustees plans for the future - dealt with during Public participation

26/07/05 - Clerks Report

The Clerk enquired re progress on POW stone . The Chairman advised that a site had been suggested but that he needed to consult a Parishioner to confirm its suitability

It was **AGREED** that authority for decisions / payments (up to £500) be delegated to the Clerk in association with the Chair during the Summer recess

26/07/06- Planning

DNPA Notice of Intention to Commence Local Plan Preparation. - NOTED

26/07/07. Finance - Approval of cheque - AGREED by all

KAREN GILBERT	EXPENSES 5/26 & 6/26 & stat	£96.00
---------------	-----------------------------	--------

26/07/08 Councillor reports

a) Tree Warden report. - No report

b) Councillors reports from other meetings. Cllr Knowling advised that the preparations for the Scoriton Show were underway but that more Volunteers would be welcomed

c) Footpaths Warden Report. - NOTHING OF NOTE

26/07/09 - Village matters

a) Highways - Recent resurfacing works were NOTE

b) Village Hall - REPORT GIVEN EARLIER

b) 26/07/10. Date/time of next meeting - 8TH SEPTEMBER 2026

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

There being no further business the meeting was closed at. 8.00 pm