

DRAFT MINUTES

OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at 19.25 Monday 5 May 2026

At Bishopsteignton Community Centre, Shute Hill



2605.01 MEETING GOVERNANCE

.01 **Attendance:** Cllr. H. Merritt Cllr. D. Dixon Cllr. R. Gateshill
Cllr. R. Gill Cllr. J. Grimble Cllr. J. Hooper
Cllr. A. Keohane (7/10)
PCSO. S. Bunce – arrived at 20.10, left at 20.25, approximately.
Clerk: Mrs. K. Ford,
& 4 members of the public at varying times.

Apologies: Cllr. D. Robbins, Cllr. Myers & Cllr. W. Vooght (3/10)

Absent, no apologies: District Cllr. A. MacGregor, County Cllr. T. Dempster

.02 **Declaration of Interests:** Cllr. Hooper for agenda item 2605.06 Highways as the location referred to is adjacent to his property, as listed on his declaration of interests.

.03 **Order of Business:** Agenda item 2605.09 Public Participation shall be moved to the meeting after 2605.02 Member Co-option, to allow members of the public to raise queries prior to the full council meeting.

.04 **Ratification of Minutes:** Draft minutes of the Full Council meeting, held on 02.03.26, were considered. It was proposed and seconded that these be approved as a true and correct record. Agreed unanimously therefore **resolved to approve** and to be signed by the Chair.

2605.02 MEMBER CO-OPTION

.01 Three application for co-option had been received before the deadline. The clerk confirmed the eligibility of each candidate.
It was proposed by Cllr. Merritt, seconded by Cllr. Grimble that the co-option be deferred to an extraordinary meeting, date to be arranged, where all candidates and all councillors are present. This was unanimously agreed, therefore RESOLVED. Clerk to arrange a meeting and advise all councillors and candidates accordingly.

2605.09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

.01 A member of the public raised concerns over the recent ground works in the field between the Coombes Road East and the A380, opposite Wear Farm. It was established this land is not within the parish of Bishopsteignton, it is Kingsteignton. Enquiries were raised with our District Councillor, Cllr. A. Macgregor and he is investigating. Planning permission has been granted for agricultural buildings however during the planning process an ecological survey was not provided. Cllr. Merritt to raise this with Cllr. MacGregor for an update.

.02 A member of the public asked if an update on the situation with the property known as Higher Green, Fore Street. As this has been vacant for at least 18 months. The clerk will email TDC Housing department for an update, Cllr. Merritt to raise the issue with Cllr. MacGregor.

.03 A member of the public wished to commend BPC on all its endeavours and the time committed to make the parish a great place to live however felt this was not publicised well enough and that most parishioners do not understand what the council do. He felt that parishioner deserved to know more about the decisions being made and the outcome of all BPC deliberations; perhaps

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through members giving reports in the Parish Chronicle or social media. He gave examples of other local council reaching out to their parishioners via newsletters and articles in local publications. It was agreed that communication should be improved and that this matter required further consideration at a future meeting.

2605.03 OFFICIAL REPORTS

.01 **Police Report:** PCSO. Bunce had provided a written crime reports for April which had been circulated to members and included in the appendix pack for this meeting.

PCSO. Bunce indicated that the continuation of monthly PACT session was under threat, so it was important to continue to promote these to parishioners.

He indicated an increase in theft from farms such as hand tools such as petrol strimmers and chainsaws (easy to transport), quad bikes (stolen to order), etc. To farms and other similar businesses forensic marks is available. Owners to make contact with PCSO. Bunce for further details.

.02 **District Councillors Report:** Cllr. MacGregor had provided the following written report:

- Update on EHRC Code of Practice for services, public functions and associations. This follows on from the judgement provided by the UK Supreme Court in respect of definitions for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010, in favour of 'For Women Scotland'

That judgment specified that for the purposes of the Act, the terms man and woman (men and boys, women and girls) were defined as biological sex – male and female.

Teignbridge received an update from the Legal Team at the LGA regarding the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)Code of Practice, which is as follows:

"Dear Colleagues,

We refer to the above matter and our last update of 25th September 2025. You will recall that the EHRC submitted a draft update of its Code of Practice for services, public functions and associations to the Minister for Women and Equalities, on 4 September 2025. The EHRC recently received feedback on the updated Code from the UK government.

"Dr Mary-Ann Stephenson, Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, said:

"Progress is being made towards accurate and up-to-date guidance on the Equality Act 2010 being available to service providers, associations and those exercising public functions. The UK government recently provided us with a narrow set of comments on the draft Code of Practice we submitted in September. Having considered this feedback alongside consultation responses and further legal analysis, we have made adjustments where they help the Code provide legally accurate, practical guidance that is useful to duty bearers"

Questions were raised in the House of Lords Chamber session hearing yesterday, 14 April 2026, at which Dr Stephenson was present, about when the revised Code will be laid in Parliament. The government responded that it will be laid in Parliament following the 6 May 2026 local government elections.

- Memorial Service for Cllr Mike James. Since the last meeting Dawlish South Councillor Mike James passed away and his funeral and service are on 11th May 2026 at St Agatha's Church in Dawlish. He had been a councillor previously and some may know him.
- Renters Rights come into effect on the 1st May 2026. Landlords who were contemplating evictions using existing frameworks had until the close of play on the 30th April to lodge intent with the tenant. Any eviction that follows from that must be carried out by the 20th July 2026 or the eviction lapses. We are awaiting detailed explanations of all the implications for landlords and tenants, and I have asked for

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information on specifically ‘Landlord in residence’ situations – where a room is rented in a home or someone is ‘sofa-surfing’ at a friends or family member’s home.

- Slow progress on the assets at present. The district is still looking at transferring some toilets and other cost-based assets. We’ve been reminded that we are not to get involved in any negotiations with third parties or on behalf of third parties.
- The Household Support Fund is effectively closed as of today (Thursday 30th April) A new Crisis and Resilience Fund is expected, but as of this report, there is no indication of when it is available from. The HSF provided short term support for household emergency financial difficulty encountered by householders.
- The Government have sent a letter stating the Government’s aim to improve health using high street locations. As yet details on that and how it is to be achieved are not available, however it does fly in the face of the NHS withdrawal from exactly these kinds of projects in Teignmouth and Newton Abbot in the last 4 years.
- Food and Drink cartons, known as Tetrapaks are now being collected as part of kerbside recycling collections. These are to be placed in the black recycling tubs. It is a soft launch due to the capacity issues at the depot, but once that is resolved there will be a more broad-based system.
- The Local Plan has been brought forward for adoption for May’s Full Council meeting. As a reminder, changes to policy mean the subsequent new Local Plan preparation has already commenced and will reflect the higher targets expected by the Government.
- I have lodged a motion to have TDC apply to Natural England to have the Teign Estuary declared a national landscape. It’ll help with developing the new local plan.
- There are to be a number of changes to the constitution at TDC. One that might be worth noting is that any member of the parish wants to lodge a question, the deadline now is 5 working days prior to the meeting (it used to be 3 working days).

.03 **County Councillors Report:** Cllr. Dempster had not provided a written or verbal report.

2605.04 FINANCE

.01 Payments:

It was proposed, seconded, agreed unanimously, and therefore RESOLVED that the payments transacted by the clerk across the period 01.03.26 to 30.04.26, be approved retrospectively.

.02 Financial Statements:

- a. A financial statement for the period ending 31.03.26 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair.
- b. A financial statement including virement report for BPC funds at 01.04.26 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair.
- c. A financial statement for the period ending 30.04.26 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair.

.03 BPC Grant Awarding:

Members considered applications received for the first quarter of 2026-27. Following discussion members proposed, seconded, and resolved the grants as detailed below:

| Applicant | Amount requested & purpose | Amount awarded |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Friends of the River Teign | £500 Water quality testing | £500 From NL Climate Action earmarked fund. |

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| Bishopsteignton Scouts | £500 Kanderstag jamboree 2027 | £500 |
| Bishopsteignton Village Hall | £500 Radiation covers | £300 |
| Total Awarded | | £1,300 |

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that £300 should be transferred from general reserves and earmarked for further grants across the year.

2605.05 COUNCIL STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE

.02 **Policies:** The following policy has been updated in accordance with any legislative changes for council review. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to adopt, subject to the correction of minor clerical errors and some sentence structure:

- a. Risk Management Policy (P.039)
- b. Internal Controls Policy (P.040)
- c. Scheme of Delegation (P.011)

2605.06 HIGHWAYS

Members consider the plans indication extensions to double yellow lines (DYL) on Teignview Road to the junction with Manor Road/Berry Hill, and on Fore Street, opposite the raised pavement adjacent to no. 1. It was agreed that these were necessary to discourage inconsiderate parking, thus avoiding congestion and enable access for emergency vehicles, larger deliveries and the country bus service.

It was proposed by Cllr. Keohane, seconded by Cllr, Merritt that these be approved and forwarded to the DCC Neighbourhood Highways officer and Devon County Councillor, Cllr. Dempster, for their consideration and submission to the Teignbridge Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC). FOR: 6, AGAINST:0, ABSTAIN: 1 (due to a disclosable pecuniary interest).

Cllr. Gill raised concerns again about the lack of DYL at the bottom of Church Road, off the junction with Newton Road. The clerk explained that this was not considered necessary by the highways officer, following discussion in February. As indicated in the Highway Code rule 243 you should not park within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, to ensure visibility and safety. While often advisory, this rule can be enforced however in Bishopsteignton no enforcement is ever made.

It was suggested that DYL on the bend south of St Johns church would be beneficial. This was briefly considered, however it was agreed to contact the church wardens to suggest restrictions marker by temporary cones are used when a larger than normal attendance is expected, such as weddings and funerals.

Cllr. Gateshill questioned the removal of the marked disabled bays outside the Alms houses and the Post office as discussed during our highways meeting in February. Clerk to chase officers for an update.

2605.07 CLERKS REPORT: An up-to-date report on all ongoing BPC business and activity had been circulated to members and published prior to the meeting. The following enquiry was raised:

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Defibrillators: Cllr. Gill indicated that Bishopsteignton HLG have in mind to install more defibrillators around the village, despite the council's resolution that no further units are required or could be funded. The clerk had not been informed as such but would make enquiries.

2605.08 MEMBERS REPORTS: Nothing to report.

The Chair closed the meeting at 21.16