

MINUTES
OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 19.30 Monday 12 January 2026
At Bishopsteignton Community Centre, Shute Hill



2601.01 MEETING GOVERNANCE

.01 **Attendance:** Cllr. H. Merritt (Chair) Cllr. R. Gill Cllr. J. Grimble
Cllr. J. Hooper Cllr. L. Myers Cllr. D. Robbins
Cllr. A. Keohane Cllr. R. Gateshill Cllr. Harris (9/11)
County Cllr. T. Dempster, PCSO. S. Bunce, PC. J. Bailey, Clerk: Mrs. K. Ford, & 1
members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. D. Dixon, Cllr. W. Vooght (2/11) & District Cllr. A. MacGregor

.02 **Declaration of Interests:** None.

.03 **Order of Business:** No change.

.04 **Ratification of Minutes:** Draft minutes of the Full Council meeting, held on 03.11.25, 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.

2601.02 OFFICIAL REPORTS

.01 **Police Report:** PCSO. Bunce introduced P. Bailey who was being mentored and due to start a patch in Newton Abbot from February 2026.
Crime reports for November & December had been circulated to members and included in the appendix pack for this meeting.
PCSO. Bunce updated that no further theft from the cemetery, perhaps due to increased presence.

Cllr. Robbins asked about theft from Wear Farm, which was caught on CCTV suggesting this matter has taken too long to resolve despite evidence available. PCSO. Bunce knew of the case and agreed that reaching a resolution is taking too long however they were close.

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

- TDC does not have a head of legal currently and has appointed an interim Monitoring Officer - a very nice young man called Charlie Fisher. In the interim period of no head of legal, contact can be made through the senior leadership team Neil Blaney or Amanda Pujol.
- No further information has been provided on disposal of assets yet - at least to Cllrs - other than the priorities such as the toilets. That may change as of the Full Council.
- Waste and recycling have had a surprisingly quiet festive period and are expected to be caught up by next week - last year it was end January to get to the same point. I haven't been contacted by any residents this year.
- The financial settlement is known and with the pension fund recalculation some of the pressure is off a little.
- The submission for the LG reorganisation was the 4-5-1 model, which teams TDC with South Hams, West Devon and Torbay. No confirmation from Govt on the options yet.
- TDC were awarded funding from a Homelessness Charity to reduce rough sleeping and homelessness including the hardest to help. This amounts to £1m per year for 5 years.
- TDC are pushing to increase social housing, including identifying properties that can be converted or renovated for a wide variety of needs from individuals to families.

DATED:

CHAIRMAN:

MINUTES - continued
FULL COUNCIL MEETING - held 12.01.26

- Council Tax is likely to rise at the usual 2.99% and the Council Tax Reduction of 100% remains in place for the most desperate for one more year.

.03 **County Councillors Report:** Cllr. Dempster reported that at the latest executive meeting where Local Government Reorganisation was considered members were asked to consider a delay to the proposed 2027 election however this was not inline with democratic processes so it was resolved for a letter rejecting this proposal should be returned to government.
He expressed disappointment that despite the ongoing efforts for the Teign Estuary Trail to materialise a new pathway between Kingsteignton and Newton Abbot has been given priority and awarded £35k grant funding.

2601.03 FINANCE

.01 **Payments:** It was proposed and seconded, agreed unanimously, and therefore **RESOLVED** that the payments transacted by the clerk across the period 01.12.25 to 31.12.25, be approved retrospectively.

.02 **Financial Statement:**

- a. A financial statement for the period ending 30.11.25 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair. Clerk to publish these on the BPC website.
- b. A financial statement for the period ending 31.12.25 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair. Clerk to publish these on the BPC website.
- c. A statement of precept balance following relevant payments and receipts for quarter 3 of 25/25 was shared prior to the meeting and included in the appendix pack for this meeting. No queries were raised therefore this was noted.

.03 **Budget & Precept For 2026-27:** Members considered the budget papers and recommendation from the BPC Finance Committee who met on 09.01.26 and proposed the following:

It is recommended that BPC adopt the budget & precept as detailed in the appendix provided; a total demand of £92,012 which on the 25/26 precept demand this is an increase of £6,112 or 7.1%.

Members considered this fully and heard an explanation on the proposals for resurfacing the MUGA, still subject to quotes, possible use of S106, and public consultation.

It was proposed by Cllr. Merritt, seconded by Cllr. Hooper, to adopt the recommendation of the BPC finance committee and this precept demand be submitted to the principal authority. Agreed unanimously therefore **RESOLVED**.

2601.04 COUNCIL STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE

.01 **Policies:** The policies meant for adoption were not available in time for review prior to this meeting therefore it was unanimously agreed to defer this item.

2601.05 CLERKS REPORT: An up-to-date report on all ongoing BPC business and activity was not available for circulation prior to this meeting therefore the following issues were raised by members:

.01 **Boundary Stone:** The clerk is still awaiting correspondence from the Forestry Commission and is liaising with the farmer and tradesman from the original installation. Ongoing, clerk to indicate progress as soon as it happens.

MINUTES - continued
FULL COUNCIL MEETING - held 12.01.26

- .02 **Postman's Path:** Cllr. Harris reported a homeless person living in a tent on the edge of Postman's path, asking what can be done to remove him. The police and HIITS had both visited him, but he politely declined their support, saying he was happy where he was. It is believed the land belonged to Teignbridge District Council, but this needs to be confirmed. Cllr. Merritt offered to take this forward by contacting District Cllr. MacGregor.

2601.06 MEMBERS REPORTS

- .01 Cllr. Merritt shared details of the upcoming meeting to address the proposed withdrawal of the Cardiac services at Torbay Hospital. This shall be led by the campaign leader, Susie Colley and MP Martin Wrigley will be present to detail actions he has taken. He will also update on Climate Change action from central government.
10am Friday 23rd January at Bishopsteignton Village Hall
- .02 Cllr. Keohane advised a BERT meeting is overdue, but it is being organised for asap, subject to committee member availability. An update will be provided to all following the meeting. The BERT phone has received a new battery and sim as the old one had expired. The new number for BERT is 07594666140. This has been updated on the BPC website, in the Parish Chronicle, and will be shared on social media.

2601.07 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- .01 A parishioner raised that Higher Green, Fore Street, has been unoccupied for a length of time and asked if the Housing department of TDC were aware. This has been reported to TDC and MP. Martin Wrigley too, however both can be sent a reminder.

The chair closed the meeting at 20.42.