

MINUTES
OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 19.30 Monday 2 March 2026
At Bishopsteignton Community Centre, Shute Hill



2603.01 MEETING GOVERNANCE

.01 **Attendance:** Cllr. H. Merritt (Chair) Cllr. R. Gill Cllr. J. Grumble
Cllr. L. Myers Cllr. D. Robbins Cllr. A. Keohane
Cllr. R. Gateshill Cllr. Harris Cllr. D. Dixon (9/11)
District Cllr. A. MacGregor, County Cllr. T. Dempster, Clerk: Mrs. K. Ford,
& 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. J. Hooper, Cllr. W. Vooght (2/11) & PCSO. S. Bunce

.02 **Declaration of Interests:** Cllr. Grumble, non-pecuniary for agenda item 2603.06, community recognition award consideration for BOAG.

Cllrs. Dixon & Robbin, no-pecuniary for agenda item 2603.03.03 Grant for Bishopsteignton Players.

.03 **Order of Business:** Agenda item 2603.06 Community Recognition Awards shall be moved to part II of the meeting to exclude public audience for considerations.

.04 **Ratification of Minutes:** Draft minutes of the Full Council meeting, held on 12.01.26, 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.

2603.02 OFFICIAL REPORTS

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

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

- The budget went through today. No amendments.
- There is an end to a 50% discount on Council Tax for homes undergoing refurbishment work or repairs. This was introduced in 2013 but is designed to push derelict buildings and delayed construction of refurbishments to completion.
- There is a new CIL joint fund of £200k which parishes and towns can apply to with 'match-funding' for projects in their area. This is to encourage spend for those areas where CIL is limited to improve their parishes, but also to help those that do have CIL to spend it appropriately.
- The Lido is still penned for remaining closed for this year which is very disappointing and impacts the parish users who look forward to using it, however the losses are covered for and there is still a chance we can persuade a change of mind.
- Recycling services to be a changed with plastic bags, Tetrapak cartons and cellophane collections coming soon. This follows Govt expectations and policy in reducing black bin waste. The community will be sent leaflets in advance, any new tubs or containers supplied during roll out.
- There are to be significant changes to the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) which also impacts the number of homes required in the Local Development Plan. Currently the District is expected to deliver 720 homes per year, but the new expectation will be 1088. A significant uplift in a District with 40% of its area in Dartmoor. The current Local Plan will be approved in September, but work has already started on the new Local Plan with the new NPPF as the guide. This will reduce policy expectations on environment, ecology, heritage and will also reduce democratic involvement by residents. The district will be once again seeking sites additionally

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seeking smaller sites of 1 Hectare to help fill the new need. There is an additional risk of TDC having to take on housing targets for Torbay and South Hams too.

- The Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 3 March has been relocated to Richard Newton Hall in Teignmouth due to travellers settling on the car park Forde House. At this meeting the councils decision to close the Lido will be reconsidered.

.03 **County Councillors Report:** Cllr. Dempster did not provide a written or verbal report.

2603.03 FINANCE

.01 **Payments:** It was proposed, seconded, agreed unanimously, and therefore RESOLVED that the payments transacted by the clerk across the period 01.01.26 to 28.02.26, be approved retrospectively.

.02 **Financial Statement:**

- a. A financial statement for the period ending 31.01.26 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 28.02.26 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair. Clerk to publish these on the BPC website.

.03 **BPC Grant Awarding:** Members considered applications received for the final quarter of 2025-26. It was noted that there is £550 remaining in this financial year's community grant budget, however if council felt it appropriate to award further grants there is unearmarked funds available. Following discussion members proposed, seconded, and resolved the grants as detailed below.

Applicant	Amount requested, purpose of the grant	Amount awarded
Bishopsteignton Players	£500 towards staging	£500
Healthy Living Group	£150 towards an excursion for Singing for Memory and Memory Café members.	£150
BVF Summer Sounds	£200 towards the event this summer, such as Portaloo hire.	£200
Total Awarded		£850

2603.04 COUNCIL STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE

.01 **Strategic Plan:** Members reviewed the latest version of the plan, as recommended for adoption by the Strategy & Governance Committee. Several minor amendments were suggested and agreed including rearranging the 2025-28 Goals & Key Priorities into a relevant timescale order and simplifying descriptions of the precept and budgets on pages 10-12.
It was proposed and seconded to adopt the BPC Strategic Plan, subject to the amendments above. Unanimously agreed, therefore RESOLVED.

.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. Complaints Policy (P.003)
- b. Vexatious Complaints Policy (P.013)
- c. Lone Working Policy (P.019)
- d. 26-27 Grant Awarding Policy (P.024)

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2603.05 CLIMATE ACTION

Pesticide Free Transition:

Members considered the details in the paper which had been prepared by the three wildlife wardens and recommended by the Climate Impact Action committee for adoption. It was noted that this document and the processes within are subject to change following trial, but the intention is not to revert to chemical pesticides. It was proposed and seconded for BPC to proceed accordingly with the weed management methods recommended. Agreed unanimously, therefore resolved.

2603.06 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS: Deferred to Part II.

2603.07 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Members considered the information provided and it was suggested a working party is required to finalise a consultation response before the deadline of 26 March. The following was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed, therefore RESOLVED.

- A working party of 3 members; Cllrs. Keohane, Merritt. & Myers to meet with clerical support from the proper officer.
- A face-to-face meeting of the above shall be arranged.
- BPC gives full delegated powers for the 3 members to finalise a suitable consultation response, to be submitted by the clerk before the deadline.

2603.08 ASSET MANAGEMENT

Horse Riding on The Lawns:

BPC considered the complaints and comments received by the clerk and various members. It was summarized that The Lawns is for all to use, the rural location and topography of the land meant naturally there would often be trip hazards such as these, added to the lack of jurisdiction and policing to make such restrictions. Therefore, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that no further action be taken or restrictions imposed but the matter should be kept under review. RESOLVED.

2603.09 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:

- **Royal British Legion:** Cllr. Gill enquired about the post of branch secretary recently vacated by the clerk. This was explained.

Further enquiries should be made directly to the clerk in due course.

2603.10 MEMBERS REPORTS

- .01 **One Teignbridge:** Cllr. Merritt reported on the virtual meeting for Town & Parish Councillors and officers, provided recently by Teignbridge District Council, also attended by the clerk. This was a useful summary of recent ongoing projects and priorities and notice of future events. Written information from the session would be circulated to members in due course.
- .02 **Resignation:** Cllr. Elaine Harris resigned from the post as a parish councillor. She thanked the council for the opportunity, stressing she thoroughly enjoyed working with the group, but that

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her other commitments were too many at this time. She was thanked by the Chair, on behalf of the council and the clerk. With effect at the close of this meeting.

2603.11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- .01 **Parking:** A resident raised concerns about inconsiderate parking with particular focus on outside Supply Stores and the pharmacy/post office, both on Fore Street, adding that whilst the replacement of the vandalised/stolen signage may help it would need to be securely fastened to deter further tampering. He felt the provision of a loading only bay may relieve some of the congestion. Another suggestion was for single yellow lines. Cllr. Robbins offer to take this conversation outside of the meeting and report back to the clerk if it was felt further action should be taken by BPC, or redirected to DCC Highways, whichever the appropriate authority.

At 21.09 the Chair thanked the public audience for their participation and moved councillors on Part II of the meeting in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, ss100 - 102 and BPC Standing Order 10xii.

PART II

2303.06 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

Members considered the nominations received for both the individual and the group/organisation categories.

- .01 It was proposed and seconded that the individual category be awarded to Mrs. J. Moore for her selfless act of donating a kidney to a resident in need. No other proposals were made. FOR: 8, AGAINST: 0, ABSTAIN: 1. Therefore RESOLVED.
- .02 It was proposed and seconded that the group/organization category be awarded to Bishopsteignton Outdoor Art Group (BOAG) for their commitment and talent to providing the entertaining art trails. A further proposal for the Bishopsteignton Pantomime Society was also seconded. Members voted as follows: BOAG: 4, BPS: 4, ABSTAIN: 1. This tie called for the chair's vote to be a deciding vote therefore it is RESOLVED the recognition awarded to BOAG.

The chair closed the meeting at 21.29.