

MINUTES
OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 19.00 Monday 1 June 2026
At Bishopsteignton Community Centre, Shute Hill



2606.01 MEETING GOVERNANCE

.01 **Attendance:** Cllr. H. Merritt Cllr. D. Dixon Cllr. R. Gateshill
 Cllr. R. Gill Cllr. J. Grimble Cllr. J. Hooper
 Cllr. Myers Cllr. D. Robbins Cllr. W. Vooght (arrived at 7.09pm)
 (9/10)
 PCSO. S. Bunce, District Cllr. A. MacGregor.
 Clerk: Mrs. K. Ford, & 4 members of the public at varying times.

Apologies: Cllr. A. Keohane (1/10). County Cllr. T. Dempster.

.02 **Declaration of Interests:** None

.03 **Order of Business:** No changes proposed.

2606.0X POLICE REPORT

PCSO Bunce provided a verbal report, to be emailed and circulated in due course. In the parish during the month of May there were 9 crimes, of which 3 were at the same place/same time. Cllr. Myers raised the recent incidents involving electric scooters and the accident caused near in Humber. PCSO Bunce said this was on the rise with more reports coming in. The police are keen to hear any information which can be shared particularly if it helps identify the riders. Cllr. Robbins raised the report from last month of the theft of tools from Wear Farm. PCSO Bunce reported that unfortunately this has resulted in no arrests due to elapsed time and the case was not managed efficiently.

2606.02 MEMBER CO-OPTION

.01 Three application for co-option had been received before the deadline. The clerk confirmed the eligibility of each candidate. The Chairman welcomed all 3 applicants to give a brief introduction. Councillors asked several general questions.
It was proposed by Cllr. Merritt, seconded by Cllr. Hooper, that Mr. Eric Newcome be co-opted to BPC. FOR: 9, ABSTAIN: 2. There were no further proposals. Therefore RESOLVED.

.02 The other candidates were thanked for their interest and time and reminded of the election in May 2027 where if still interested they may apply again via electoral services at Teignbridge District Council.
Cllr. Newcome signed his declaration of acceptance of office and was welcomed to join the council with immediate effect.

2606.03 FINANCE

.01 **BPC Annual Accounts & Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR):**
The annual accounting and auditing documents were considered. It was proposed for approval by Cllr. Myers, seconded by Cllr. Grimble (FOR: 9, ABSTAIN: 1. Therefore RESOLVED) that the following be ratified:
a. Acknowledged receipt of the Annual Internal Audit report 2025/26 (page 3 of 6).

DATED:

CHAIRMAN:

MINUTES - continued
FULL COUNCIL MEETING - held 01.06.26

- b. The Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 (page 4 of 6) was acknowledged and ratified as a true and correct record, and this was signed by the meeting Chair.
 - c. The Accounting Statement 2025/26 (page 5 of 6) was acknowledged and ratified as a true and correct record, and this was signed by the meeting Chair.
- All to be submitted by the clerk to the external auditor for examination.

.02 Community Infrastructure Levy Allocation:

Members considered an allocation of CIL for Bishopsteignton Preschool and Friends of Bishopsteignton School towards replacement of their play equipment. It was proposed by Cllr. Gateshill, seconded by Cllr. Gill to allocate £5,000 of CIL towards this project. Agreed unanimously therefore RESOLVED.

District Cllr. MacGregor advised Teignbridge District Council are about to being an overhaul of much of their play equipment and that it could be beneficial for the fundraisers to liaise with David Eaton for possible donations of redundant play pieces. Clerk to pass on this advice.

2606.04 COUNCIL STRATEGY

.01 Asset transfers from Teignbridge District Council:

The clerk provided a brief update to support the report circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr. Myers, having been in contact with TDC during the clerks leave, gave a brief overview of the expense figures associated with each site, as far as could be provided.

It was agreed far more detail was required before decisions could be reached along with legal advice, until such time all offer assets would be considered.

It was proposed by Cllr. Merritt, seconded by Cllr. Grimble, that a working party be formed to take this forward. Members to be Cllr. Myers, Newcombe, Gateshill and Vooght; to be chaired by Cllr. Myers. Agreed unanimously therefore RESOLVED.

2606.05 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Cllr. MacGregor had provided the following written report:

The Local Plan was adopted in full as presented at the recent Annual Full Council Meeting. This includes both the continuation of the Bakers Yard Development and the newer allocation of 55 homes at Forder Lane. The new Local Plan remains a plan for developers as previously stated, but it has strengthened policies in relation to the environment, climate change and active travel. The next Local Plan will start to be drawn up from July. It will need to be completed within 30 months. It will likely see some policies merged and reduced in number to simplify the planning system further.

The bad news is that Central Government has introduced the Planning and Development Act 2025 which was given Royal Assent in December 2025 (when everyone was distracted by Christmas...) and as of the 30 September 2026 there are changes to the call in process. This is now restricted only to developments of 10 or more houses. Residential extensions, new builds in gardens, roof changes etc can no longer be called to committee. These will only be dealt with by delegated officer decision. The Parish Council and members of the public can make their views known (the PC will retain its role as statutory contributor), but that is as far as the ability to challenge will be allowed pre-decision. There will be opportunities to request judicial review, if you feel a decision is out-with the correct process or has not had the correct scrutiny from the officer, but that is a lengthy and costly route to take. The decisions are not challenged merely the process. No costs can be recovered. In future only the large developments (10 or more homes), only two individuals will be allowed to recommend call-ins to

MINUTES - continued
FULL COUNCIL MEETING - held 01.06.26

committee. That is to be the Chief Planning Officer and the Planning Committee Chair. Any application called in will need both to agree on the need. Any application of 150 houses or more that officers wish to reject, must now be decided by the whim of the Secretary of State and the decision is removed from officers. I believe this erosion of democratic participation is appalling and take a contrary view to that of the Liberal Democrat administration that it will help streamline the planning process. Their reasons for backing it are about remove scrutiny from their actions.

There are to be some structural changes in the district council that sees the enforcement team for planning merged with the other enforcement teams. This is hopefully positive, as this has been an area of some concern. If I was to advise the Parish, it might be necessary to take a more interested approach to the applications, the conditions and whether developers or builders are ignoring these and involve enforcement where appropriate. The independent group have asked for training for Parishes and the new structure to be sent to Parishes and DALC at the earliest opportunity.

The NPPF is also changing more often these days and officers will be date listing the versions they used for any application going forward. Changes will be notified to planning committee members, but I think it would be helpful to pass this to parish and towns too.

The vagaries of the planning system currently though are encapsulated in the unexpected development of the agricultural land adjacent to Ware Barton roundabout. It appears that the application to build was not put to the Parish Council or Kingsteignton Town Council but was rather passed as a permitted development within the scope of planning regulations relevant to agriculture. It is process that planning officers have little or no say in either, other than to confirm the development doesn't exceed the maximums allowed or contravene policies in the Local Plan. It's almost impossible to refuse these plans. I understand that the same applicant is likely to put in an application for two cattle sheds too. These do fall into the planning application process and will go through the normal processes (see above point about planning committee changes if submitted after 30th September)

July 16th is the planned date for Govt to let us know which of the options they have decided upon as the way forward for Local Government Reform. This will guide us what the new unitary authorities will look like, what the likely number of councillors are, and the number of electors required for each. In any event looking at the options, it is unlikely that Bishopsteignton will remain a single electoral ward in its own right, probably having to merge with a neighbouring ward to west or east (I can't see the ward being made cross estuary). As far as I can discern, further information was requested from the Dept for Local Govt that matches the model going forward that was recommended by the district 5-4-1 (we'd be in the '4' alongside Torbay, West Devon and South Hams which keeps the Dartmoor NP in one unitary authority area). That said, I think we will have to wait and see what the preference is in Westminster.

This is as relevant to Parishes and Towns as it is to the Councillors the District and administration they attempted to blame for their own issues. Freedom of Speech is a subject covered in a recently noted report. The report (although it applies the comment to matters that were not relevant) stated that Freedom of Speech is a qualified right under the terms of Article 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998. Here are the stated legal principles in the Act.

*<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/schedule/1/part/I/chapter/9> Here is a solicitor's views " **The Fundamental Right:** There is a reason that freedom of speech and expression is part of our Human Rights Act 1998 – it is a fundamental right. As British citizens we have the right to express ourselves freely without fear of persecution from others, this is not the case in some countries. It is one of our fundamental rights and is viewed as the building block of our society and democracy. There*

MINUTES - continued
FULL COUNCIL MEETING - held 01.06.26

is a specific responsibility with this right because there are exceptions to this Act. If you are found to be publishing documents or making comments that are intended to spark any hatred or discrimination, it will be viewed as a hate crime. This is when your right can be restricted and can potentially be charged in a criminal court."

It does restrict debate or scrutiny. Questions that to some that may offend them, are not covered unless noted previously. As the UK High Court has noted they do not state that people have a right not to be offended. Advice here is keep the debate civil even in times when the debate might be robust.

Register of Interests - no longer a need to note your home address for public access. Not sure if that applies to Parishes and towns.

As it is adjacent to the ward and some members utilise it, just a quick note that Broadmeadow Sports Centre has been shortlisted for two awards.

The EHRC has completed the approvals process with Govt and have finalised the much needed clarity in their guidance for those bodies providing single sex services. The guidance is here.

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/ehrc-concludes-regulatory-action-single-sex-space-policies>

The Councillor Community Fund is still closed awaiting the outcome of the election in Dawlish. I have one application in and approved to date. Payment will occur after the restrictions end.

Parish Clerks are to be issued another email explicitly called 'Teignbridge Directory' which will list the right contact emails by department. Not sure when but suspect by end June.

Several of these points were discussed briefly for clarity and Cllr. MacGregor was thanked for his time.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.41