MINUTES

OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at 19.00 Monday 13 July 2026

At Bishopsteignton Community Centre, Shute Hill

2607.01 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 (9/10)
District Cllr. A. MacGregor. County Cllr. T. Dempster.
Clerk: Mrs. K. Ford, & 4 members of the public at varying times.

Apologies: Cllr. E. Newcombe (1/10). PCSO. S. Bunce

.02 **Declaration of Interests:** None

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

2607.02 MEMBER CO-OPTION

There were no applications received during the advertisement of this vacancy. To be advertised again for co-option to take place at the next full council meeting, 07.09.26.

2607.03 OFFICIAL REPORTS

.01 **Police Report**

A report was provided, available on the BPC website. No further comments.

.02 **District Councillor Report:**

Cllr. MacGregor had provided the following written report:

1. From the discussions taking place around LGR: Elections - At a recent briefing on the Local Government Re-organisation, when polled, attendees said they were in favour of aligning parish and town elections with the new authority which means that in 2027, the elections of Parish and Town Councillors would be for a 5-year period rather than the current 4. I would hope that they poll the parishes and towns but haven't heard any plans yet.
2. At this stage there is a setting council tax model, but as it stands at present there appears to be no identified route to establishing parity across bandings by town or parish.
3. On a national level and this will apply to the whole of England. The Vagrancy Act has been repealed, which decriminalises rough sleeping. This might impact numbers yet, this is unclear. The number of rough sleepers is static over the last 12 months or so across the district.
4. Back to local information. TDC will have by now (24th June) issued their 'Notice of Intention to commence preparations for a new local plan'
5. On the 16 July we expect a clarification on the direction of travel for the planned LGR. In any event it is likely the voter numbers to councillor ratio will be set at a minimum of 4500:1. This means Bishopsteignton current ward boundaries are likely to be expanded to include parts of other current wards. No indication yet to the direction. I suspect Parish and Towns will remain as they are, but whoever is lucky enough to be chosen by residents will have meetings by Bishopsteignton PC and one other location at least to attend.

Cllr. Merritt requested an update on the status of the property Higher Green, on Fore Street. Cllr. MacGregor reported this was with the busy planning department and that he would chase this up.

.03 **County Councillor Report:**

DATED: **CHAIRMAN:**

Cllr. Dempster commented on the upcoming LGR announcement saying there were mixed views at Devon County Council.

He reported on the new electric buses in circulation across the whole of Devon. This followed a grant being awarded to Stagecoach from central government.

2607.04 PLANNING

The following application was considered, and it was RESOLVED for the comments below to be submitted to Teignbridge District Council as the Local Planning Authority:

APP REF: 26/00898/FUL - Scout Hall Radway Hill Bishopsteignton Devon TQ14 9SW

PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing Scout Hut and construction of two semi-detached dwellings with associated parking.

The application was discussed and several comments made by the public audience the following comment was proposed by Cllr. Merritt, seconded by Cllr. Myers, and unanimously agreed.

COMMENT: *Bishopsteignton Parish Council object to this proposal.*

The proposed two properties, being two storey each, is considered overdevelopment of the site particularly with a total of four car park spaces. The elevation of this site over residential neighbouring properties on Wallis Grove will create unwelcome overlooking.

Furthermore, there is no reference to a demolition plan. This causes concern for the council and residents alike as there is a proven presence of asbestos. The safe removal of such would be required under building regulation checks and controls.

It was also unanimously agreed for the application to be called into category B for determination by the Teignbridge district council planning committee.

2607.05 FINANCE

.01 **Payments:**

It was proposed by Cllr. Dixon, seconded by Cllr. Hooper, agreed unanimously, and therefore RESOLVED that the payments transacted by the clerk across the period 01.05.26 to 30.06.26, be approved retrospectively.

.02 **Financial Statements:**

a. A financial statement for the period ending 31.05.26 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair.
b. A financial statement for the period ending 30.06.26 was NOTED by members and signed by the Chair.
c. A statement of the spend of Q1 precept was not yet available to review. To be circulated to members in due course.

2607.06 COUNCIL STRATEGY

.01 **Policies:** The following policy has been prepared in accordance with legislative and sector recommendations for council consideration. It was proposed by Cllr. Vooght, seconded by Cllr. Hooper and unanimously agreed to adopt:

a. Dignity At Work Policy (P.046)
b. Equality & Diversity Policy (P.029)

.02 **Committee Structure/Membership:** Members reviewed the list of membership for all BPC committees and working parties which included adding Cllr. Myers to the Finance Committee,

and Cllr. Newcombe to the Planning Committee. All changes highlighted were proposed by Cllr. Vooght, seconded by Cllr. Dixon unanimously agreed and therefore resolved.

2607.07 CLERKS REPORT

.01 The clerk highlighted the report section:

BISHOPSTEIGNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE LEASE: The council currently have a lease agreement with BCC but this will need to be revised as BH will be the lessor to BPC. This is progressing and all the associated legal fees will be split 3 ways including our independent check of the documents by Tozers, when the time comes.

and requested council approval of this action to proceed. This was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed therefore RESOLVED.

.02 Cllr. Vooght asked if the snow warden for Ideford could be named. Clerk to contact the clerk to Ideford PC.

.03 Cllr. Gill asked if Bishopsteignton HLG understood our resolution to have no more defibrillators installed. The clerk reported this advice was provided but each request should be assessed on its merits in the future.

It was clarified there is a unit in Luton, Cllr. Myers offered a training session in Luton, Cllr Vooght to circulate this offer.

.04 Attention was drawn to the appendix on age-friendly parishes. To be given further consideration at a future meeting. To be shared with Bishopsteignton HLG.

2607.08 MEMBERS REPORTS

.01 Teign Estuary Trail – Cllr. Merritt gave a summary of the report which was provided. Available to read on the BPC website.

.02 Save The Lido Campaign Group, Teignmouth – Cllr. Merritt gave a summary of the work being carried out by the campaign group in Teignmouth and suggested the council offer its support to the campaign. Agreed unanimously therefore the clerk to write accordingly.

.03 Cultural Assets review for Teignbridge District Council – It was agreed Cllr. Hooper would prepare this in consultation with the clerk.

.04 Torbay Cardiac Unit Campaign – Cllr. Merritt summarised the work of this campaign group and that the threat of closure is critical. Those who attended the open discussion with MP Martin Wrigley and Susie Colley -Chair of Torquay Chamber of Commerce & Heart Campaign held in January. It was suggested that there should be a further public update meeting. Cllr. Merritt to liase with the Ms. Colley as campaign leader.

2607.09 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

.01 A parishioner asked if there are any plans to assist local organisations with recruiting volunteers, members, etc. The clerk suggested an organization fair, or similar. Needed thought, to be considered.

.02 A parishioner thanked the council for raising the issue of the Torbay Cardiac Unit closure, he'd been unaware of this and would wish to attend a public meeting if provided.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.13

DATED: **CHAIRMAN:**