



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 7.30.pm, at Bridgerule Village Hall.

These minutes are provisional until signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.

Present : Chairman: D. Hale,
Councillors, J. McDougall, K. Bowditch, S. Whatmore, S. Cholwill, J. Trayford, M. Tape
In Attendance : Clerk.
Public x 3

3693. Apologies Received : FC- AL : KJ - TDC . Proposed approved, 1st JT, 2nd SW, all in favour.

Declarations of Interests: The Chairman asked that interests be declared as they arise.

3694. Council Meeting Minutes : Minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2026 had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and were agreed by all present and signed by the meeting chairman as correct. Proposed 1st, JMD, 2nd MT , all councillors in favour.

3695. Matters Arising : No matters arising.

3696. Public Open Question Time : Representatives from Bridgerule Community Garden group gave a presentation to the council and an update of what they have achieved thus far. The group had recently heard that they had secured funding of £10,000.00 from the National Lottery and had received a private donation of £600, in addition to what had already been raised by the group by events held over the last year. The land had been levelled and pathways formed, a shed for storage and a greenhouse laid on slabs would be erected, to allow for disabled access. Plans were for a memorial garden, a small orchard, raised beds and a wild area. The group is going well, and local tradesman have offered some help to the group which is welcome. Several events are being planned for the season, including a Pumpkin Festival initiative and representatives were liaising with the school to encourage involvement with the Community Garden project and the schoolchildren burying diaries. The group are circulating leaflet drops within the village and using social media successfully. The group wished to thank the council for allowing the group use of the land and allowing the project to develop. As the grant is spending specific, good record keeping is required and the group would like a copy of the council's public liability Insurance which covers the land. The group would also like confirmation on the ownership of the bridge and who is responsible for the water and surrounding banks.

DH congratulated the group on their successful Lottery bid and thanked them for their work in achieving this. A small entrance had been put in place to improve access and councillors noted that the new sign at the site is looking very good.

Groundworks involving the new gate and post were being arranged, invoice pending, and KB offered some bunting to the group if they required some for future use.

3697 : County Councillor and District Councillor reports : No reports received this month.

3698 : Correspondence ; Received, 3 emails regarding the Football Club, letter from Sir. G. Cox, MP regarding Connectivity in the area, 2 regarding Bridgerule Community Garden.

Clerk had circulated some literature regarding costs of larger dog bins, this would be revisited in the coming months.

3699 : Chairmans Report : DH reported that the landowner of the grassed area at Littlebridge had now replaced the fencing that had decayed and rotted.

3700 : Bridgerule Football Club and Vinnicomb Park : Other football clubs had booked and played on the pitch recently at weekends. There had been new interest in another club hiring the pitch and potential team received. Committee members would continue to maintain the pitch and had recently purchased a tub of lime chalk for the pitch markings. Machinery used for grass cutting was owned by the committee personally and is not part of the club's assets. DH said that it would be useful to have a sub-committee for the FC, to be formally adopted at the Annual meeting and would possibly consist of FC and MT. MT could organise and take the bookings as they had a lot of contacts within the football community.

SC reported that parking at the Chapel car park on Sunday mornings when the pitch was being hired had created problems. The car park is owned by the chapel. MT would make this information available for future bookings.

3701 : Accounts and Accounts due for payment : Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors, Invoices received this month were, DALC, annual renewal of £ 320.90 inc vat, G. Pollard Accountancy fees, £96.00 inc vat, Clerks expenses, £36.54 inc vat, for ink, RawSEO Ltd, Cookie programme for website, £42.00 inc at, and Website evaluation costs for website accessibility requirements, £135.00 inc vat. Bank charges had now increased from £6 to £7 per month. The vat reclaim of £964.93 for 2025-26 had been received on the 15th of April. Current account balance agreed at £4852.11 on the 15th of April 2026. Proposed accepted, 1st JMD, 2nd KB, show of hands, all councillors in favour. Due to rising costs, the Hall committee had requested that the council now pay a room hire fee of £10 per meeting and needed approval. Councillors KB, SC and JMD declared an interest and refrained from voting. Proposed, the charge be paid, 1st SW, 2nd, JT, votes for 4, abstentions 3, motion carried. The charges would be paid in six monthly amounts.

3702. Planning : - 1/0221/2026/FUL- replacement agricultural livestock building, Nortons Farm, Bridgerule. Council consultee comment to TDC “ **The Council support the application.**”

3703. Speedwatch and Vas Signs Update : JT reported that a session had been held on the 31st March at Chapel Corner and 84 vehicles had passed, with no speeding. Further sessions were planned at the end of the month and during May. The police had assessed and approved another site for use by the group at Vicarage hill. It was noted that cyclists have been seen travelling down the hill at speed and triggering the speed indicators on the Vas signs frequently.

SW reported VAS data for the month, Sign 1, Vicarage Hill, 5890 passing vehicles, with 5009 travelling at speeds over 20mph, 549 travelling at speeds over 30mph which equates to 1 in 10.7. Average speed recorded was 24mph and a top speed of 43.2mph.

Sign 2, Middle Road, 7501 passing vehicles with 524 travelling over 30mph, which equates to 1 in 14. Average recorded speed was 22mph and a top speed of 46.2mph.

Data showed a particular vehicle passing in the early morning and early evening regularly travelling at excessive speed. JT would relay to Speedwatch HQ.

Councillors discussed reporting potholes at various locations within the parish and SW agreed to assist with doing this on the DCC portal when informed of location.

3704: Village Hall/shop update: KB reported that the Hall committee had recently raised its hire charges for new bookings, whilst keeping current prices the same for regular existing bookings. The new Solar panels were working well and had reduced electricity and heating costs. The Shop's electricity usage had greatly reduced. It had been a very good month for shop sales this month.

3705: Bridgerule Open Space Group : An update had been provided earlier in the meeting. Approval of costs of £142.02 for the new gate and posts had been given in June 2025, and would be paid on installation at the site.

3706: New Assertion 10 compliance : Website accessibility- a new cookie programme had been added at an annual cost of £35.00. Bude RawSEO had identified 803 potential issues that needed fixing to comply with the new regulations and had given an estimate of between 3-6 hours work to remedy this, at a cost of £135-£270 plus vat. Councillors agreed to the estimate, proposed 1st MT, 2nd JMD, all councillors in favour.

3707 : Formation of a Finance sub-committee : this will be finalised at the Annual Meeting and would likely consist of two councillors, DH and KB. Minimum of 2 meetings per year and others as required. It was agreed that the costs of a new dog bin be discussed within the sub-committee, when formed.

3708 : Clerks report : Electoral register changes this month are 7 deletions, 1 creation.

3709 : Exchange of Information : Posts nearby to the gate between the football field and the school entrance had rotted and needed replacing, to be discussed within the Finance sub-committee when formed, The wheelchair access slope has rubbish and left over work materials piled up and have not been removed, A resident had been plagued by balls entering their garden, coming from the school.

3710: Meeting closed at 8.55 pm : Date of next meeting Tuesday 19th May at 7.30 pm. The Annual Meeting will precede the normally monthly meeting.

Signed by Meeting Chairman :



Date of signing :19.05.2026.....