



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st July 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, K. James, J. Trayford, S. Cholwill,
M.Tape, E. Hosie.

In Attendance : Clerk. MOP x 4

3757. Apologies Received : None.

Declarations of Interests: DH and EH declared an interest in Bridgerule Community Garden, item no : 14 on Agenda.

3758. Council Meeting Minutes : Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2026 circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and agreed by all present as correct. Proposed 1st, KB, 2nd KJ all councillors in favour.

3759. Matters Arising : Due to imminent timescale for eligible funding for Connectivity clerk had been unable to prepare a draft letter drop document as the date for eligibility and application was 3rd August.

3760. Public Open Question Time : 3 MOP wished to speak about the Bridgerule Community garden group. DH vacated the chair and KJ took the chair at 7.35pm. DH and EH refrained from any discussion. A statement was read to the council from a member of the group. Clerk read an email and request for review from a former member. Over 70 emails had been received by the group members, both collectively and individually since beginning of July. The group's AGM would be held in early August and member specific roles could be implemented. Documentation had been prepared by the group Secretary. Councillors discussed. Advice to be sought from TDC legal department. Proposed to action the latter, 1st KJ, 2nd KB, votes for 7, 2 abstentions. Motion carried. KJ wished to also thank the group for their hard work and amazing effort in what has been achieved in a relatively short time at the site. KJ stood down from the chair at 8.02pm and 3 MOP left the meeting. 8.03pm DH resumed the chair.

3761 : District Councillors report – KJ reported that a decision was made by the government last week on the LGR plans for Devon, and Torridge will become part of the Devon Coast and Countryside authority. The other 3 are Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay, Devon Coast and Countryside will have a dispersed population and a meeting is to be held tomorrow between the districts and County council on future provision of delivery of services for the four new councils. The Appledore project will soon be completed and TDC has offshore electricity coming into Torridge. N. Devon has a large existing pharmaceutical industry, Tiverton is involved with manufacture of space clothing and there is a lot of innovation within Devon outside of the new proposed councils. There will be 103 councillors for the new council, and the transition will take effect in 2028. TDC is within budget at the present time.

3762 : Correspondence : The Torridge and North Devon consultation plan had been received, to be circulated to councillors to invite completion of: Active Places – to be submitted and updated for Vinnicomb Park: the Devon FA questionnaire had been completed and submitted by MT.

3763 : Chairmans Report : Dogs had been getting into the playpark recently, DH had observed a gap in the fencing at the edge of the park which may be contributing to the problem, barriers to be put in to help prevent access by dogs.

3764 : Accounts and Accounts due for payment : Finance sheets had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting, Invoices received this month, SC Garden Services, £240.00, New printer, Ink and cleaner, £118.10 and Microsoft 365 subscription of £84.99. KB queried Vat on the latter item, clerk to contact Microsoft for Invoice, Interest of £70.59 had been received on the Instant access account at the end of June. Proposed accepted 1st, JT, 2nd KB, show of hands, all councillors in favour. Current account agreed at £7135.20 on the 30th of June.

3765 : Bridgerule FC and Vinnacomb Park : MT reported that the Pavillion was now insured. Bude youth team will be staying at Bude but wished to rent the field on occasions. Kilkhampston F.C .are making enquiries regarding use of the pitch. Costs will be £25 per training session and £60 per game. It had been noted that some people not local to Bridgerule had been training on the pitch without permission. MT to follow up.

3766 : Speedwatch , Highways and Vas Signs Update : Speedwatch session held at the Green on the 22nd recorded 46 vehicles. VAS data, Vicarage Hill, 6741 passing vehicles with 5656 travelling over 20mph, 502 recorded as travelling over 30mph which is 1 in 13.5. Average speed recorded 23.6mph with Maximum of 42.6mph. Middle road, 8857 passing vehicles, 601 travelling at over 30mph, Average speed of 21.8mph and maximum speed of 44.7mph. SW reported the batteries were working satisfactorily.

Highways, road closures, B3254, Jewells Cross to Borough Cross and Newacott Cross to Borough Cross, 30th July to 2nd August inclusive, diversions to be signed, for road resurfacing works. Chapel Corner to Bridgemoor Cross, 28th July for 1 day, pole replacement.

3766: Village Hall/Shop Update : The hall continues to operate well, and has a large event planned for Friday evening. The shop has its Annual Members meeting tomorrow and continues to do well, with some very busy days when the weather is good.

3767 : Bridgerule Community Garden update : Councillors discussed the recent addition of a summerhouse and voted to approve it, Proposed 1st KB, 2nd JT, votes for 7, 2 abstentions, motion carried. Insurance quotes were being sought for the summerhouse. KB queried if it were possible to have another entrance for easier access to the shop. Councillors discussed as a sloped path could be potentially steep, and pedestrians needed to be away from passing traffic. All agreed better access would be beneficial and lots of supportive comments from residents received. EH would look into grants availability and criteria required. An Open Garden Invitation on Sunday 9th August given to councillors.

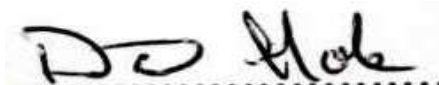
3768 : Councillor Vacancy : TDC had advised that the vacancy be filled by Co-option. A poster had been placed on the Notice board.

3769 : Clerk report : Electoral register changes this month, 1 creation and 1 deletion. Bude SEO had asked if the council wished to keep its .Org registration at a cost of £25 p.a. Councillors agreed to not renew as the council now had gone to .Gov.

3770: Exchange of Information : Planned BBQ at the Community garden cancelled and replaced with an Apple Pressing event, A resident had enquired if the Dog bin at the verge of their property could be moved, siting to be reviewed. SW gave apologies for the next meeting. Tractor rides to be available for the Ramble.

3771 : Meeting closed at 8.45 pm : Date of next meeting Tuesday 18th August at 7.30 pm.

Signed by Meeting Chairman :



Date of signing : ...18.08.26.....