Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 7.30. pm, at Bridgerule Village Hall.

Present : Chairman: D. Hale,
Councillors : J. McDougall, K. Bowditch, M. Tape, K. James, J. Trayford, S. Cholwill, S. Whatmore, E. Hosie
MOP x 1
In Attendance : Clerk.

3789. Apologies Received : District Councillor N.K

Declarations of Interests: DH declared and interest in Agenda item 15, KJ would take the chair for this item.

3790. Council Meeting Minutes : Minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 2026 circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and agreed by all present as correct. Proposed 1st, MT, 2nd JMD, all councillors in favour.
3791. Matters Arising : None.

3792 : Councillor Vacancy and Co-option. There had been one interested party to fill the vacancy, a statement of relevant experience had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Proposed, M. Dymond be co-opted, 1st KB, 2nd SW, all councillors in favour. The chairman welcomed Cllr. Dymond to the council.

3793: Public Open Question Time : No questions raised.

3794: District Councillors report – KJ reported that the LGR was now on hold and meetings were to be held in Exeter and the leaders of the Districts via Teams. TDC were awaiting further directions from government and works on LGR had paused. N. Devon maternity services were not re-opening on the date originally planned due to recruitment and staffing issues. 98 births at Exeter within the last month which could have taken place in Bideford if the unit had been open. TDC is to face elections next May, possibly towns and parishes as well, for possibly a 4-year term. The marine project and long-term projects are continuing but there are some issues with the proposed Agri- Business at Holsworthy. A meeting to resolve issues is to be held next week.

3795 : Correspondence – received, Drip Tamar group, Hall committee regarding replacement A-frame for swing and defibrillator supplies. Councillors discussed the costs of the latter and agreed it was for community benefit, and the council could take over the funding and stock replacement in future, as these items were costly but necessary. To agenda this for next month.
Multiple correspondence regarding the Community Garden to be moved and discussed in Agenda item 15.
Replacement of the A- frame for triple swing, as existing one needed replacement, SC had sought potential grant funding, likely only 30% of cost could be obtained, costs of new in the region of £13k. To agenda item for next month and discuss what amount could be available from the council account, if approved.

3796 : Chairmans report : Nothing to report this month.

3797 : 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, Current account agreed at £5720.91 on the 31st of August. Proposed accepted 1st, SC, 2nd JT, show of hands, all councillors in favour.

3798 : Vas Signs, Speedwatch and Highways Update : SW reported Vas data, sign 1, Vicarage Hill , 11,418 passing vehicles, with 3922 travelling at speeds over 25mph. 1124 travelling over 30mph. Maximum speed recorded 46 mph, average speed recorded 24 mph. Sign 2, Middle road, 14,215 passing vehicles with 3476 vehicles travelling over 30mph. Maximum speed recorded 43.6 mph and average speeds recorded were 21.8mph. A recent Speedwatch session at Vicarage hill last week recorded 61 passing vehicles, 6 of whom were logged as speeding. Details had been sent to HQ at Exeter. JT would like to speak at the school and generally promote the group pro-actively as a deterrent. Clerk to write letter. Highways – road closure at Jewells Cross to Borough Cross, Borough Cross to Newacott Cross, B3254 from 7.00pm to 6.00 am on Monday 12th October to Friday 16th October for Kier, surface dressing.

3799 : Annual Budget : General spending budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed. The amount available for charity grants this year had decreased, if the council wished to stay within income limits. It was agreed that publication and information on application be circulated as usual, and grants would be considered on merit when received. Another updated budget would be circulated next year, Clerk to prepare and publish poster with closing dates.

3800: Village Hall/Shop Update : The hall continues to do well, and the solar panels are proving useful. The shop has seen an 8% growth in sales this year It has expanded its freezer lines which has contributed to 3% increase in volume sales and is doing well.

3801 : Bridgerule Football Club – MT reported that Bude girls have started to hire and use the field, yielding revenue for the club. Parking on some days had been an issue, although on one day, there were two teams playing in succession. Proposed, 2nd instalment of pitch cutting and maintenance grant be given, 1st KJ, 2nd JT, show of hands, all councillors in favour.

3802 : Bridgerule Community Garden update : DH had declared an interest and stepped down from the chair at 8.39pm and refrained from discussion and participation. KJ took the chair. Councillors discussed the multiple emails received from a former member regarding events and statements from members of the Garden group. Councillors felt some recent behaviour was unacceptable. A letter from the council was needed to be sent, clerk to write, and councillors unanimously agreed, 9 votes for, that the group should remain in its current format. EH informed the council that they were resigning from the group as treasurer, and gave copies of accounts showing how the grant money had been spent. Another council member needed to be proposed as a council representative for the committee, to comply with group constitution. To agenda for next month
The council agreed that Cllr Hale should remain on the council . For agenda next month. DH resumed the chair at 8.51 pm.

3803 : Clerks report : Clerk had applied for online training on the new Digital AGAR service, but it was oversubscribed. A day at Truro was available in November. Electoral Register changes this month, 1 creation and 1 deletion.

3804: Exchange of Information : It had been noted that at the new recycling centre, the staff there were very unhelpful. KJ said the service and staffing were provided by contractors, and he would discuss the matter with them. Two more mobile catering units had expressed an interest in coming to Bridgerule, in the hall car park.

3805 : Meeting closed at 9.01 pm : Date of next meeting Tuesday 20th October at 7.30 pm.

Signed by Meeting Chairman : 

Date of signing : …20th October 2026……