



# Stokeinteignhead Parish Council

*Parish Clerk: Mr A McKenzie – 44 Cranesbill Way, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1UE*

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Electors of Stokeinteignhead are warmly invited to  
the Annual Parish Meeting on

**Tuesday 26 May 2026**

**at 7.45pm**

**in the Village Hall**

## Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting, Councillor apologies and welcome.
2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6 May 2025.
3. Presentation by representatives of the Devon Resilience Innovation Project
4. Retiring Chairman's annual report.
5. Public session – an opportunity for residents to raise matters relating to the Parish.

Councillor Karl Pedersen  
Chairman – Stokeinteignhead Parish Council

## **Annual Meeting of the Parish**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish  
held at the Village Hall, Stokeinteignhead  
on Tuesday, 6 May 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

### **Present:**

Thirteen electors of the Parish.

***The following minutes will be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting and may be subject to change until that time.***

### Part I

#### **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING, COUNCILLOR APOLOGIES AND WELCOME**

The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed all those present.

There were no Councillor apologies.

#### **2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing gratitude to all members of the Council, including the Parish Clerk Andrew McKenzie, for their continued commitment. Special thanks were also extended to District Councillor Chris Clarence and to Devon County Councillor Alistair Dewhurst, who is stepping down at the upcoming elections after many years of dedicated service.

The Chairman's annual report provided a detailed overview of the Council's activities over the past year. The council experienced changes in its membership, notably welcoming Councillor Josephine John after the resignation of Councillor Hancock. Throughout the year, councillors considered a variety of planning applications, ranging from residential extensions to the retention of temporary rural worker accommodation. In each case, the Council maintained a careful scrutiny of proposals, paying particular attention to concerns around overdevelopment, flood resilience, and environmental impact. Members also engaged with ongoing planning policy developments, including attending relevant forums and monitoring the evolving situation at Slatina Park.

Environmental and infrastructure matters featured prominently in the Council's work. Notable achievements included the appointment of a drainage contractor to address persistent flooding issues, especially near Victoria Farm and Ivy Tree Hill, and the commissioning of detailed surveys to inform long-term maintenance. Tree safety and the management of hedges were addressed, with new plantings introduced and hazardous trees removed as required. The Council continued to support the local environment through the adoption of a formal biodiversity policy, the creation of a working group, and leadership from Councillor Dot Simmons.

Financially, the Council concluded the 2023-24 external audit with no issues raised and approved a modest increase in the parish precept to support future projects, particularly those associated with The Linney. Revised financial regulations and anti-corruption policies were adopted, and the use of professional software was endorsed to ensure robust financial management.

Community support remained a priority, with grants totalling £3,000 awarded to various local groups and facilities, including the Church, the Friends of the Village, the Film Society, the Parish Magazine, and the village shop. Efforts to address local parking challenges resulted in the production and distribution of informational leaflets.

The meeting's central focus was The Linney, an historic parish building requiring substantial repairs and restoration. The Chairman summarised the findings of a recent structural engineer's report, outlining the likely costs—estimated at £20,000–£30,000 for rethatching alone, with comprehensive works potentially reaching £50,000. Members and parishioners debated the building's future, weighing the need for urgent repairs against the desirability of making the building more than simply a storage area. Several potential uses were suggested, from hosting farmers' markets to acting as a small heritage centre, but there was consensus that any significant investment must be matched by community benefit. Health and safety, particularly low headroom and access, remained an ongoing concern.

Throughout the discussion, it was acknowledged that a phased approach to repairs might be the most prudent course—addressing the most urgent issues such as the roof and structural posts first, followed by internal works as funding allows. It was agreed that further consultation with the community would be essential before making any final decisions, and that options such as minimal repairs, sale of the building, or staged investment should remain on the table.

Other matters discussed included the upkeep and operation of the village's defibrillators (with new pads and batteries arranged, and a free training evening offered by South West Ambulance Service), the improvement of the war memorial's lighting (balancing environmental impact and effectiveness), and the proposed sale of a collection of cigarette cards donated to the parish. Updates were also given regarding local planning, particularly recent changes to Torbay Council's house building proposals affecting land near the village.

### **3. PUBLIC SESSION**

Concerns were raised regarding the low attendance of parishioners at the meeting, with suggestions to broaden publicity beyond Facebook and the Parish Magazine to include notice boards and posters. The Chairman advocated for hybrid meetings, using technology to allow greater participation by those unable to attend in person.

As the meeting drew to a close, the Chairman emphasised that no final decisions regarding The Linney would be taken that evening. Instead, a further parish council meeting would be scheduled to determine next steps, informed by additional community input and professional advice.

The meeting concluded with thanks to all attendees, a renewed call for community engagement, and a commitment to transparent, careful stewardship of parish assets for the benefit of all.

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.42 p.m.*

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Cllr Karl Pedersen  
CHAIRMAN – STOKEINTEIGNHEAD PARISH COUNCIL