

Stokeinteignhead Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the
Parish Council
held at the Village Hall, Stokeinteignhead
on Tuesday, 9 June 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillors Pedersen (Chairman), John (Deputy Chairman), French, Hobin, and Stoneman.

In attendance:

Andrew McKenzie – Parish Clerk
Councillor Horner – Devon County Councillor
Councillor Clarence – Teignbridge District Councillor
3 members of the public

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

Part I

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dennis, Horton, and Simmons.

Resolved that the apologies be noted.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was no public discussion.

25. MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 May 2026.

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 May 2026 be approved and signed as a correct and accurate record.

26 POLICE REPORT

In the period, 1st May 2026 to the 31st May 2026, there were 0 recorded offences in the Stokeinteignhead area, made to the Police.

Resolved that the report be noted.

27. ORGANISATION REPORTS

There were no organisation reports.

28. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised that the thatching works to the Linhay had started with the rear of the property looking good. Upon completion attention would turn to how the shed would be utilised going forward.

Resolved that the report be noted.

29. PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Stoneman – the Clerk had contacted the Neighbourhood Highways Officer and together with he, the neighbourhood PCSO, and a local resident met to discuss issues with drains and sandbags in the area. He advised that any material entering the drains was not believed to have originated from the junction. The Officer had inspected the site and identified a grip at the junction, which was subsequently cleared by the landowner. It was noted that this work had been carried out in front of the neighbouring property. Councillor Stoneman further reported that, over the previous two weeks, someone had been visiting the site daily and blocking the drain, causing water to back up onto the road. Photographic evidence had been taken, and Sam confirmed that a letter would be sent to the owners.

Councillor Hobin – raised concerns regards the state of St Mary Church Road on the Newton Hill junction – its condition had remained unchanged for 2-3 years. Highways had marked it out giving the impression it would be done, but nothing had happened in 8 months. He questioned whether these works had fallen off the list but it was now so bad that drivers were swerving to other side of the road and it had already caused one accident. The County Councillor advised she would investigate the matter.

Councillor Hobin further promoted the afternoon tea to be held at the Village Hall next Saturday in aid of St Andrew's church. £10 a ticket for a full afternoon tea.

Councillor French – queried whether the pothole on Forches Hill had been filled in. It was advised they had however it had already begun to lift. She further

asked whether the leak on Forches Hill had been remedied by South West Water. Members confirmed South West Water had still not attended the site.

Councillor French further asked whether anything been said of what's going on at Middle Gabwell regards the installation of a sceptic tank. The Clerk advised those with concerns to contact relevant departments at District Council and provided details, together with District Councillor Clarence's contact details to investigate internally.

Councillor John – on behalf of Councillor Simmons, circulated an article that had been in the Parish Magazine highlighting the recent twinning visit to Trevieres. Any one interested in joining the Association would be welcomed; the twinningers were due to visit Stokeinteignhead next year.

Councillor John further advised that the Village Shop had been put forward for the Plunkett Award, and Black Rabbit had won silver for their cider. It was **agreed** that the Council would write to each organisation to congratulate them.

Resolved that the reports be noted.

30. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

The County Councillor's report had been previously circulated.

Councillor Clarence advised that Councillor Steemson had been re-elected Chairman of Teignbridge District Council, Grant Thornton had recommended actions regards previous poor behaviour on the Council but several Members wanted to move on. The Local Plan had been found good, and all Councils awaited the outcome of the Government's decision regards local government reorganisation which was due to be published in July.

Resolved that the reports be noted.

31. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk advised that he had been informed the Government's decision on local government reorganisation would be published between 12 and 16 July.

Resolved that the report be noted.

32. PLANNING

There were no planning applications for consideration.

Decisions of the Planning Authority received since the last Parish Council meeting:

- i. 26/00891/CAN – School House, School Road – large apple tree in garden reduction of crown by approximately 1.5 metres off the crown and 1.5 metres off the spread.

Resolved that this Council has **no objection** to the application.

To note any planning appeals and resolve whether to add modify, or withdraw previously made comments:

- i. 26/00816/CLDP – 3 Rocombe Court, Lower Rocombe – certificate of lawfulness for proposed installation of wood burner and full flue system – CERTIFIED

33. FINANCE

- i. Expenditure

Resolved that the following items of expenditure be approved for payment:

17/05/2026	John Finch Computers – O365 licences	£59.40
18/05/2026	Oak Homes Joinery Ltd – Linhay Posts / Install	£8,912.41
26/05/2026	Stokeinteignhead Village Hall – Annual Parish Mtg	£44.00
09/06/2026	Clerk’s Salary (June)	£576.20
09/06/2026	Clerk’s Expenses (June)	£24.00
09/06/2026	Stokeinteignhead Village Hall – Hall Hire	£31.00
Totals:		£9,647.01

- ii. Income

Resolved that the receipts and payments account be approved.

- iii. Reconciliations

Resolved that the reconciliations for May 2026 be approved.

34. LINHAY STRUCTURAL WORKS - UPDATE

Councillor Hobin advised that the works to the oak posts had been completed and looked great; a very professional job had been undertaken. Thatching had now commenced – some questions from parishioners as to why the Council was spending so much money on the building – his response had been it was a conservation and heritage asset in the village, and had the Council not acted it may well have fallen down.

Resolved that the report be noted.

35. COUNCIL STRATEGY

Councillor John introduced the proposed timetable and sought 3 Members to join the task and finish group. Councillors French, Hobin, and Pedersen put their names forward. It was likely that a representative from the village hall, plus a member of the public be invited to join the group in due course.

Resolved that Councillors French, Hobin, and Pedersen be appointed to the Task & Finish Group.

36. HR POLICIES

Members considered the proposed Absence Management Policy, and Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy.

During discussion, it was proposed by Councillors that the timescale within which to use carry-forward leave be changed to the end of the next leave year, and not by the end of May of the new leave year.

Following discussion, it was

Resolved that

- (a) the Absence Management Policy be approved as amended and adopted, and
- (b) the Anti-Bullying & Harassment Policy be approved and adopted.

37. BIODIVERSITY

There was no biodiversity update.

38. HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES

Matters had been raised under individual Councillor reports.

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Cllr Karl Pedersen
CHAIRMAN – STOKEINTEIGNHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix A
County Councillor's Report

Devon County Council held its Annual Meeting on 28 May. This was mainly a procedural meeting. It put in place the Council's leadership and committee arrangements for the year ahead, rather than making decisions about individual local services.

Councillor Brazil remains Leader of the Council, with Councillor Arnott as Deputy Leader. A new Chair and Vice-Chair were also appointed. This means the overall direction of the Council is broadly unchanged, with highways, children's services, and financial pressures still likely to be key areas of focus.

For parish councils, one point to note is the revised committee structure. The Development Management Committee, which deals with major planning applications, will now be smaller. That may make decisions more streamlined, but it also means fewer councillors will be directly involved. It remains important that local views are clearly submitted through the planning process.

The County Council has also set up a new Scrutiny Committee to look at Local Government Reorganisation. No immediate changes have been made. However, this work could, over time, affect how services are delivered and how parish councils work with higher tiers of local government. We are also expecting the Government's decision shortly on whether reorganisation will go ahead, and what form it may take. Devon County Council has appointed Meg Booth, currently Director for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, as Deputy Chief Executive to manage this work on the Council's behalf.

There were no decisions at the meeting that directly affected local highways, funding, or services in Shaldon and Ringmore. However, the wider concerns raised around planning, transport, and pressure on communities are issues being felt across Devon. Locally, I continue to follow progress on the collapsed wall on the A379 at Shaldon. The engineering work needed is more complicated than first thought. It also involves careful discussions with the Toll House owner.

After a long period when communication seems to have been limited, I now believe there is a willingness on both sides to get the repair moving as soon as possible. That said, because of the engineering and access issues, it would not be surprising if the start date slips further.

I am keeping in touch with both the Council Executive and the house owner, and I will continue to press for progress where I can. I would also urge residents to be cautious about reports online or in the press. I will do my best to keep the Parish Council and local residents updated as reliable information becomes available.

Councillor Heather Horner.