

**Stokeinteignhead Parish Council**  
Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Parish Council  
held at the Village Hall, Stokeinteignhead  
on Tuesday, 14 July 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:**

Andrew McKenzie – Parish Clerk  
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

*Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman expressed his sadness at the death of Ann Widdecombe and offered condolences to her family on behalf of the Council.*

**39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**Resolved** that the apologies be noted.

**40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor French declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 26/00994/LBC by virtue of being the applicant. She advised she would leave the meeting for the duration of the item and not speak or vote on it.

**41. PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

A member of the public raised concerns regards vehicles parked on Newton Road opposite Apple Barn. The Chairman advised the parishioner to email the Clerk who would then liaise with Devon County Highways on the matter.

**42. MINUTES**

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 June 2026.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 June 2026 be approved and signed as a correct and accurate record.

#### **43. POLICE REPORT**

*In the period, 1st June 2026 to the 30th June 2026, there were 4 recorded offences in the Stokeinteignhead area, made to the Police:*

*Road Rage (offensive driver) 1*

*ASB nuisance (neighbour continuously parking vehicles to make access to property dangerous) 1*

*Criminal damage (damage to gate by unknown persons) 1*

*RTC vehicle flipped 1*

**Resolved** that the report be noted and that the local neighbourhood policing team be invited to the September meeting of the Council.

#### **44. ORGANISATION REPORTS**

There were no organisation reports.

#### **45. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman advised that the redundant wooden posts from the Linhay would be used for woodwork.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

#### **46. PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

- Councillor Stoneman asked for an update regards the parking sign in the Pools Weir car park which should be installed before 1 September when hedge cutting resumes.
- Councillor Simmons expressed concern regards the condition of the parish noticeboard by the memorial. It required sanding back and repainting. It was **agreed** that a request for works be placed in the Parish Magazine, in addition to the Clerk and others obtaining quotes for the works.
- Councillor John advised that the first meeting of the Strategy Working Group would be held on 21 July.

**Resolved** that the reports be noted.

#### **47. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

There were no County and District Councillor reports.

#### **48. CLERK'S REPORT**

##### ***Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update – 21 June***

*I attended a meeting at County Hall on 21 June together Clerk's and Chairs / Mayors from all the major Towns in Devon with some 100 in attendance.*

*We received an update on Local Government Reorganisation from Donna Manson, Chief Executive and Cllr Julian Brazil, Leader of Devon County Council together with other senior officers. There were also Chief Executives from Devon's Districts and other principal authorities, including Teignbridge.*

##### ***Key Timeline***

- *Decision on preferred LGR setup for Devon expected end of June / mid-July 2026.*
- *Elections to the new shadow authority are expected to take place in May 2027.*
- *The new unitary council is scheduled to formally come into existence on 1 April 2028.*
- *Work on warding arrangements and related governance matters is expected to take place between November 26 and February 27.*

##### ***Elections***

- *There remains some uncertainty regarding whether existing elections scheduled for May 2027 will proceed or be cancelled.*
- *Representations are currently being made in support of aligning election cycles across the area. If the new Councils came into being in 2028, this could potentially mean election cycles were out of sync with Town and Parishes meaning they would be required to meet all-out election costs in full, rather than being shared with the unitary / principal authority as they do now. This was being raised with government and could mean the current Town/Parish Council administration could be asked to stay on for an additional year.*

##### ***Town and Parish Councils***

- *Concerns were raised regarding the potential erosion of local powers under larger unitary authorities and whether responsibilities currently exercised locally may be reduced.*
- *Discussion took place regarding future neighbourhood governance arrangements and the importance of town and parish councils being consulted on any proposals, particularly where different approaches may be*

*adopted by successor unitary authorities.*

### **Collaboration Opportunities**

- *Town and parish councils were encouraged to explore closer working relationships with neighbouring councils, particularly those in close geographical proximity.*
- *Opportunities were identified for clusters of towns and parishes to work together in delivering non-statutory services and managing local priorities.*

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

## **49. PLANNING**

- i. 26/00992/CLDE – Little Brook Barn, Stoke Road – certificate of lawfulness for use of agricultural building for agricultural purposes.

**Resolved** that this Council recommends **no objection** to the application. However, the Parish Council wishes for it to be noted that the Statutory Declaration provided in the associated documents relating to the application is factually incorrect; the land has been used by horses for at least 7 to 8 years in the last 20.

- ii. 26/00994/LBC – 1 Teign Court, Stokeinteignhead – single storey extension.

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

### To note recent Planning Decisions (for information)

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

## **50. FINANCE**

- i. Expenditure

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

|            |                                           |           |
|------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 17/06/2026 | John Finch Computers – O365 licences      | £59.40    |
| 08/06/2026 | Tristan Johnson Ltd – Thatching Materials | £9,930.00 |
| 28/06/2026 | A J Jackson Master Thatcher               | £7,230.00 |
| 14/07/2026 | Clerk's Salary (Jul)                      | £576.20   |
| 14/07/2026 | Clerk's Expenses (Jul)                    | £24.00    |
| 14/07/2026 | Hire of hall                              | £31.00    |

**Totals:**

**£17,850.60**

ii. Income

**Resolved** that the receipts and payments account be approved.

iii. Reconciliations

**Resolved** that the reconciliations for June 2026 be approved.

iv. Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report

**Resolved** that the Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report be approved.

**51. LINHAY STRUCTURAL WORKS - UPDATE**

The Chairman advised that structural remedial works had now been completed at the Linhay and the Working Group would now turn its attention to the function of the open space within the Linhay. Ideas included housing sandbags for emergency use in addition to interpretation boards being installed showing the history of the building and wider village.

**Resolved** that the report be noted, and that Councillor Hobin be authorised to provide a review of the works for the contractors.

**52. REVIEW OF THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY**

Teignbridge District Council were consulting on a revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and sought comments from various groups and individuals including Town and Parish Councils.

Following discussion, it was

**Resolved** that no objections be made to the document.

**53. ONLINE STREAMING OF MEETINGS**

Members considered the potential purchase of an Owl 3 camera to facilitate the live streaming of Council meetings.

During the discussion, it was noted that two requests had been received over the previous two years for the Parish Council to live stream its meetings. Members acknowledged that live streaming would enable those unable to attend meetings in person to view proceedings online and could enhance the Council's visibility and transparency. It was also suggested that any recorded footage should be retained for a maximum period of one month, in line with the approval of the preceding meeting's minutes.

Members also expressed several concerns, including the cost of the equipment in relation to the limited level of demand, the potential impact of meeting

etiquette, issues relating to the retention of footage and control of data outside of the Parish Council, and the safety of councillors. It was noted that an appropriate risk assessment, policies and procedures would be required should live streaming be introduced.

**Resolved** that consideration of the purchase of an Owl 3 camera and the live streaming of Council meetings be deferred until the September meeting.

#### **54. LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT – INTERNAL AUDITOR**

The Parish Council considered the Letter of Engagement from the Internal Auditor concerning their appointment as the Council's internal auditor for 2026/27 and whether to engage for a period of three years.

During discussion it was noted that the internal auditor was independent of the Parish Council's financial decision-making and operational arrangements, and satisfied the independence requirements set out in the SAPPP Practitioner's Guide.

**Resolved** that Lee Accounting Ltd be appointed as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for a three-year term covering the financial years 2026/27 to 2028/29.

#### **55. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ROAD CLOSURE**

Members considered whether to apply for a road closure for Remembrance Sunday.

To facilitate this, the Council needed to have persons undertake the Traffic Management for Community Events and Road Closures course at a cost of £95+VAT per person, and £38+VAT per person for the Lantra ID Card which lasted for 5 years.

It was **resolved** that, subject to them being willing, the following people be offered attendance on the Course: Councillor Dennis, Councillor Hobin, Kevin Bowden, and John Ewbank as representatives from Friends of the Village.

The next available course would be in Seaton on 15 August with two places available.

A further course was available on 23 October at Notter Bridge, Saltash. It was **agreed** that Councillor Pedersen attend the course and up to two others if not able to attend on 15 August.

#### **56. PARISH COUNCIL GRANT SCHEME**

Members considered the Council's Grant Scheme.

During discussion, it was submitted that:

- The scheme should require an update from recipients after 6 months
- The scheme should not fund new and first year organisations
- The scheme should require attendance from organisations applying for grants at the Parish Council meeting considering the application otherwise it would not be considered
- The Scheme require organisations to attend the Annual Parish Meeting either with a stall or presentation to highlight the work they do and the benefits of the grant to them

**Resolved** that delegated authority be granted to the Clerk to amend the policy to incorporate the agreed amendments, and that the revised policy be used as the basis for considering grant applications at the September meeting.

#### **57. PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE**

**Resolved** that delegated authority be given to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to review and accept the renewal of the Parish Council's insurance policy which was due to expire on 30 August 2026.

#### **58. BIODIVERSITY**

Councillor Simmons provided an update:

- She had attended a site on Dartmoor, 120 acres which had been dedicated to rewilding and housing a habitat for beavers.
- The oak tree at Pools Weir needed some attention and the wildlife warden took good care of it
- The bird cherry tree in the meadow at the village hall had blossomed this year and was doing well; some minor weeding was required.

**Resolved** that the update be noted.

#### **59. HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES**

Councillor Pedersen raised the issue of St Marychurch Road still not being resurfaced despite a significant number of potholes and questioned why this was when Teignmouth Road by Labrador Bay had been resurfaced seemingly without issue. It was **agreed** that the matter be raised with the County Councillor.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:56.*

.....  
Cllr Karl Pedersen  
CHAIRMAN – STOKEINTEIGNHEAD PARISH COUNCIL