

Stokeinteignhead Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the

Parish Council

held at the Village Hall, Stokeinteignhead

on Tuesday, 15 September 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillors John (Deputy Chairman), Dennis, Horton, and Stoneman.

In attendance:

Andrew McKenzie – Parish Clerk

10 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

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors French, Hobin, Pedersen, and Simmons.

Resolved that the apologies be noted.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stoneman declared a personal interest in the last agenda item. He advised he would leave the meeting prior to the commencement of the item and not take part in the discussion or vote.

62. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Comments were raised relating to Newton Hill and the issue of motorists driving at speed and the matter of parked vehicles narrowing the road which could pose a risk to pedestrians and animals using the road. The Deputy Chairman advised that correspondence had been received on the matter and would be considered in the confidential session of the meeting.

A member of the public advised that a site earmarked for development in Maidencombe had been removed from the Torbay Local Plan, together with a development at Long Park being reduced by 30 although it was hoped this would be reduced further. Sladnor Park was still identified as a site for development but that was being worked on.

At this juncture, the Deputy Chairman advised that the agenda item for the consideration of grant applications would be taken to allow those wanting to leave the meeting to do so if they wished.

63. PARISH COUNCIL GRANT SCHEME

Members considered grant applications submitted by the following organisations:

Fuzzy Dee Committee:	£550
Stoke Village Show:	£500
Stoke Village Shop	£1000
St Andrew's Church	£1500

The Deputy Chairman advised that as per the terms of the grant scheme detailed on the application form, as a representative from the Fuzzy Dee Committee was not present at the meeting, the Council would not be considering the application.

The Deputy Chairman invited representatives from each of the organisations to speak in support their application.

Following discussion, it was

Resolved that the following grants be made:

Stoke Village Show:	£500
Stoke Village Shop	£1000
St Andrew's Church	£1500

64. MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 July 2026.

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 July 2026 be approved and signed as a correct and accurate record.

65. POLICE REPORT

In the period, 1st July 2026 to the 31st July 2026, there were 2 recorded offences in the Stokeinteignhead area, made to the Police.

Theft 1

Violence less serious (harassment from neighbours Gardner) 1

Resolved that the report be noted.

66. ORGANISATION REPORTS

There were no organisation reports.

67. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Deputy Chairman advised that preparations were being made for Remembrance Sunday on 8 November and further information would be provided nearer the time.

Resolved that the report be noted.

68. PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Councillor Horton –

- Hedge and grass cutting had been undertaken at Pools Weir however there was concern regards some residents parking vehicles which may be damaged in the process. It was **agreed** that a notice would be placed on the noticeboard the week the cuts were due to advise, in addition to a message on the Council's Facebook page.
- Concern raised with sandbags being placed back in the Linhay and suggested putting some at Pools Weir car park, covered with tarpaulin or similar. It was **agreed** that this would be considered at a future meeting.

Councillor Dennis –

- Bus stop at the top of Deane Road. Queried when a hardstanding with pole would be installed despite assurances from the then County Councillor in May 2025 that it would be. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would chase Devon County Council and also ask regards the possibility of a shelter.
- There was a water leak emanating on Ivy Tree Hill near to Golden Dawn. This had not been reported to South West Water as far as he was aware. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would notify Environmental Health to investigate.
- Drain covers at the bottom of the village. Could enquiries be made as to whether the drains could be converted to the louvre type rather than flat, as they blocked easily with debris and silt in heavy downpours. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would ask the Highways Department and DRIP for further information.

Councillor Stoneman –

- Noted that motorbikes were driving at speeds of approximately 50-60 mph along Barton Hill, St Marychurch Road, and around the parish.

Police had been notified but appeared not to have acted on this information.

Resolved that the reports be noted.

69. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

The County Councillor's report had been circulated previously and was available as an appendix to the Minutes.

District Councillor Clarence

Councillor Clarence advised that the government had placed on hold local government reorganisation across the country which included Devon. Elections to town and parishes, and the existing district councils would continue to take place in 2027 for a four-year term. The results of the review and the next step were awaited.

Teignbridge was currently continuing to prepare a new local plan for the area.

Resolved that the reports be noted.

70. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that a meeting setup by Brixham Town Council of councils forming the new Torbay & South Devon Council had been cancelled due to the government's decision to pause LGR. It was envisaged that whilst there was a pause, the process would not be cancelled, and suggestions were that elections to the shadow authority would take place in 2028 with the new councils coming into force from May 2029. Representatives s from town and parish councils asked that DALC make representations to ensure that elections were aligned for parishes and the unitary which would see the parishes share the cost rather than having to fund the election outright which for smaller parishes would be in some cases not feasible.

Resolved that the report be noted.

71. PLANNING

There were no applications requiring Council comment.

To note recent Planning Decisions (for information)

- i. 26/00891/CAN – School House, School Road – large apple tree in garden reduction of crown by approximately 1.5 metres o the crown and 1.5 metres to the spread – NO OBJECTION

- ii. 26/00992/CLDE – Little Brook Barn, Stoke Road, Stokeinteignhead – certificate of lawfulness for use of agricultural building for agricultural purposes – REFUSED
- iii. 26/00542/HOU – 1 Teign Court, Stokeinteignhead – single storey extension – GRANTED
- iv. 26/00994/LBC – 1 Teign Court, Stokeinteignhead – single storey extension – GRANTED
- v. 26/01041/FUL – Meadow Farm, Stokeinteignhead – retrospective application for the erection of an outbuilding for storage purposes and the laying of associated concrete hard standing for access – REFUSED

Resolved that the planning decisions of the planning authority be noted.

72. NJC PAY AWARD 2026

Resolved that the agreement of the national pay award of 3.3% on all pay points reached on 24 August 2026, backdated to 1 April 2026, be noted.

73. FINANCE

i. Expenditure

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

11/08/2026	Clerk's Salary – August	£576.00
11/08/2026	Clerk's Expenses – August	£24.00
04/09/2026	PKF Littlejohn LLP – External Audit 25/26	£252.00
08/09/2026	Council Insurance Renewal	£950.25
15/09/2026	Clerk's Salary – September	£802.98
15/09/2026	Clerk's Expenses – September	£24.00
15/09/2026	Hire of hall	£31.00

Totals: £2,660.23

ii. Income

Resolved that the receipts and payments account be approved.

iii. Reconciliations

Resolved that the reconciliations for July, and August 2026 be approved.

74. PLANNING VALIDATION GUIDE – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Resolved that Councillors make individual comments should they have any, specifying that they are not speaking on behalf of the Parish Council.

75. CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Council noted the conclusion of audit for the year ended 31 March 2026, which included an “except for” matter.

The external auditor reported that the Council had incorrectly answered “No” to the statement regarding the inclusion of trust fund figures in the AGAR, when the correct response should have been “Yes.”

The Council acknowledged this administrative error and noted in the previous year the response had to be “Yes”. However, it was confirmed that all relevant figures were included in the accounting statements and were correct and no other issues relating to the audit had been raised.

Resolved that the conclusion of the External Audit for the financial year 2025/26 be noted.

76. CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE – COUNCILLOR STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

Members considered the recommendation that the Parish Council encourage Members to sign the individual Councillor Statement of Assurance as part of the Parish Council's adopted Civility & Respect Pledge.

During discussion, Members expressed support for the initiative. The Clerk reiterated that Members could not be mandated to sign, only encouraged. Those not present at the meeting would be invited to sign via email or in the office.

Resolved that Parish Councillors be encouraged to sign the individual Councillor Statement of Assurance as part of the Parish Council's adopted Civility & Respect Pledge.

77. BIODIVERSITY

Resolved that the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

78. HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES

There were no reports.

79. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the following items on the basis that the information to be disclosed would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

80. CORRESPONDENCE

Members considered correspondence received in relation to highways matters on Deane Road.

*At this juncture, it was **resolved** that the meeting be extended for a period of up to 30 minutes.*

Following discussion, it was

Resolved that a site visit be organised together with the local PSCO to understand the local situation, and report back findings to an appropriate meeting of the Council.

At this juncture, Councillor Stoneman left the meeting at 21:00.

81. CORRESPONDENCE

Members considered correspondence in relation to highways matters on Newton Hill.

Following discussion, it was

Resolved that the resident be politely asked if they could move the vehicle(s) directly opposite a driveway to enable easier ingress/egress, and the highways authority and Police be approached for a view on the parking at Newton Hill.

The Deputy Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:17.

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Cllr Josephine John
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN – STOKEINTEIGNHEAD PARISH COUNCIL