



**St Giles on the Heath with Northcott Hamlet
Parish Council**

“Working with you, For you”

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

Tuesday 26th August 2025 at 7.00pm

Parish Councillors Present: Cllr Atkinson (Chairman), Cllr K Hamlyn, Cllr Bowyer, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Russell, Cllr Stott, Cllr Curtis, **In attendance:** Clerk Kayleigh Walker, County Councillor Lynne Rowsell, members of the public: 9

1. PUBLIC SESSION

1.1 During the public session, concerns were raised about the excessive speed of vehicles travelling along the main A road through the village and other minor parish roads. The Chairman responded that, although the Parish Council has raised these concerns with Devon Highways on multiple occasions, the only action approved to date has been the installation of two small signs—designed by local schoolchildren—urging drivers to proceed with care. Proposals such as a reduced speed limit, additional signage, installation of speed cameras, or changes to the road layout have all been declined so far. To support road safety, the Community Speedwatch team has increased its activity, conducting monitoring sessions at the village entrance and near Chapmans Well. These have consistently recorded vehicles exceeding the speed limit. In response to a question, the Chairman explained that first-time offenders receive a police warning letter, and repeat offenders may be issued a penalty.

Due to the focus on speeding, Agenda Item 5.9 was moved to the public session. Cllr. Lynne Rowell informed attendees of her forthcoming meeting with the Director of Devon Highways, where she intends to raise concerns about speeding in rural areas. A discussion took place between the public and councillors with regard to the road to Tower Hill. This road is frequently used by pedestrians, cyclists, and runners, and features single-track sections and blind bends, making the national speed limit inappropriate. A member of the public shared a petition calling for a reduced speed limit on this road and asked that it be circulated widely. All present agreed that waiting for a fatality before taking action is unacceptable. Preventative measures must be prioritised.

Additional issues raised included: The lack of adequate signage across many parish roads. The danger posed to pedestrians where there are no pavements, requiring them to walk on the carriageway.

Agreed Actions: The Parish Clerk will submit a written representation to Cllr. Lynne Rowell outlining local concerns to be raised at the upcoming meeting with Devon Highways. Councillors and the Clerk will: Review and report obscured road signs. Share the public petition via the council’s Facebook page. Request increased Speedwatch activity from the police. Pursue all avenues within their power to address the issue. A public meeting involving emergency services representatives to raise awareness about the consequences of speeding will be considered, following the outcome of the Highways meeting.

2. RECEIVING APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Cllrs Williams, Dimmock and Paulger, District Cllr Gibson - apologies accepted.

2.2 None.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held July 8th, 2025, were previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Fisher as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Stott and agreed by all. The Chairman signed a copy.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 None.

5. REVIEWING ONGOING MATTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 County Cllrs Report - Cllr Rowsell reported that August was a quiet time within council and the main focus was still the devolution process however no definitive progress had been made. She hoped to have something more definitive to share by the next meeting.

5.2 District Cllrs Report - None.

5.3 New website update from Cllr Williams - carried over to the next meeting.

5.4 Graveyard land - Councillors discussed the letter and agreed that there was not enough definitive information about the purchase of the land and that no permanent financial commitment could be made. The Clerk was instructed to write a reply welcoming annual applications for financial help via the grants procedure and to suggest the church council approaches the church commissioner for help and advice. Motion proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Curtis and agreed by all.

5.5 Grass cutting in the play area/email from member of the public - Councillors discussed the concerns raised regarding the use of a ride-on mower and reviewed advice received from Highways relating to the relevant

Chairman Sign and date1.....



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regulations. It was agreed that the Clerk would: Write a response to the individual who raised the concern, outlining the applicable regulations for the use of ride-on mowers. Confirm that the council’s contractor has been asked to be more mindful of grass and debris landing on the adjacent fence during mowing. Share the mower regulations with the contractor and reiterate the importance of taking care around boundary features.

5.6 Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Community Conversations Event - shared and acknowledged.

5.7 TDC New Street Naming & Numbering Policy - shared and acknowledged.

5.8 Traffic Notice - October 1st 2025, the road from Panson Cross to Panson Mill Farm will be closed.

5.9 Discuss road to Tower Hill speed limit - discussed under item 1.1.

6. REVIEWING PROGRESS OF COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

6.1 Speedwatch update - no sessions had taken place since the last meeting. New volunteers are needed in order to hold more frequent sessions.

6.2 Playground update - The Chairman thanked Cllr Russell for installing the new playground bins. The Clerk confirmed the old bins would be collected by TDC. Cllrs discussed issues with the double gate in the playground and also the large gate in the playing field and agreed to look for some possible solutions to ensure they are safe. The Clerk will look to obtain a sign that states the double gate in the playground is only for use by the grass cutter and emergency services. Councillors discussed the damaged goal post and Cllr Curtis agreed to ask a welder to take a look to see whether suitable repairs could be made. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the playground budget had been exhausted for this financial year.

7. FINANCES

7.1 Authorisation of expenses – Coronation Hall hall hire for meeting £18, grass cutting £480. Accounts proposed for payment by Cllr Russell, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn and agreed by all.

7.2 Current account as of 19th August 2025 - £5999.94.

7.3 Monthly budget sheet – circulated for Cllrs information only.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 The Clerk advised she had advertised the councillor vacancies from today and applications will be reviewed at the next parish council meeting.

9. NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

9.1 Next Parish Council Meeting to be held Tuesday 7th October 2025 7:00pm.

***** PART TWO*** (Closed to press and public)**

10. ENFORCEMENT

10.1 Councillors acknowledged the closure of an enforcement case.

11. CLOSE

11.1 Meeting closed 8.16pm.