



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

“Working with you, For you”

(draft) MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.00pm

Parish Councillors Present: Cllr Atkinson (Chairman), Cllr K Hamlyn, Cllr Bowyer, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Russell, Cllr Paulger, Cllr Dimmock, Cllr Gearing, Cllr McIlmurray, Curtis **In attendance:** Clerk Kayleigh Walker, District Cllr Hackett, members of the public: 2.

1. PUBLIC SESSION

1.1 Two members of the public attended the meeting to meet the parish coucillors and to express a desire to help in anyway that they could. They shared a specific interest in the creation of an emergency plan for the village. The Chairman explained that the council had in the past looked to participate in the Snow Warden scheme but had not had any volunteer interest. The Clerk will liaise with the interested parties to look at creating a plan. They also asked for information relating to 5.4 to which the Clerk and Chairman explained that the grant had been approved and it would now be a matter for discussion between the council, the shop and the hall to figure out how best to utilise the funding. When asked who would monitor the CCTV the Chairman confirmed it would not be monitored live by an individual but would be a recording that could be accessed if an incident was to arise. Further details minuted under 5.4.

2. RECEIVING APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Cllrs Stott and Williams, District Cllr Gibson, County Cllr Rowsell - apologies accepted. The Clerk was asked to seek clarity over the provision for Cllrs to join by video call.

2.2 None.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held November 18th, 2025, were previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Russell as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Paulger and agreed by all. The Chairman signed a copy.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 None.

5. REVIEWING ONGOING MATTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 County councillors' report - Cllr Rowsell sent apologies by email and stated that she had no report to give.

5.2 District councillors' report - The Chairman thanked Cllr Hackett for attending, mentioning that the council had been dissatisfied with the level of attendance received by the District Cllrs. Cllr Hackett explained that due to the vast number of parishes in the district there was a lot of clashing of meetings making it impossible to attend them all. He advised that he priorities meetings that invlove planning matters or specific items that he may be able to assist with. He reported that the reorganisation of local government was still unknown and was still taking up a lot of time at TDC. Moving on he advised that the Police & Crime Commissioner had gone independent. He highlighted that the judicial system appeared to have ground to a halt and small crimes were on the rise. A discussion took place about the possibility of removing jury's as a cost saving exercise and it was felt this would not save money in the long term along with not allowing for a fair hearing. With regard to item 5.4 Cllr Hackett advised that Phil Gilbert at TDC would be able to provide guidance on equipment used and what it can capture. He emphasised the importance of the footage being of evidential quality. Cllrs thanked him for attending.

5.3 New website update from Cllr Williams - Cllrs had reviewed the site and fed back to Cllr Williams ahead of the meeting. Cllrs agreed that the site should go live and any further amendments could be made as and when required. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Williams.

5.4 Grant for community CCTV equipment - discussed under item 1.1 the Clerk confirmed that the expression of interest had been approved and grant funding of £5,500 had been awarded. The Chairman confirmed that the idea was to install CCTV to cover the most used/central area of the village which was outside shop, the hall, the car park and the playing field. The Chairman advised that the next step would be to bring those parties together to see what they would like and how the equipmet would be maintained, the data stored and so on. The Clerk and Chairman will liaise further to progress the project.

5.5 TDC Local Plan Settlement Survey - The Clerk shared details of the survey and Cllrs mentioned adding the vehicle repair shop to the plan. The Clerk will complete and return the forms.

Chairman Sign and date1.....



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6. REVIEWING PROGRESS OF COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

6.1 Speedwatch update - The Chairman advised that no sessions had taken place due to the weather and christmas break.

6.2 Playground update - The Clerk shared three quotes for the annual playground inspection. Cllrs reviewed the cost and timescales and agreed to proceed with ROSPA Option A as long as the timescale was reasonable and if not to go with IDVERDE option B. Proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Russell and agreed by all. The Chairman advised that Sovereign Play were going to visit the site on January 27th to do a free assessment and provide a quote for improvements. The Clerk was asked to follow up with the contractors with regard to repairing the gate post at the playing field.

6.3 Cllrs asked the Clerk to report the inefficiency of the highways work that was carried out on the main road pothole as it was reported that the tarmac lorry arrived several hours before the road signage which meant he was sat in the car park unable to work for that period of time.

6.4 Cllrs asked the Clerk to follow up on the flooding issue near the SWW site. Cllr Hamlyn stated that the area needed regular attention from a sucker lorry and the open hole on the left needs a grate cover to prevent debris entering and blocking the pipes.

7. PLANNING

7.1 1/0927/2025/FUL - Retrospective change of use of an agricultural building to a mixed commercial and agricultural use Barn At Tipple Cross - Cllrs discussed the application and agreed to comment as follows; The consultation raised concerns as to whether the enforcement requirements previously applied to this site have been fully complied with by the applicant. In light of this, Cllrs requested that the applicant provide clear and robust evidence demonstrating that all relevant enforcement actions have been satisfactorily addressed. In addition, with regard to the current application, there are concerns that the barn proposed for use as storage for refrigeration equipment does not appear to be of an adequate size to accommodate all such equipment. It is therefore considered that the proposal may not achieve the stated aim of ceasing the use of external areas for commercial purposes, and that continued use of outside space for such activities could persist. Comment proposed by Cllr Paulger, seconded by Cllr Russell and agreed by all.

8. FINANCES

8.1 Authorisation of expenses – Coronation Hall hall hire for meeting £18, Christmas tree and lights £115, printer ink £48.42. Accounts proposed for payment by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Bowyer and agreed by all.

8.2 Current account as of 17th December 2025 - £9018.36

8.3 Annual budget and precept application for 2026/27 – The Clerk circulated financial information in advance of the meeting, including the current 2025/26 running budget, a proposed budget for 2026/27, historic precept funding details, example precept scenarios for 2026/27, and guidance on appropriate reserve levels. Councillors held a detailed discussion on the proposed budget, potential funding opportunities, and the requirement for the precept to cover, as a minimum, the costs of running the council. It was emphasised that no improvements to parish facilities could be undertaken without a significant increase in the precept. Cllr Hamlyn raised concerns regarding the impact of any increase on household council tax. Following consideration, it was proposed by Cllr Fisher that the precept request be set at £22,000. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Curtis and agreed by all councillors, with the exception of Cllr Hamlyn, who abstained.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Cllr Fisher reported that some local organisations had advised they were unaware of the grants application procedure and did not know that applications were required to be submitted by 31 December. The Chairman responded that the procedure had been in place for a number of years and that those organisations had applied on time in previous years. Following discussion, councillors agreed to allow a one-month extension to the application deadline for this year only. The Clerk was asked to notify any organisations that were awarded a grant last year and have not yet submitted an application this year. The motion was proposed by Cllr Paulger, seconded by Cllr McIlmurray, and agreed unanimously.

9.2 The Chairman shared a letter from Sir Geoffrey Cox MP inviting her to a connectivity forum in Holsworthy on January 30th. The Clerk agreed to attend the meeting and share details on the noticeboards and FaceBook page.

9.3 The Clerk will advertise the councillor vacancies for co-option.

Chairman Sign and date2.....



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10. NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

10.1 Next Parish Council Meeting to be held Tuesday 24th February 2026 7:00pm.

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

11.1 Meeting closed 20:47pm.

DRAFT