



**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 7th July 2026 at 7.00pm

Parish Councillors Present: Cllr Atkinson (Chairman), Cllr K Hamlyn, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Russell, Cllr Gearing, Cllr Stott, Cllr Williams. **In attendance:** Clerk Kayleigh Walker, District Cllr Gibson, guest speaker Tom Bush. Members of the public: 0.

1. PUBLIC SESSION

1.1 None.

2. RECEIVING APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Cllr Paulger, Cllr Dimmock, Cllr Bray and District Cllr Hackett - apologies accepted.

2.2 None.

3. GUEST SPEAKER

3.1 Tom Bush from Bush Broadband - Tom was welcomed to the meeting and introduced himself and his business. He explained that the company's aim is to bring fibre broadband to rural hamlets with the support of government funding. Sitcott and West Panson were identified as suitable areas for the project. The clerk and Cllr Williams agreed to work with Tom to develop a plan and liaise with landowners and residents in these locations. Once the plan has been prepared, a residents' meeting will be arranged to explain the proposed process and answer any questions. The website ThinkBroadband was noted as a useful resource.

3.2 Cllr Ken James, Leader of Torridge District Council - not in attendance.

4. MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the meetings held on 12th May 2026 and 9th June 2026, were previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Fisher as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed by all. The chairman signed a copy.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 The netball post had not been removed from the playing field. The clerk was asked to write to the Sladesmoor building contractors to see if they could remove them out of goodwill.

5.2 The clerk was asked to write to the school requesting that families attending school events be reminded to park considerately in the village car park. This should ensure that access routes into and out of the car park remain unobstructed and that parking does not restrict access for customers using the village shops.

The clerk was also asked to seek clarification from the developers as to whether the provision of on-site parking forms part of the conditions attached to their planning permission and, if so, when this facility is expected to be brought into use.

5.3 The clerk was asked to contact Lorraine Pringle to seek permission to take over the care of the planter on the entrance to the village.

6. REVIEW OF ONGOING MATTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 County councillor report - none. Cllr Hamlyn wished to raise with the County Cllr that a number of roads and potholes were being marked for repair but the repairs were not being carried out.

6.2 District councillors' report - Cllr Hackett provided an email of apologies for his absence. Cllr Gibson reported on recent fly-tipping incidents across Torridge and West Devon. He advised that the Neighbourhood Watch group is obtaining signage to be installed at known hotspots as a deterrent to fly-tippers.

He also provided an update on local government reorganisation, noting that proposals may change further following the appointment of a new Prime Minister.

Cllr Gibson confirmed that the grant element of the regeneration fund has been approved. Negotiations with Kivells have been successfully concluded, enabling the project to move forward.

Following the annual reorganisation at Torridge District Council, Cllr Gibson confirmed that his committee appointments remain unchanged.

He has also shared several planning advisory documents with the clerk for circulation to councillors to assist with the consideration and determination of planning applications.

Finally, Cllr Gibson advised that he has a £1,000 grant available for allocation this year, with a preference for supporting enrichment opportunities for children through local schools. Cllrs discussed other community groups and agreed that they would support applications from the FPTA and the bowls club for a share of the available funding.

6.3 New website update - Cllr Williams reported that the new website was now up and running with the old website having been removed. The final part to complete is the automatic uploading of council minutes and agendas which

Chairman Sign and date1.....



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should be finalised within the next week. Following this the clerk will create a Facebook post launching the new website.

6.4 Grass cutting - Cllrs agreed that the standard of grass cutting has improved overall and that the area now appears much tidier.

The clerk shared an email received from residents regarding damage to a fence. As the correspondence was received after the agenda had been issued, not all cllrs had the opportunity to review it in advance of the meeting. Cllrs agreed to consider the matter before the next meeting, when it will be discussed in full.

6.5 Review insurance sums insured - The clerk had shared correspondence from the insurance provider ahead of the meeting. Cllrs agreed to remove the all risks section of the policy whilst ensuring liability cover remains in place. Motion proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Atkinson and agreed by all.

6.6 Discuss hall enquiry regarding new defibrillator - Cllrs discussed the request and agreed that, should the Parish Council fund an additional defibrillator, it would be preferable for it to be located in an area not already served by the existing unit at Gridley Corner, such as Crockers Way or Chapmans Well. The clerk was asked to write to the Hall Committee to advise them of the Council's views.

7. REVIEWING PROGRESS OF COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

7.1 Speedwatch update - the chairman advised that no sessions had taken place, but the team were keen to commence again soon.

7.2 Playground update - repairs to the bench and adjustments to the gate had been carried out by Thornmoor Stoves. An invoice for £36 had been received. A quote for fence repairs/replacement of the fence is awaited. Cllr Russell will look to identify the loose post and fix it if possible. Cllr Hamlyn suggested the clerk write to Huck asking for suggestions for repair of the rota net.

7.3 Emergency plan update - none.

7.4 Community CCTV project - the clerk had received a second quote for CCTV supply and installation. The quote will be circulated to all cllrs for review and a decision will be made at the next meeting.

7.5 Creation of community newsletter - no progress had been made. Cllrs suggested a combined newsletter with neighbouring parishes may be the best way forward. Cllrs will look at this as a future project in a few month's time.

Cllr Stott left the meeting

8. FINANCES

8.1 Authorisation of expenses – Coronation Hall hire for June meeting £14 and July meeting £22, J Sanders grass cutting 02-26 £520 & 03-26 £520, Thornmoor Stoves bench and gate repairs £36. Accounts proposed for payment by Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Russell and agreed by all.

8.2 Current account as of 17th June 2026 - £13448.18. Monthly budget sheet circulated for Cllrs info.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 An invitation to a supporters event for the North Devon Record Office was shared.

10. NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

10.1 The next parish council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th August 2026.

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

11. Enforcement

11.1 Discuss enforcement case update - the clerk gave an update on an enforcement case within the parish.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

12.1 Meeting closed at 9pm.