

MINUTES
of
SHAUGH PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting
Held on
Wednesday 3rd September 2025
at
Shaugh Prior Recreation Hall

Present: Chairman Cllr Stone
Cllrs Sims, Mrs Burkill, Mrs Boulting, Mrs Chater, Mrs Tyler, Mrs Proctor and Mrs Francis-McLeod

County Cllr Carson

3 Members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Smerdon (DNPA Rep)

Minute Number		Action
109/25	Election of New Vice-Chair As entitled to do so, the Chair brought forward agenda item 12 relating to the election of a new Vice-Chair following the decision of Cllr Spencer to stand-down from the PC. Having received no applications prior to the meeting, Cllr Mrs Chater proposed Cllr Mrs Burkill as Vice-Chair and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Boulting. Resolved by Cllrs that Cllr Mrs Burkill was elected as Vice-Chair to the PC.	
110/25	Open Forum Tim Clewer confirmed that there was indeed signing relating to a TRO which restricted the use of Portworthy Lane by HGV's no heavier than 7.5t although it was not clear whether this would be enforced by DCC. He also mentioned that at the DCC HATOC meeting in July, there was a consensus that the speed limit of the B3417 needed to be reduced to 40mph and that data was now being gathered by DCC in relation to such (which will then go to a panel in Feb 26). It was also noted that the use of the road by motorbikes had reduced considerably since the road had been surface-dressed recently. Marica Lyndon from Tungsten West (TW) gave a brief update on	

	<p>issues relating to the mine. The feasibility study had now been completed and there was much positive feedback from potential investors which included the US Government. As a result of China stock-piling reserves of tungsten for its own use, there was now considerable interest in the project from around the world, with the price of tungsten currently at its highest ever price. It was hoped that building work would commence in Jan 2026. It was also noted that the mine had been identified as a European Strategic Project and had received the certificate relating to such.</p> <p>Finally, Julia Sanders confirmed that the bin collection issue raised at the last PC meeting relating to assisted collections had now been resolved.</p>	
111/25	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No declarations had been received by the Clerk.</p>	
112/25	<p>Police Report</p> <p>No report received. The Clerk confirmed that a new inspector had taken over although confirmation of this change had not been received until the draft minutes and agenda for the September PC meeting had been circulated.</p>	
113/25	<p>County and District Councillor Reports</p> <p>County Cllr Carson mentioned that very little had happened since the last PC meeting in July. With regards to LGR, the DCC organised a roadshow event in Ivybridge in August and that a further meeting was planned on the 11th September. It was noted that very little had been provided by DC in relation to LGR and that as an organisation, there were still well behind SHDC and PCC.</p> <p>Some discussion then took place regarding the closure of Shaugh Prior Primary School as a result of falling pupil numbers. It was understood that pupils had been moved to Cornwood Primary School and would be transported there and back by school bus.</p> <p>Several Cllrs expressed their concerns in relation to how the PC had not been informed of this decision until after the school had closed. Cllr Carson confirmed that whilst the official line was that the school hadn't formally closed, it was very unlikely that it would re-open and as such alternative community-based uses for the building were now being sought.</p> <p>In Cllr Oram's absence there was no District Cllr Report.</p>	
114/25	<p>DNPA Report</p> <p>Cllr Smerdon provided the following report which was read out by the Clerk:</p> <p>Recruitment of new DNP CEO</p> <p>As most of you will know by now DNP CEO Dr Kevin Bishop indicated at the end of June that after 18 years in the post he intended to step</p>	

	<p>down at the end of 2025. At the Authority meeting on Friday 25th July Members approved the process for the appointment of our next Chief Executive (National Park Officer). The appointment of the Chief Executive must be made by the Authority and at the meeting, Members agreed to delegate the recruitment, selection and appointment of a shortlist of candidates to an Appointment Committee headed by DNP Chair Will Dracup. All DNP Members will then have input into the final selection process. We are working to avoid the need for interim arrangements between Kevin Bishop leaving and a new Chief Executive being in post, and our timetable (subject to change) is for the vacancy to be advertised in mid-September with a selection process taking place in mid-October, hopefully enabling the successful candidate to start in early 2026.</p> <p>Public impacts upon Dartmoor this summer National Park Rangers and members of the public have continued to deal with a spate of camping, barbecues and general disturbance over the course of summer 2025. The prolonged spell of good weather and recent publicity around the wild camping case seem to have given people the idea that you can do just about anything on Dartmoor! BBC Spotlight reporter Kirk England filmed with Ranger Ella Briens and Director of Conservation and Communities Richard Drysdale a few weeks ago on the impacts anti-social camping – so-called fly camping – is having on Dartmoor. Fortunately, while we have had a few isolated fires, Dartmoor has been spared the large-scale open moorland fires that have devastated parts of the North York Moors recently, hopefully now the autumn monsoons have arrived the risk of fires will decrease!</p> <p>Public opinion survey Have your say on Dartmoor's future - Help shape the next Partnership Plan for Dartmoor National Park. To find out more about the Partnership Plan visit Your Dartmoor (the survey is open until 14th September).</p>	
115/25	<p>Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025</p> <p>All Cllrs agreed that they had received a draft copy of the minutes of the July PC meeting and that they were an accurate reflection of the minutes of that meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Proctor and seconded by Cllr Mrs Boulting. Resolved by Cllrs to agree the draft minutes of the July PC meeting.</p>	
116/25	<p>Matters Arising</p>	
8/25(a)	<p>Highway Matters</p> <p>In addition to the comments made during the Open Forum regarding confirmation that there is a TRO in place regarding restrictions on the use of Portworthy Lane by HGV's, Cllr Mrs Tyler wished to thank DCC Highways for the works undertaken to re-instate the existing white lining and cats eyes on those roads which had recently been surface-dressed.</p>	

8/25(b)	Shaugh Prior Community Fund No applications for grant funding received this month.	Peter Davies
8/25(c)	Tribute to Cllr Norman The Clerk confirmed that he had received an email from Peter Davies confirming that he was now looking to move this forward and should be in a position to share details on associated costs with the PC at the end of the month.	
8/25(d)	Wotter Play Area Improvements Working Group The works for the repairs to the damaged areas of safety surfacing had now been undertaken by Rhino Play and a cheque for payment had been raised for approval at tonight's meeting. It was also highlighted that a recent play area inspection had raised some issues with the equipment recently installed b Rhino Play and that the Clerk had gone back to them on this matter. Further works identified at the play areas would be raised under Works and Maintenance. It was also noted that the sign informing access to Wotter Play Area was on-foot only, had now been installed.	
8/25(e)	Neighbourhood Plan The Chair temporarily lifted Standing Orders to allow Tim Clewer to provide an update on the NP following the decision taken by Cllr Spencer to stand-down from both the PC and NP. Tim confirmed that both Barrie Spencer and Cathie Boulting had stood down from the NP Steering Group and he wished to thank them both for all of their hard work over the past 12-18 months working on the NP. Tim had confirmed he had taken up the position of Chair and that the remaining positions of Vice-Chair, Secretary etc had all been filled. It was noted that PC representation on the group remained with Cllrs Stone, Mrs Proctor and Mrs Tyler all still attending SG meetings. Although the SG is now a closed group this doesn't prevent people from attending – they just need to let Tim know if they want to attend (although Tim confirmed he will be away for the next PC meeting). To date 100 questionnaire responses had been received but more responses were required so Tim asked if everyone could encourage anyone they know to complete it. Some good discussion took place at the recent housing forum on potential development sites although attendance was quite low (just 13 people). It was agreed that these events may be re-run if we can get more interest. It was noted that specific sites for housing won't be mentioned in the NP but it will include reference to development boundaries and general policies potential developers would be expected to adhere to. Following this briefing from Tim, Standing Orders were re-instated.	
33/25	Local Government Reform (LGR) An LGR briefing organised by SHDC for residents will take place at	

51/25	<p>Shaugh Prior Hall starting at 6.15pm on Tuesday 9th September. Cllrs have pushed hard for an event to be held in our Parish so it would be great if we could get a good turn-out from Parishioners.</p> <p>PCC are still pushing forward with their proposals whilst there still seems to be a lack of any sort of detail from DCC on their intentions. It was agreed that a letter being prepared by Yealmpton PC on behalf of the 13 affected parishes which outlines the concerns on PCC's proposals should be on the agenda for discussion at the October PC meeting.</p> <p>Dementia Friendly Parish</p> <p>Cllr Sims provided an update on this matter having agreed to become the PC's lead on this. Following a recent meeting with Claire of 4-Rivers Dementia Alliance, Cllr Sims explained some of the subtle changes that could be made, particularly within our parish halls, which could help those suffering from dementia. It was suggested that both parish halls should be encouraged to engage with the dementia alliance as well as those running the White Thorn. It was also agreed that an article would be provided for the Parish Magazine.</p> <p>Cllr Carson confirmed that Locality Funding could be made available to assist in the delivery of any projects identified. It was agreed that identifying suitable projects may necessitate the creation of a small working party on the PC.</p>	Cllr Sims
87/25	<p>Track to Dartmoor Cottages/Wotter Play Area</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the sign confirming access to Wotter Play Area was on-foot only had now been installed. Furthermore, he confirmed that he had emailed Lorraine Walsh and provided her with details of possible sources of help in terms of legal support (pro-bono legal support/advice). Apart from this it was felt that there was little more that the PC could do.</p>	
117/25	<p>Planning – Response to DNPA Planning Consultation</p> <p>It was agreed by Cllrs that the PC should respond to DNPA's current consultation relating to the local validation list for planning applications and how the National Park currently engages with organisations/local communities on planning-related matters (Statement of Community Involvement). Cllrs were particularly concerned at the suggested change in the SCI which would mean neighbouring properties would no longer receive notification (in the form of a letter) informing them that their neighbours had submitted a planning application and how they could view and comment upon that proposal. It was the view of Cllrs that relying on the posting of site notices instead was not an acceptable alternative (as site notices can get taken down or blown away during bad weather) and as such cannot be relied upon. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the consultation on this basis.</p> <p>Notification from DNPA regarding works to a TPO Tree at Shaugh Bridge Car Park (proposed full crown reduction of 3m). It was agreed that the Clerk would seek the views of our Tree Officer Peter Davies.</p>	Clerk Clerk

118/25	<p>Reference was also made to on-going planning enforcement cases within the parish.</p> <p>Chairs Business</p> <p>The Chair wished to formally express his thanks to former Cllr Barrie Spencer who had taken the decision to stand-down from the PC. He mentioned he had recently spoken to Barrie who confirmed that he was recovering well from his recent operation but it will take a period of time until he has fully recovered. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a thank you card to Barrie on behalf of the PC.</p> <p>The Chair also wished to raise an on-going issue regarding the poor state of the track that leads to the small parking area at Air Camp. It was suggested that an amount of aggregate was required to back-fill the holes. Marica Lydon confirmed that this was something that TW could assist with if some images of the current state of the track could be sent through to her? The Clerk agreed to liaise with Cllrs to obtain the necessary information for Marica.</p>	Clerk
119/25	<p>Reports from Committees</p> <p>It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Hemerdon Mine Liaison was due to take place on the 10th September 2025 with the Chair attending.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Burkill provided feedback on a meeting of the Newnham Solar Panel which was held in August using zoom. She confirmed that a request for funding for the NP had gone in whilst Lee Moor Bowling Club had received funding for new machinery.</p>	
120/25	<p>Parish Cllr Vacancy</p> <p>As a result of former Cllr Barrie Spencer standing down from the PC, a vacancy for a Parish Cllr had now been created. The Clerk confirmed that SHDC had been made aware and that the formal notices advertising such had been prepared. The 14-day period relating to a request for an election (the regulations require a total of 10 parishioners to request such) will commence from Monday 8th September 2025, with the notices being placed on PC notice boards and on the PC website. By the October PC meeting the PC will know whether the vacancy can be filled by co-option or whether there will be an election.</p>	
121/25	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>During the past month the following correspondence had been received:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various emails received from SHDC and PCC regarding LGR (which were all circulated to Cllrs). • Email from Mr Tim Thomas thanking the PC for recent drainage works undertaken by the Parish Lengthsman. • Email from David Boocock requesting people complete the opinion survey on the future priorities for Dartmoor (Partnership Plan 	

	<p>Review).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from SHDC regarding cost of the Pay Area Agreements for Wotter and Lee Moor Play Areas for a 12-month period from 1st September 2025 (the cost this year being £243+VAT). It was agreed by Cllrs that this was a necessity and as such we should continue with the existing arrangements. • Email from Forestry England confirming commencement of a charging regime for car parking at Cann Woods starting from the 5th September 2025. • Devon Climate Change Emergency Newsletter for August 2025 (circulated to Cllrs) • Email newsletter from NALC • Email newsletter from SLCC • Email newsletter from DALC. 	
122/25	<p>Finance – External Audit Report</p> <p>The PC had now received the end of year external auditors report for the 24/25 AGAR and no issues had been raised by PKF Littlejohn LLP. The said report had been uploaded onto the PC website.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that on the 1st September 2025 there was the sum of £14,114.82 in the Treasurers Account.</p> <p>The Clerk referred to an email received from Barry Issacs of WesternWeb Ltd confirming that the cost of the supply of a new laptop for the incoming Clerk (which would have Windows 11) would be £453+VAT. This included a transfer of all data and set-up. Cllrs agreed that this represented value for money and recommended that the Clerk proceed on this basis.</p>	Clerk
123/25	<p>Payments and Receipts</p> <p>It was agreed to make the following payments:</p> <p>£252.00 cheque to PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Audit fees 24/25) £125.00 cheque to Scott Smy (final Clerks expense payment to Dec 2025) £731.28 cheque to Rhino Play SW Ltd (repairs to damaged safety surfacing at Wotter Play Area) £283.45 cheque to James Friend (supply and installation of sign on track to Wotter Play Area) £117.55 cheque to James Friend (works to remove and install new notice board at Lee Moor) £532.05 cheque to James Friend (replacement parts for damaged play equipment) £118.80 cheque to J & MJ Widdicombe (Parish Lengthsman drainage works in July) £30.00 cheque to DTGS Ltd (additional fees for play area inspection) £11.98 cheque to Scott Smy (reimbursement of printer ink) £118.80 cheque to J & MJ Widdicombe (Parish Lengthsman drainage works in August) £291.60 direct debit payment to SHDC (Play Area Agreement for Wotter Play Area)</p>	

124/25	<p>£291.60 direct debit payment to SHDC (Play Area Agreement for Lee Moor Play Area)</p> <p>£56.56 direct debit payment to EDF Energy (electricity for Wotter defib)</p> <p>Receipts None</p> <p>Works and Maintenance</p> <p>The Clerk reported that recent inspections of both play areas had identified a number of defects that needed to be addressed. These defects had been passed onto James Friend and a quotation for the cost of undertaking the associated remedial works was currently awaited. It was noted that some of the defects related to the installation of the new play equipment at Wotter Play Area and that the Clerk had gone back to Rhino Play and asked them to address them under the current warranty.</p>	Clerk
125/25	<p>Date and Place of Next Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of Shaugh Prior Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 1st October 2025 at Lee Moor Public Hall starting at 7.30pm.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.00pm</p> <p>Signed:.....Chairman</p> <p>Date:</p>	