

Minutes of the Meeting of Shaugh Prior Parish Council held on Wednesday 7 October 2026, 7:30pm in Lee Moor Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Clewer (Chairman); Cllr. Thomas; Cllr Tyler; Cllr Chislett; Cllr Luxton; Cllr Cantelo; County Cllr Carson; District Cllr Abbot; Barnaby Hudson (Tungsten West representative); Peter Davies (Tree Warden & National Trust representative); Peter Smerdon (DNPA representative); Nigel Doran (Clerk); 1 member of the public.

1) Welcome

All were welcomed to the meeting especially Cllr Cantelo as this was her first Parish Council meeting since being elected to the Parish Council.

2) Cllr resignation

Cllr Clewer informed the meeting that Neil Collins had resigned as a Parish Councillor.

3) Apologies for absence

Cllr N Skelley and Cllr H Skelley had tendered their apologies – these were accepted.

4) Open Forum

Concern was raised about a planning application at Saltram Terrace, which had been granted (planning in principle for 6 houses).

Cllr Thomas replied that this was in accordance with advice from the Planning Inspectorate, but a full application would have to be made as the next step; at that point the Parish Council would consider this against the local views.

5) Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on 2 September were duly signed as being accurate proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Tyler and confirmed by a unanimous vote of hands.

6) Matters arising

Doctor's surgery - Wotter.

Cllr Clewer explained that he had investigated this and that some incorrect information had been placed in the Parish Magazine but that there was **no change** (this had been confirmed by the surgery).

Code of Conduct complaint – The Deputy Monitoring Officer at SHDC had investigated the complaint and had confirmed that **no** breach of the Code of Conduct had occurred and therefore the matter was closed.

Wild camping – Peter Davies agreed to inform his colleague of the specific concerns along the banks of the river Plym and it was re-iterated how wild camping was only allowed in certain areas of Dartmoor.

7) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Thomas declared an interest regarding LGR (item 13 on the agenda) as he worked for Plymouth City Council.

8) Police report

A report had been received and was read to the meeting.

Between the 1st September 2026 and the 30th September 2026, there were 6 calls for service received for the Shaugh Prior area these were made through Police 999 / 101 calls.

The breakdown of these calls are as follows:

1 x Dog dangerously out of control - DCO (Dog control order issued)

1 x Sus drone activity - Enquiries made, result - all in order

2 x Criminal Damage -1 x vehicle, 1 x property – Ongoing enquiries suspect located

1 x Sus vehicle – Enquiries made, nothing of concern

1 x Mental Health where support was put in place

9) DNPA report

It was reported that the DNPA had a new Chief Executive, Tom Surrey.

The DNPA are developing a Dartmoor Partnership Plan which has many partners, once completed this will feed into the Local Plan. There is a 6-week consultation regarding this which will start on 12 October.

It is the 75th Anniversary of the National Park and there are many events connected to this, including a prize draw which can be found via the DNPA's website.

10) Tungsten West report

Tungsten West have completed the local meetings with ~65 attending the event in Sparkwell and ~67 attending the event in Lee Moor.

One of the main items raised had been the potential effect of the aggregate trucks that would be leaving the mine.

Currently, ~180 employees are working at the mine with ~30 more currently "onboarding". It is anticipated that the total figure will reach ~350 by the end of the year.

The noise screening was working well as the machinery has been operating since July and no complaints have been received.

Mining is due to start this week with blasting due to start at the end of October / start of November.

People will be informed regarding this via the company's website and FaceBook.

It was reported that Tungsten West are working closely with both the Environment Agency and SHDC.

Concern over the lights used was raised and the reply was given that these were necessary so that the mine was a safe place to work but that they should be only directed within the mine's perimeter and that should anyone notice that this was not the case they were urged to make contact so the situation could be rectified. It was also noted that, a planning condition stipulated that a strict 10pm curfew to operations had been set.

11) District and County Councillor reports

County Cllr Carson reported

Local Government Reorganisation.

The LGR process has been put on hold whilst the Government review how robust their legal position is following the threat of a potential Judicial Review by Devon. There is some news filtering out but I have had no confirmation of the position. I will forward information to you once I have received it.

Water Quality Approach

In March 2026, the council's Cabinet endorsed a plan for Devon County Council's Water Quality Approach. The aim is to bring together organisations such as the Environment Agency, South West Water, district councils, farmers, landowners and community groups to tackle water pollution in a more coordinated way

The programme is intended to:

- Clarify which organisations are responsible for different aspects of water quality.
- Map pollution hotspots and priority catchments.
- Improve access to water-quality data.
- Reduce duplication between agencies.
- Develop a coordinated Devon-wide position on water quality.

Water Summit

The council also authorised officers to organise a Devon Water Quality Summit, bringing together councillors, regulators, environmental groups, farmers and water industry representatives to develop future actions. I will be attending this summit.

The significance is that the council is positioning itself as the coordinator and convenor rather than the regulator, seeking to increase accountability across the many bodies involved in Devon's river and coastal water quality.

Adult Social Care

This remains by far the largest budget risk.

SEND funding

This continues to be the council's most significant long-term financial challenge.

The good news is the Department for Education and Department of Health and Social Care said it recognised the progress made by partners across education, health and local government in developing a shared plan to improve support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The approval means Devon County Council is eligible to receive a High Needs Stability Grant covering 90 per cent of its Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit accrued up to the end of the 2025-26 financial year, with an indicative allocation of £191.3 million, subject to final confirmation.

The grant relates to historic expenditure that has already been incurred through Devon's DSG deficit and the costs associated with financing it. It is not additional funding available for new SEND services or other council spending.

SEND Experts at Hand

Devon is rolling out an "SEND Experts at Hand" pilot, aimed at improving support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

The initiative will see experts including speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, occupational therapists and specialist teachers working directly with mainstream schools to support inclusion. This will upskill staff in mainstream schools, and ensure schools have quick and flexible access to expert advice.

Experts at Hand will pilot in three learning communities across Devon; Bideford, Exeter Beacon, and Newton Abbot. Each locality will include a cluster of education providers, not just one school, so there can be a focus on transition points in a child's journey from early years to post 16.

The pilot localities represent Devon's coastal, urban and rural environments and have high numbers of children with neurodiversity, speech and language and social emotional needs. By piloting Experts at Hand in these localities, Devon will be able to test and learn what works well in different environments and for diverse needs, before rolling it out further across the county.

Library users across Devon will no longer face fines for returning books late, from Thursday 1 October 2026.

All existing overdue charges will also be removed, giving library users a clean slate.

The change follows decisions made by Devon County Council earlier this year after more than 25,000 people responded to its consultation on the future of Devon's libraries. One of those decisions was to remove charges for overdue books.

Libraries Unlimited, the charity commissioned to run Devon's libraries, removed late fees for children and young people in 2022 to help remove barriers to reading. The change will now apply to all library users.

People are being encouraged to make the most of the change, while continuing to return or renew books on time so they remain available to others.

There is a community Grant available for external groups to apply for activities in the library environment.

The suggestion regarding the layby parking issue and the potential use of boulders to protect the grass was raised with County Cllr Carsons. He confirmed that these were not acceptable and would consult with Nick Colton to determine if an alternative could be found.

District Cllr Abbott reported

Devon Local Nature Partnership

As Devon moves into the delivery phase of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), Devon Local Nature Partnership (LNP) is looking for a new Chair. The Chair will work closely with the LNP Board, Vice-Chairs and Secretariat, playing a key role in representing the Partnership, chairing meetings and events, and helping to strengthen Devon's collective response to the nature and climate emergencies.

- Applications close at midnight on Tuesday 13 October 2026.
- Anyone interested in the role should submit a statement, no more than two sides of A4 explaining their interest, experience, and suitability for the position, ideally supported by a CV. The statement and CV should be emailed to Beth.Bird@devon.gov.uk

Repeated Call for Sites

As part of the preparation for a new Joint Local Plan, we want to hear from anyone who may have land that may be suitable for future developments. We have now contacted all Town and Parish Councils in the District to request their support to identify land that could potentially be used for housing, Gypsy & Traveller sites, employment, retail and leisure, renewable energy, or nature and biodiversity.

- If you know of any Landowners who have sites then please encourage them to get in touch.
- Proposals should be submitted by Friday 13 November 2026 using the Placemaker platform at <https://cfs.plymouth-swdevon.urbanintelligence.co.uk/events>.
- Sites already put forward do not need to be resubmitted.

This is an extended deadline to allow for proposals to be prepared following the Government's announcement of the pause (now a stop) and review of Local Government Reorganisation.

New Planning Laws

Under new planning legislation which came into force this October, cases will only be able to be called to the District Planning Committee in the most significant instances, with the vast majority required to be decided by the case officer, with no committee input.

There is no change regarding the role of the Parish Council planning committee on hearing residents and debating cases. The Parish Council Planning Committee sessions are more important than ever.

Heritage at Risk

The Heritage Team is working on a Heritage at Risk Register. This will identify and collate a list of Listed Buildings that are at risk due to their condition or by being empty. It will also highlight the need for urgent action and inform enforcement where relevant.

Residents are welcome to suggest a building for the Heritage Team to survey at this link - https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Y5q8GnjWWEedGbhlwuDPScgkomq_etZMnX5kn_9sE7JUREE3NVpQMUvZTk9YSDJBUjkwR1FKOTRMQy4u .

Note this is for buildings that are already listed. Confirmation of listing can be checked using the Historic England website: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/map-search/>

Junior LifeSkills in October

The initiative, aimed at equipping young people with essential life skills is organised with local schools. Aimed at Year 6 pupils, the children gain practical knowledge and skills that will help them safely navigate various real-life situations. The events are part of our priority to enhance the wellbeing of communities across the District. Two sessions will be held in Ivybridge, on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October in the leisure centre.

Council and Citizens Advice team up on money support

We are working with Citizens Advice South Hams on a new Autumn campaign to encourage residents to ask for help before money worries become a crisis. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the help available as many households face financial uncertainty.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund supports low-income households facing unexpected financial shocks, such as a sudden loss of income, an urgent essential cost, or a broken household item like a fridge or cooker. SHDC can also offer Crisis and Resilience Fund Housing Payments to people receiving Housing Benefit or the Housing Costs Element of Universal Credit who are struggling with housing related expenses. Residents can also get support to improve their longer-term finances, including checks for eligibility of benefit, help to manage Council Tax arrears with affordable repayment plans, and referrals to specialist partners for debt, energy, housing or budgeting advice.

SHDC has provided funding for two additional Citizens Advice South Hams' case workers to strengthen outreach support across the district, helping more people access advice closer to home.

Influenza

Inoculations are available for the vulnerable, the young and the aged. It would be good to encourage our Parishioners to avail themselves of the opportunity.

CCTV and Fly tipping

CCTV cameras proving a success in fighting fly-tipping

- The project has been hugely successful so far, catching seven fly-tippers in the act – as well as an incident of arson and five incidents of littering.
- Their use will support our enforcement activity and help identify those responsible for illegally dumping waste.
- The Council will take all possible action against those caught fly tipping, including Fixed Penalty Notice on-the-spot fines up to £5,000, or taking those identified to court, which could lead to an unlimited fine.

We're also reminding our residents that household waste can be disposed of responsibly through local recycling centres, authorised waste carriers, or Council collection services.

Anyone using a private waste contractor should ensure that they are properly licensed, as householders may still be held responsible if their waste is fly tipped.

Torcross

Traffic management plan ... information relating to the sea defence work at Torcross next month and HGV movements.

- There will be frequent HGV movements, marine deliveries, and potentially 24/7 working aligned with tidal conditions to maximise efficiency and reduce programme duration.
- Due to a single road access route and constrained site conditions, some disruption to residents, businesses, and local traffic is unavoidable.
- Mitigation measures are being developed, including considered logistics planning, noise monitoring, proactive communication, and ongoing stakeholder engagement (including Social Value) to maintain transparency and manage expectations.
- A further £150,000 of emergency funding has been approved for the placement of 1,300 tonnes of rock armour in front of the village green. This area has been chosen following advice from coastal specialists, who have been helping us assess the growing risk to the access road, nearby homes and other community areas.
- These works will help provide some additional protection but cannot guarantee that there will be no further damage over the winter. The aim is to reduce the risk of further erosion in the short term, and give us more time to work with residents, government agencies and possible funding partners on longer-term options.
- The work will be carried out by local contractor Landmarc, who have a lot of experience working in this area. They are due to start on Wednesday 6 October and are expected to complete the works within four weeks.

Dartmouth Lower Ferry

There is planned maintenance for the Dartmouth Lower Ferry this autumn

- Anyone planning to use the ferry this autumn is encouraged to allow a little extra time while regular maintenance and safety checks are carried out.
- From Thursday 29 October until Sunday 13 December, the Hauley VI tugboat and Tom Avis float will have their annual refits and Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) inspections. Therefore, the Lower Ferry will run with one ferry during this time.
- This regular work helps keep the ferries safe and reliable, so passengers can continue to travel with confidence. Journeys may take a little longer, especially at busier times, so passengers are encouraged to plan ahead and show patience and kindness to the ferry team working hard to keep everyone moving.
- Extra staff will be on board while one ferry is running, helping to keep the service as safe and efficient as possible.

Consultation on registered taxi fares

Hackney Carriage taxi consultation: Residents, businesses, visitors and members of the taxi trade are being invited to have their say on proposed changes to Hackney Carriage taxi fares across South Hams.

- Fares set by the Council are maximum fares that can be charged by Hackney Carriage vehicles. Drivers are permitted to charge less than the approved maximum tariff but cannot charge more. Taxi fare reviews help ensure that fares remain fair and balanced, taking into account factors such as rising operating costs, fuel prices, vehicle maintenance, insurance, licensing requirements and wider economic changes.
- The aim is to support a sustainable taxi service for both passengers and drivers while ensuring fares remain reasonable for those who rely on taxis for work, healthcare, shopping and leisure activities.
- The consultation seeks views from all interested parties, including taxi users, residents, local businesses, visitors, parish and town councils, community groups and licensed drivers and operators.

Feedback received during the consultation period will be considered before a final decision is made on whether to introduce the proposed fare changes.

- The consultation closes on 22 October.

Consultation launched on proposed Animal Licensing Policy

The Council has launched a public consultation on a proposed Animal Licensing Policy and is inviting feedback from residents, businesses, licence holders and other interested parties. While there is no statutory requirement to have an Animal Licensing Policy, the proposed document aims to provide a clear, consistent and transparent framework for how the Council administers and enforces its animal licensing functions.

It also aims to promote high standards of animal welfare and provide clarity for applicants and licence holders. The policy covers a range of animal licensing regimes, including: animal boarding establishments, dog breeding, selling animals as pets, hiring out horses, keeping or training animals for exhibition, zoos, Dangerous Wild Animals licences, and primate licences.

The consultation provides an opportunity for stakeholders to review the draft policy and share their views before it is considered for adoption. The consultation is open until 30 October 2026. Details:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/news/2026/have-your-say-our-proposed-animal-licensing-policy>

12) Malcolm Norman memorial bench update

Peter Davies acknowledged that this had been ongoing for a long time and agreed that he would contact the family directly with a view to confirming the location of the proposed bench.

He had some prices and pictures that he will email to the Clerk so that a decision can be taken by the Parish Council.

13) LGR update

Cllr Thomas explained how the process had been paused on 7 September.

He and Cllr Clewer had attended a meeting arranged by Ivybridge Town Council and, out of this meeting, it had been agreed that, though Parish Councils are not consultees, this would be an ideal opportunity to put together a framework that could be fed into the process. It was agreed that those Councillors that were able to would come together as a Working Party on Monday 12 October (venue TBA) for approx. 1 ½ hours starting at 7pm to develop the Shaugh Prior Parish framework.

14) Neighbourhood Plan update

Cllr Clewer confirmed that the consultation responses would be used to revise the Plan as required. It will then be submitted to SHDC with the required referendum probably being in the New Year.

15) Template Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) for adoption

These had been circulated prior to the meeting, and all were in favour of their adoption (proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Tyler).

16) Policies for adoption

It was agreed by all that these be adopted (Co-option, Freedom of Information, Anti-bullying and Harassment and Equal Opportunities). This was proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Chislett.

It was noted that in future policies will be reviewed by Committees.

17) Parish Emergency Plan

Cllr Clewer reported that his wife had volunteered to undertake the Administration involved in creating this.

There was a training event later in the month.

Cllrs were encouraged to join to assist with the creation of the Plan and Cllrs Thomas and Cantelo said that they would.

18) Highways matters

The B3417 consultation has now closed – the results are not known.

Cllr Clewer will attend the forthcoming HATOC meeting where this proposal will be decided on.

The proposal from Andrew Davies regarding the boulders to protect the grass edging the layby will be passed to the Transport Committee of the Parish Council.

The concern over the cattle grid needing clearing was raised and the Clerk agreed to chase Nick Colton regarding this.

Various rat runs being used dangerously was raised. It was agreed that this was mostly by employees travelling to and from work and that this will, probably, get worse as the number of employees at Tungsten West increases. It was agreed that there was a need for overall reports to be produced, rather than just individual cases, and this would be taken on by the Traffic Committee to ascertain who had these reports and obtain copies for the Parish Council. It was further agreed that the Clerk would write to employers in the Parish to highlight the issue (it was agreed that this should also be sent to the Police and County Cllr Dan Thomas).

19) Shaugh Prior Primary School (closed)

No response had been received to the Clerk's enquiries regarding possible use of the building (it was noted that Tungsten West had expressed some interest as they were thinking about providing some form of childcare for their employees).

20) Planning

A planning application regarding the China Clay area at Lee Moor China Clay Works, Lee Moor had been received from DCC yesterday (6 October 2026) and this stated that responses had to be made by 29 October 2026. As this date is before the next Parish Council meeting it was agreed that the Clerk would write to DCC requesting an extension but that if this was not granted the matter would be delegated to the Planning Committee.

21) Consider the final external auditor report for 2025-26

This was read to the Council and noted by all.

It was agreed that the risk register would be the responsibility of the Finance Committee.

22) Decide on appointment of internal auditor for 2026-27

Taken forward to agenda for November 2026 meeting.

23) Finance

Grant application from Parish News

Taken forward to agenda for November 2026 meeting.

24) Purchase of 14th edition of Local Council Administration, Charles Arnold Baker, £144 (SLCC members price)

Taken forward to agenda for November 2026 meeting.

25) Payments to be authorised

The following payments were authorised (proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Cantello and agreed by all).

J Widdicombe – August work	£144.00
SLCC – Subscription renewal	£116.00

SLCC – FILCA booking (for Clerk)	£168.00
SHDC – Annual play area insurance and inspection fee	£600.00
A Deptford – replacement defibrillator battery	£318.00
Nigel Doran – Clerk expenses	£3.18
Nigel Doran – Clerk wages	£1135.80
J Widdicombe – September work	£144.00
HMRC – re-Clerk wages	£309.24

26) Correspondence

The list had been circulated previously.

27) Matters raised by the Chairman

Cllr Clewer explained that he had to lay a wreath at the forthcoming Remembrance Day event and it was agreed by all that he could spend £55 purchasing a wreath (proposed by Cllr Tyler and seconded by Cllr Chislett) – though Cllr Luxton said that she might be able to obtain one at a lower cost and this would be investigated.

28) Councillor's reports and External Meetings attended

None reported.

The meeting was closed at 9.33pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Items for Information

The next Council meeting is on Wednesday 4 November 2026 at 7.30pm (Lee Moor Village Hall)