

BICKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Regular meeting held on 13th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Bickington .

Present; Cllrs Briddock (Chair), Bruckner , Cox, Humphreys , Meek and Warren
Dist Cllrs Nutley and Rogers , 5 Members of the Public and Clerk - Karen Gilbert

25/01/01 - Apologies -Dist Cllr Major

25/01/02 - Declaration of Interests - None

Standing orders were suspended

25/01/03 Public participation -

A member of the Public asked whether a breakdown of the Budget might be made publicly available . The Chairman confirmed that all aspects of the Budget are explained line by line in Public - as had always been the custom and encouraged Parishioners to attend relevant meetings for information . The Clerk agreed to publish on the website and noticeboard

Another Parishioner also commented on the Precept suggesting ways to reduce costs , highlighted the need for signage to prevent littering , the drainage problems in the Village Hall , the grass cutting in the Churchyard and other local issues .

25/01/04 District / County Cllr reports

Cllr Rogers sought clarification as to whether his weekly updates were being forwarded to Councillors and Public - the Chairman confirmed that emails were forwarded to all Councillors

He also advised that it was hoped that a Ring and Ride service may be started in the Spring - more details to follow . Volunteers to assist are currently being sought

A deliver/collect service for Library books was being trialled in Widecombe - where books could be ordered on the Devon Library app . This may be rolled out to include Bickington

Cllr Nutley advised the Council on the proposals for Devolution made by Government on 16th December and the responses made by Teignbridge and by Devon County

TDC 9/1/25 - Report Summary

The English Devolution White Paper sets out the new government's approach to deepening and widening devolution in England. The document places an emphasis on areas adopting a mayoral model to access additional powers and greater financial flexibility. The White Paper also sets out plans to reorganise local government, with an aim to establish larger unitary authorities in two-tier areas and where smaller unitary authorities cannot meet local needs. The paper also summarises proposed changes to how strategic planning is dealt with across wider geographies.

The proposals do not affect the role or functions of Town/Parish Councils or the National Park.

Recommendation(s):

That Council:

Notes the proposals arising from the English Devolution White Paper, including the proposed introduction of a new devolution framework and the plans for local government reorganisation

Endorses the Leader to write to the Government outlining the Council's support for genuine devolution, whilst raising concern for the proposed pace of change which allows little time for detailed option analysis and consultation

Supports the joint statement issued by the leaders of the eight district councils in Devon to oppose;

A single Unitary Council solution for Devon; and
The postponement of the County Council elections in May 2025

Endorses delegated authority to the Leader and Managing Director to continue negotiations and discussions around the form and geography of future principal authorities and report back to Full Council as appropriate.

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure all members are aware of the proposed changes set out in the English Devolution White Paper, particularly those relating to local government reorganisation.

Report Author
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Managing Director
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Cllr Nutley also queried whether any progress had been made by TDC with regard to the Grant monies approved by Cllr Major and himself - and also whether the promised new litter bin had been provided at the new bus stop . The Clerk advised that neither had been resolved

Cllr Nutley agreed to chase Teignbridge on these matters

Standing Orders were re-instated

25/01/05 - Minutes of December 2024 meeting

The Minutes from the Bickington Parish Council meeting held on 9th December 2024 were approved and signed

25/01/06 PC ADMIN -

a) To note the dates for 2025 meetings

13/1 10/2 10/3 14/4 12/5 9/6 14/7 15/9 13/10. 10/11. 8/12

25/01/07- Clerk's report

The Clerk updated the Council on

The fact that TDC had given consent for a bin - but had misunderstood the desired location . They had agreed to revisit the project

The fact that TDC , despite District Councillor approval , informed that grants were not available to Parish Councils - to which the Clerk had responded that the Council fitted the criteria as a non profit making organisation

ENFORCEMENT ISSUES - The Clerk confirmed she had continued to chase the TDC Enforcement Officer on current issues . One additional matter was raised

25/01/08 - Finance

a) **Approval of cheques - APPROVED**

Karen Gilbert. Expenses 12/24 & 1/25 £89.50

b) The grant application was ongoing

25/01/09 - Planning

24/02074/CLDE - Lower Lemonford , Lemonford Lane Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for existing conservatory

NO COMMENT TO MAKE

CIL MONIES

The Clerk read out responses to the questions raised with TDC on how the CIL monies might be spent

It was **RESOLVED** that the money was best spent on the Village Hall in order to promote and extend its use

ACTION ; VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS AT ITS NEXT MEETING AND REPORT BACK

A further suggestion for a tie up station for horses - adjacent to the Village Hall - which might be well used

25/01/10- To receive reports on

a) **Bickington Village Hall.** The Hall continued to be well used . Parishioners suggested some ways in which the lettability might be improved by improvements

b) Highway matters - It was **NOTED** that further drainage works were scheduled for the A383 in February

Cllr Cox mentioned blocked drains either side of Manor Mead

c) **DNPA MATTERS** - The Council was updated on the current position regarding Ramshorn Down -The recent letter from Andrew Watson (DNPA) contained only information already known to the Council. Cllr Bruckner reported that the area still contained Flytips and was frequently visited by scrambler bikes

d) **The footpaths** were generally in good condition but remained wet .

25/01/11 - CORRESPONDENCE

No other correspondence required major debate - copies having been emailed to Cllrs in advance

25/01/12 Matters for future agenda -

CIL monies - horse tie ups / VE80 / VJ80

25/01/13 Date of next meeting. - 10th February 2025. at 7.30pm

There being no further business , the Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed..... Dated

THE PARISH COUNCIL MUST EMPHASISE THAT THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE PRIOR TO APPROVAL