

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON

Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7.00pm

Parish Councillors Present: Cllr Ruth Atkinson (Chairman) Cllr K Hamlyn, Cllr S Paulger, Cllr Bowyer, Cllr Dimmock, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Russell, Cllr Stott, Cllr Gearing.

In attendance: Clerk Kayleigh Walker, members of the public: 0.

Apologies: Cllr Williams, County Cllr Rowsell.

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

1.1 Ruth Atkinson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD TUESDAY 27TH MAY 2025

2.1 Cllr Paulger proposed the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The motion was proposed by Cllr Hamlyn and agreed unanimously by all Cllrs that were present.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

3.1 This has been another interesting year for me as Chair; I want to start by thanking my fellow councillors for their support and advice during the year. I would also like to thank Sharon for leading on our task to produce a new community emergency plan for the Parish and the work she has done so far. I would also say a big thank you to Kayleigh for her help, support, and guidance throughout the year and to the District and for their input and regular updates, and to our County Councillor who has championed our ongoing drive to highlight yet again the ever increasing potholes appearing in the village, I hope that we continue to lobby for this and achieve success. We have again welcomed new Councillors on board, and we look forward to all working together in the future. We have also seen the loss of some councillors and my Vice Chair who I personally thank for their input and support. We currently still have vacancies and are looking to co-opt new members again. We will continue to monitor our playground and will with limited funds try to maintain a safe and enjoyable space for the children of the parish but accepting that as equipment becomes beyond repair, we will have to remove it for safety reasons, we are continuing to explore the possibility of additional monies where available. The Community Speed team have been active throughout the year and we have identified and approved new speed watch locations at Chapmans Well and the Tower Hill approach to the village, the location at Grindley corner has now been approved as a dual location meaning vehicles can be now been monitored in both direction at the same time. I can also report that the team now have the use of a body camera and are encouraged to use it to record and report any incidents of unreasonable behaviour by motorists passing through the village. In order to continue regular monitoring activities, the group would welcome new volunteers. I have continued to attend meetings of the Torridge District Councils Collaborative Chairs group and together with Kayleigh attended a forum held by our MP to discuss the ongoing situation with rural broadband issues although I'm not confident that these will be resolved soon. We have this year awarded community grants to parish groups to enable them to continue and I hope that the increased amounts awarded will be useful. The Parish Council has renewed the grass cutting contract and we hope that this will be successful, I ask councillors to report to the clerk if they feel there are any issues. We increased the precept this year as we are aware of the need for Parish Councils to be more financially aware of costs and the need to have contingencies should these be needed. The Parish council is currently in the process of developing a new Parish Website with the assistance of Evan who has undertaken the project on our behalf, and we hope to have this live shortly. We installed the new notice board for the village and purchased new bins for the playground. We have continued to maintain the defibrillator and have purchased new pads when notified of its use. Finally, the Parish Council applied for and was successful in receiving grant funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's office to purchase CCTV equipment to be used outside the village hall and community shop to enhance security in public spaces, we are currently negotiating with the necessary parties in order to complete the project.

The Cllrs thanked the Chairman for her commitment to the role.

4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

4.1 None.

5. CLOSE

5.1 The meeting was closed at approx. 19:11pm.