

IDEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the Thursday 8th May 2025 at 7.30pm

Present:	<p> Cllr T Hill – Chair Cllr A Carter-Woodwark - vice chair Cllr D Fox Cllr H Bellamy Cllr M Batting </p>	<p> Cllr C Hill Cllr J Gardner Cllr Peart WW - Mr. Aaronson Mr. D. Morby </p>
In Attendance	Mrs Clarke - Clerk	4 members of the public
Item(a)	Discussion and Decisions (b)	
	PART ONE (OPEN TO PUBLIC AND PRESS)	
01/05/25	ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE - The meeting opened at 7.30pm. Cllr Hill was elected as Chairman. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed. This was proposed by Cllr Batting and seconded by Cllr Carter-Woodwark	
02/05/25	ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE: Cllr Carter-Woodwark was elected as Vice Chairman. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed. Cllr Fox proposed and this was seconded by Cllr Gardner	
03/05/25	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Gearon.	
04/05/25	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th April 2025 were agreed by all and signed by the Chair.	
05/05/25	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - There were no declarations of interest	
06/05/25	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - The chair welcomed our new neighbourhood highways officer, Rhys Andrews. The new resident from Apple Cottage came to see us, partially as the council had discussed their application last month.	
07/05/25	<p>REPORTS</p> <p>07.01 County Councillor: No report. The council had been unable to contact the new councillor.</p> <p>07.02 District Councillor: No report.</p> <p>07.03 Neighbourhood Beat Manager: For the period 1st of April to the 30th of April, there was just one recorded offence in the area made to the police and that was for a dog bite.</p>	
08/05/25	<p>PARISH MATTERS</p> <p>08.01 Register of Interests Members were reminded to update their Register of Interests and provide them to the clerk before next month's meeting. The vice chair mentioned updating details and photographs on the website, however this will all be changed in August.</p> <p>08.02 Updates were received on highways, roadworks and parking: Rhys Andrews, the new highways officer, introduced himself and provided some details of how he plans to address various road issues. He outlined several priorities such as Butts Lane, Hestow Road drainage, and Rixford Road. Significant discussion was held around the pothole repair quality and longevity issue, with concerns raised about short-term fixes leading to repeated repairs. The council also noted the ongoing byways situation; the original quote for repair was rejected by the Devon County council due to procedural issues. The parish council has decided not to risk funding the work, as there's no guarantee that the funds will be reimbursed. The A380 was due to be resurfaced on Sunday however this has been postponed to the changes in the weather. Footpaths number 20 in particular was discussed, it was stated that we only need maintenance to be carried out in a measured manner.</p> <p>08.03 Sustainable Ideford/Wildlife Wardens update: The Sustainable Ideford/Wildlife Wardens update highlighted progress in enhancing local biodiversity. Key developments include the commendation of Robin's biodiversity database and discussions around updating the village website, with potential student project collaborations with the University of Exeter. Plans for the Open Gardens event are underway, set to feature a Devon Wildlife Trust presence and the distribution of educational leaflets. Several initiatives aim to improve village aesthetics through planting. These include focusing on the oak tree by the pub and the grassy area by the bus stop. Cllr Gardner proposed further planting schemes, suggesting the council fund planters and bulbs for the pub, which the owner supports. Bulbs are also planned for the area in front of the bus stop, and raised planters are being considered for Colleybrook. Water management for these new planted areas was also discussed. Ongoing efforts to increase biodiversity net gain continue in the churchyard and Millennium Green. A review of the parish biodiversity plan is scheduled for a later date.</p> <p>08.05 The date for the parish Litter Pick was agreed, 26th October at 11am. The discussion highlighted the difficulty of litter picking when vegetation is at its peak. As a solution, the council encouraged community members to undertake their own litter picking initiatives before the Open Gardens event. It was also decided to hold an autumn litter pick on the last weekend in October, prior to the clocks changing. A key challenge discussed was the disposal of collected waste, given limitations with council refuse services. Rhys Andrews shared insights from a successful litter initiative in Dartmouth, advising persistence in collaborating with the District Council.</p> <p>08.05 Grant applications - none currently some are expected in October each year.</p> <p>08.06 The Council reviewed insurance arrangements; The insurance renewal is due by 12th June 2025. A review confirmed that coverage includes major assets like playground equipment, the green, benches, the bus shelter, and "the pound." While the current figures seem largely accurate, a more detailed review is planned, especially considering the ongoing green building project. Importantly, the insurance provides liability coverage even for partially completed works. A future discussion will also address a risk assessment concerning dogs on the green and associated liability.</p>	

	<p>Millennium Green Building: Progress on the Millennium Green Building has stalled. This is due to the original roofer withdrawing from the project. The council is now actively seeking a cost-effective alternative roofer.</p> <p>08.07 CIL matters were discussed: income has been modest (approx. £300 a year). Suggestions for spending included: improvements to the Hall and Green, blue light filters for lighting, and future tree/hedge planting. The form that has to be submitted will encompass these elements.</p>
09/05/25	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>09.01 New applications: None</p> <p>09.02 The following decision was noted:</p> <p>25/00595/HOU – Corner Cottage, Ideford – Timber ridge roof structure – Conditional Permission granted.</p> <p>09.03 Planning enforcement cases: none</p> <p>09.05 Appeal noted: 25/00018/REF – Higher Colleybrook Farm, Fore Street – The parish council is frustrated by Teignbridge District Council's failure to notify them of a planning application refusal, preventing their comment. This follows a history of delays and poor communication. The council will write to Teignbridge seeking clarification and to ensure future involvement. The appeal response deadline for Teignbridge was 21st May 2025. Options for parish input, like an extraordinary meeting or individual submissions, were discussed.</p>
10/05/25	<p>CONCERNS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS TO COUNCILLORS</p> <p>10.01 A resident raised concerns regarding revised plans for a development at Coombe Cross, suggesting the buildings appeared larger. The applicant confirmed that the building sizes have not changed; only their position has been adjusted slightly to satisfy Highways' concerns. A biodiversity report was submitted months ago and includes an extensive tree planting offset plan involving around 1,800 trees.</p> <p>10.02 Local residents report dog attacks and loose dogs, prompting a need for action. Options discussed include a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for mandatory leads and anonymous reporting to the dog warden. The Council will contact the Teignbridge District Council Dog Warden and prepare a newsletter article to promote responsible dog ownership.</p> <p>10.03 Concern was raised by a resident regarding silt accumulation in Colleybrook. The Council agreed to approach the relevant authority to request dredging.</p> <p>10.04 Ongoing problems with large vehicles accessing narrow lanes, often due to sat-nav misdirection. Damage to property and lane infrastructure has been reported. The responsibility lies with residents who arrange large deliveries without assessing access suitability.</p>
11/05/25	<p>AUDIT 2024/25 – UPDATE</p> <p>Audit update acknowledged via email. The council agreed on using 'idefordparish.co.uk' as the preferred domain name, dropping 'council' for broader community use.</p>
12/05/25	<p>CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE</p> <p>12.01 Balance of accounts as of the end of April, the account balance was £18,069.45, with precept and CIL received.</p> <p>12.02 The following BACS payments were approved: Regular payments approved including invoices for the Clerk, hall, antivirus software, and professional services. Council agreed to return £410 from the CILCA grant (unused training and book costs). Millennium Green grant payment was confirmed (processed in May).</p> <p>12.03 Receipts and current balance as at 30 April 2025 were noted.</p> <p>12.05 Legal and administrative updates</p> <p>12.05 Correspondence received: Late item of correspondence related to road issues was received.</p>
13/05/25	PART TWO – CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - Members of the public and press were excluded.
14/05/25	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 12th June 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
15/05/25	PART TWO MEETING
16/05/25	RE-OPEN THE MEETING TO VOTE ON ANY PART TWO DECISIONS The council resolved to increase the Clerk's salary adjustment due to CILCA qualification. Unanimous agreement to move Clerk from pay scale 14 to 15, effective from the next pay cycle.
17/05/25	CLOSE THE MEETING - The meeting was closed at 21.23

Signed:

Date: