

IDEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 11th October 2025

Present:	Cllr T Hill – Chair Cllr A Carter-Woodwark - vice chair Cllr D Fox Cllr H Bellamy	Cllr C Hill Cllr J Gardner Cllr M Batting WW – Mr. Aaronson
In Attendance	Mrs Clarke - Clerk	2 members of the public

Item	Discussion and Decisions
01/09/25	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: DCC Peart, TDC Cllr Gearon (received after the meeting)
02/09/25	THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: held on Thursday 10 th July 2025 were agreed and signed.
03/09/25	A personal interest raised on a matter by Cllr Gardner, raised for the sake of transparency.
04/09/25	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Horse Riding Incident - A resident reported a serious incident where a 14-year-old rider was thrown from her horse near a local bridge, sustaining severe injuries after the horse bolted, possibly due to a loose dog or other disturbance. Concerns were raised about uncontrolled dogs in the area frightening both horses and walkers, alongside the risks posed by deer. Councillors discussed the need for awareness and practical measures, including parish news reminders, possible signage near the bridleway, and liaison with the rights-of-way officer and dog warden. It was agreed to pursue signage and awareness campaigns, while recognising enforcement challenges and the need for sensitivity over landowner responsibilities.</p> <p>Planning Appeal Statement - which is reported in full in the planning section.</p> <p>Planning Representation Ms Taylor, a resident of Lower Colleybrook Farm, explained the layout of her property in relation to a proposed development, noting the barn in question appears differently from front and back due to land levels. When raising these concerns, the Chair deferred her comments to the planning section of the meeting.</p>
05/09/25	There were no reports: from DCC or TDC. The Neighbourhood Beat Manager PCSO Bunce indicated that there had been no crimes committed In the area.
06/09/25	<p>PARISH MATTERS:</p> <p>06.01 Highways: The parish highways officer provided written updates, highlighting three key issues: vegetation cutting which can now resume following the end of nesting season; drainage should be monitored closely ahead of winter, with blocked drains reported promptly; and the A382 roadworks, expected to last two years, which will cause major disruption, with authorities opting for full closure to speed up completion and residents are advised to avoid the area where possible.</p> <p>The drain between the bridges from Chudleigh to Ideford, near the A380, continues to cause flooding, with manual clearance attempts unsuccessful and specialist machinery being required. A further issue at the Pound was raised, where the stream remained uncleared and vegetation was overgrown and this stream goes under the road.</p> <p>Residents expressed frustration with ineffective online reporting, and it was agreed the matters should be escalated directly to Mr Rhys Andrews.</p> <p>An email was received from the Footpath Warden Mrs. S. Hill and Councillors considered issues of overgrown byways and footpaths, particularly at Tower Hill Lane. Steve Gardner confirmed to the chair that a contractor was engaged to address surfaces in the autumn but noted hedge cutting was usually the responsibility of adjoining landowners. Poor byway conditions meant machinery could not access routes, worsening deterioration. This had led motorbike riders diverting onto woodland footpaths, posing risks to walkers and horse riders, despite the riders being courteous. A possible solution is to reinstating a stile or kissing gate at the end of footpath by Longthorn, (part of the Ugbrooke Estate) going into the woods and over Ideford Arch to deter motorbikes while maintaining access for horses, with recognition that the matter also affected neighbouring Chudleigh parish.</p> <p>Councillors raised safety concerns about the wooden walkway at Muddy Bottoms Lane. Photographs showed it lacked wire mesh for grip, and erosion had left a dangerous drop into the stream. The surface was reported as very slippery in wet conditions, posing risks to walkers, cyclists, and horses, with one horse and rider already having slipped. The council agreed this was a serious hazard to be escalated to Steve Gardner.</p> <p>Councillors discussed parking and pothole concerns. Parking around the church remained problematic, particularly for residents affected by obstructive vehicles. Several potholes were highlighted, including one near a field expected to worsen over winter and another under a bridge restricting pedestrian access.</p>

	<p>The longstanding pothole at Ideford Arch was again noted, though difficult to report due to its hazardous position. It was agreed that the highways officer, should be asked to inspect these sites directly.</p> <p>06.02 Sustainable Ideford Update</p> <p>Cllr Gardner reported on the Sustainable Ideford initiative, with a public meeting planned later in the month to finalise mini-projects, some requiring a modest budget spend. Costs would be collated and shared with the clerk for logging and invoicing. The parish council has also submitted a “Star Award” application, recognising climate action, highlighting the biodiversity plan, sustainability projects, and ACT links.</p> <p>06.03 Policy Review – Health and Safety</p> <p>The council reviewed its health and safety policy, agreeing it was necessary to retain a basic framework despite limited parish activities. Events such as litter picks and beat-the-bounds walks carried some risk, requiring safeguarding and risk assessments. While described as a “box ticking exercise,” the policy was confirmed as fit for purpose, with the next review set for 2027. Councillors agreed to continue updating policies individually in this way.</p>
07/09/25	<p>PLANNING:</p> <p>07.01 planning applications</p> <p>Planning application 25/01366/HOU for a single-storey extension at Higher Colleybrook was unanimously supported - no objections</p> <p>25/01175/HPA The council noted a prior approval application for a rear extension at Colleybrook on Butts Lane. As prior approval had already been granted under permitted development rights, no planning permission was required.</p> <p>25/01269/FUL Colleybrook Farm, Fore Street. Residents raised concerns over newly installed gates causing access issues and conflicts with existing planning allocations for Sheds 1–5. Proposed conversion of Shed 4 into a dwelling and additional windows raised privacy issues, overlooking gardens and a chicken run. Historic openings (doors, vents) were proposed to be reopened, causing intrusion and potential alteration of structures. Biodiversity concerns remain, with rare bats on-site; a new survey was recommended before considering approval. Parking and access issues noted, including potential obstruction of right-of-way, overspill onto the main road, and blind corner hazards. The current application resubmits barns three and four, reducing bat habitat and altering prior ecological arrangements. Site topography and drainage complexities highlighted along with inaccuracies and omissions in the applicant’s drawings, inconsistencies in Ecology Reporting Applicant’s ecology report acknowledged sensitive bat habitats but concluded with weak mitigation, raising concerns about its reliability. Previous proposals to relocate bats were dismissed due to disruption of flight paths; recent inspections and site features were omitted. Access, Gates, and Legal Disputes over limited resident access, with legal compromises which have included set opening hours and an emergency button installed. Proposed new development would exacerbate traffic and access hazards, with vehicles forced to reverse onto the road and limited parking. The clerk has since request an extension for filing our detailed response.</p> <p>07.02 Planning Decisions and Updates</p> <p>The council reviewed the planning decisions, noting approval for five storage and workshop units at Coombe Hill Cross, Ideford Coombe, subject to pre-commencement conditions.</p> <p>25/00018/REF The council noted this appeal and that it was successful.</p> <p>As per the parishioners request, this is her statement:-</p> <p>“I would like to make a comment on the recent planning appeal 25/00018/REF. Higher Colleybrook Farm, Fore Street, Ideford, TQ13 0BG. For the record you may have heard that my recent appeal has been successful. There are some conditions which have been or will be dealt with. Whilst this is a relief, I am bound to say that both my legal team and myself remain astonished that it proved necessary to have this appeal in the first place. I trust this will be the end of the matter subject only to the reimbursement of all my costs.</p> <p>07.03 No new enforcement matters reported.</p>
08/09/25	<p>CONCERNS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS TO COUNCILLORS</p> <p>Following up of concerns raised, where there are unresolved matters, I.e The Brook clearing, not being revisited, this was giving the impression they were forgotten. A dedicated “follow-up from previous meetings” section under parish matters will ensure important issues remain on the agenda. Councillors agreed this approach would reassure residents that issues are tracked, even if progress with external agencies is slow.</p>
09/09/25	<p>Clerk’s Report and Finance</p> <p>The Financial position at end of August: £12,975.88; bank reconciliations and invoices were approved and reviewed; The parish Website and Councillor Contact Details Options were discussed. Councillors will transition to official parish email addresses, starting with chair and vice chair.</p> <p>Budget Planning and Unitary Takeover- Upcoming unitary authority changes may shift responsibilities and costs to the parish (e.g., dog bins, verge cutting, street sweeping, churchyard management). Planning ahead was advised to mitigate potential unexpected expenses. Savings Options were discussed councillors agreed to explore longer-notice accounts for higher interest to offset bank fees.</p>

10/09/25	DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday 9 th October 2025 at 7:30 p.m.
11/09/25	Items to be considered for the next Agenda: litter pick scheduled for 26th October; “beating the bounds” may require follow-up at December meeting.
12/09/25	The Chair closed the meeting at 8.59pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____