

IDEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 9th October 2025

Present:	Cllr T Hill – Chair Cllr A Carter-Woodwork - vice chair Cllr D Fox Cllr H Bellamy Cllr C Hill	Cllr M. Batting TDC Peart WW - Mr. Aaronson Mr. Andrews - Highways?
In Attendance	Mrs Clarke - Clerk	1 member of the public

Item(a)	Discussion and Decisions (b)	
01/10/25	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr J Gardner, TDC Cllr Gearon	
02/10/25	THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: held on Thursday 11 th September 2025 were agreed and signed.	
03/10/25	THERE WERE NO DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.	
04/10/25	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
05/10/25	<p>REPORTS:</p> <p>05.01 There was no County Councillor report. The council noting that the new county councillor had failed to acknowledge or attend any of the last three parish meetings. Frustration was expressed over the DC councillor's continued silence, as the parish had received no reports for five months. Our MP has said that he would be content to attend a Council meeting should an opportunity arise.</p> <p>05.02 There was no report from District Councillor Gearon</p> <p>05.03 Neighbourhood Beat Manager PCSO Bunce no report.</p>	
06/10/25	<p>PARISH MATTERS:</p> <p>06.01 Updates on roadworks, highways, parking issues and potholes. Rhys Andrews provided an update. Several potholes had been inspected and were now marked for repair. Others had been noted as not meeting the required 40mm depth threshold. The repairs were scheduled for the following week (and have now taken place). He advised that residents should use the official online reporting system to ensure that highways' issues receive a formal response. Separately the Teignbridge team had cleared the fly-tipping at the top of Church Lane.</p> <p>Silt Trap. Mr Matthews said that the DC's Bridges Inspector had confirmed the silt trap was in good condition but had noted dense vegetation behind it. Options were being explored to clear this, although responsibility for maintenance was unclear. Devon County Council (DCC) had originally built the trap, which could suggest continued responsibility, but he had found no records to confirm this. South West Highways had once maintained it, but had ceased to do so after contract changes. A parishioner reported significant silt build-up near The Dairy, which increased the flood risk. Councillors noted the area beyond the dam was overgrown. Mr. Andrews said he would investigate further to clarify agency responsibility; any possible legal issues with upstream obstructions; and report back. The Council thanked Mr Andrews for his continued assistance and responsiveness.</p> <p>Public Rights of Way: Maintenance and Access. The Chair reported that Steve Gardner had confirmed the Tower Hill Lane, Haldon Lane/Willie White's Lane, local paths had deteriorated due to access limitations for machinery and contractors unwillingness to carry out manual maintenance and clearance. Mr Gardner had arranged for a specialist with a narrow flailing machine to inspect the lanes. Public Rights of Way had said that they could provide a kissing gate to replace the damaged stile at the bottom of one of the lanes and this offer had been passed onto the Ugbrooke Estate as the landowner. The Council agreed that a kissing gate would be the preferred solution.</p> <p>Dog Control and the Fatal Horse Incident. The Chair reported liaison with the dog warden and Environmental Health following incidents near the Mill at Muddy Bottom, including where a horse had regrettably had to be euthanised after an accident. Rob Harvey had advised that a PSPO notice could be displayed to remind dog owners of requirements to keep dogs under control. The Chair had reported concerns about the deteriorating boardwalk on Watery Lane footpath which had become unsafe due to structural damage and missing mesh. Mr Andrews said that a contractor had been notified and was expected to inspect the site soon.</p>	

Parking Issues and Vehicle Compliance.

The Council noted ongoing parking pressures in the village, including from vehicles parked long term without valid tax or MOT. It was agreed such vehicles should be reported to the police or community policing team if they were not taxed.

06.02 Boundary Stone.

Investigation of the damage to the historic boundary stone on Ideford Common had confirmed the land was owned by the Ugbrooke estate and leased to Forestry England. The damage occurred during forestry work subcontracted to Euroforest, whose contractors struck the stone while flailing along the boundary. Forestry England had accepted responsibility and would arrange repair or replacement. Bishopsteignton Parish Council had offered to coordinate restoration and was researching the original supplier and installer. District Councillor Peart noted that the same forestry work had also destroyed a nearby wooden bench. Members agreed the site should be fully reinstated and clarification was sought on the timescale for repairs and confirmation that the bench would also be replaced.

06.03 Review of Grants Policy.

It was agreed that the policy draft obtained from another parish looked sound but was outdated in parts. Suggestions were made to update it and to include the application form and a template written acknowledgment from recipients confirming receipt and acceptance of grant conditions. It was agreed that the policy should not state that grants would be around £250: the grant value could range from £100 upwards but unrealistic expectations of large awards should be avoided.

06.04 Updates from previous meetings: Community Litter Pick

The village litter-picking on 26 October would start at 11:00 in the village hall. The main focus would be on the main litter hotspots from Longthorne to the A380, with other areas looked at depending on numbers. Cllr. Carter-Woodwork and Cllr. C Hill agreed to coordinate the event, with refreshments provided. (The clerk has subsequently contacted Teignbridge District Council which has agreed to supply equipment and arrange waste collection.)

Outstanding Bin Installation at Rixafer

The Chair raised the long-standing issue of the promised litter bin at the bottom of Rixafer Road. Teignbridge had inspected the site and agreed a bin was needed, but no action had followed. The Clerk agreed to pursue the issue with Teignbridge again.

07/10/25**PLANNING:****07.01 planning applications** no new planning applications**07.02 Planning Decisions:** The following planning decisions were noted. 24/01735/AMD1 Non-material amendment approved. 24/01735/COND Homefield, Ideford Proposal: Discharge of conditions 4 & 5 Approved. 25/01366/HOU conditions 4 and 5 approved. **24/01735/AMD:** A non-material amendment - approved.**07.03 Planning appeal** –25/00023/COND allowed**08/10/25****CONCERN RAISED BY PARISHIONERS TO COUNCILLORS - Noise Complaint**, ongoing nuisance caused by a dog barking persistently throughout the night when its owners are absent. The noise is significant enough to disturb nearby residents, particularly in the early hours around 2-3 a.m. The issue might need to be monitored or raised formally if it continued to affect multiple households.**Defibrillator Training Request:** Cllr Fox indicated a parishioner requested new first aid and defibrillator training. The parish council had previously funded such training sessions twice. The cost of the proposed training session was £175, provided by the same organisation that owns the defibrillator site. The council agreed the earlier provider had delivered excellent, well-organised training and represented good value for money. As the training was a valuable community service, Councillors agreed to proceed with arranging a date for the course once the provider confirmed availability. The session would also be advertised in the parish magazine. Cllr. Fox confirmed he would make initial contact and coordinate arrangements once dates were available.**09/10/25****CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE:****Finance statement** for the end of September, showing a balance of £17,408.19, which included receipt of the next six months' precept. Approval for payments was granted for PAYE, HMRC, Hall Hire.

Discussion on TDC Draft Charter councillors questioned the purpose and timing of the document, which aimed to define relationships between different tiers of local government.

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had asked whether the parish wanted to install CCTV. Councillors were sceptical, noting the village's small size and lack of significant crime. They discussed potential

	locations such as the pub or the garage but agreed that it would not be a good fit for a rural area. Concerns were raised over privacy (GDPR), cost, and the administrative burden of monitoring footage. Councillors considered it unrealistic and unnecessary for the parish.
10/10/25	DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 13 th November 2025.
11/10/25	<p>ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT AGENDA</p> <p>The Chair invited any additional items for the next agenda. Councillors agreed to include a review of the spring litter pick proposal.</p> <p>Teignbridge Archaeological Society have asked whether the council would support their community activities. Members discussed practical ways of assisting, with general agreement that one of the simplest and most effective methods would be allowing the group to publicise events through parish channels. This could include access to the parish magazine, the current website, or even the new site under development. It was noted that the existing parish website already includes a well-regarded historical section about the village.</p>
12/10/25	MEETING CLOSED AT 20:50 hours.

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____
