

Sheepwash Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

held in the Village Hall

Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7pm

Minutes

Present: Cllr Ansell (Chairperson), Cllr Moys, Cllr Fairall, Cllr Etherington, Cllr Crossley, Cllr Ritson.
District Cllr Wheatley, Selina Woollacott (Clerk), 12 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for Absence:** District Cllr Cottle-Hunkin, Cllr Hutchings.
- 2) **Declarations of Interest:**
In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at Torridge District Council within 28 days of the change. None.
- 3) **Public Discussion, to allow any questions, reports by members of the public on any matters relating to the agenda of this meeting, or any matters the public would like the Council to consider on a future agenda. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 15 minutes.**
A reminder that members of the public can speak when invited to when council is in committee.
Member of the public asked if the paths on the land at the river could be cut as the Southwest Forest contract has ended and that contract was paying for maintaining the paths. There used to be a map of the paths and an information board. Cllr Ansell will speak to the landowner/land manager to see if the paths can be cut and by whom. The paths are used a lot.
- 4) **Minutes – the Minutes of the meetings held on 14th May 2025 have been circulated by email. Minutes to be approved for accuracy and signed by the Chairperson. Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting.** All Councillors agreed each set of Minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. Cllr Ansell signed the minutes.
- 5) **County & District Councillors' reports.** No County Councillor's report.
District Councillor's report given by Cllr Wheatley.
TDC Annual General Meeting the AGM focused on the voting of Council Leadership and the reappointments of both Councillor Ken James as Leader and Councillor Claire Hodson as Deputy Leader for the sixth year in a row. Councillor Doug Bushby was re-elected as Chair of the Council and Councillor Doug Smith as Vice- Chair. Other Committee Councillors were appointed as Chair and Vice Chair of various Committees. Please see our press release/website for further details. Steve Hearse Chief Executive presented and update regarding TDC approval of several changes to its Constitution following recommendations from a Local Government Association Peer Review initiated in April 2024 as a friend and support not a critical inspection perspective. Key areas covered were local priorities and outcomes, organisational and place leadership, governance, and culture, financial planning and management and capacity for improvement. Out of 11 recommendations the Report noted that 91% of the actions had already been completed or progressed.
EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL Torridge District Council voted to extend the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to control of dogs for another three years. Since it was initially introduced in 2022, The Councils Environmental Protection Team has dealt with 117 stray dogs' incidents, 246 Reports of dog fouling, 234 barking dog complaints and 138 involving dangerous dogs. A breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence and can result in a fixed penalty notice of £100 or up to £1000 can

be imposed by a court in conviction of a breach. The Council voted that dogs should be kept on a leash and all year round in Victoria Park, adjacent to Park View Terrace, and from 1 May to 30 September annually on Westward Ho promenade and excluded from on the designated area of Blue Flag Westward Ho beach from 1 May to 30 September annually and permanently excluded from Westward Ho Park's enclosed Tennis and Sports area.

Torridge District Council - Local Government Reorganisation Torridge District Council would like the community to be aware and have a voice towards the next stage towards Local Government Reorganisation. We are being asked by government to develop plans to move from a two-tier system to a single-tier unitary authority. North Devon and Torridge have been working councils across Devon to work up proposals and in March 2025 an interim plan was submitted to government on behalf of all Devon's district councils except Exeter. The proposal was known as the 1-4-5 Plan, keeping Plymouth as a standalone unitary authority, Forming another unitary authority with South Hams, Teignbridge, West Devon, and Torbay. Creating a new unitary authority combining East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, Torridge, and Exeter. Final proposals will be submitted in November 2025. Though before then, the council would like to hear from residents, businesses, local communities about what matters most to you? We want to hear from you!! This would ensure our proposals in November 2025 will help play a vital role in shaping our future. Torridge residents can complete the survey online on the **Let's Talk website** or alternatively if you require a large print or paper version you can request this by emailing customer.services@torridge.gov.uk or calling 01237 428700 option 9 Paper copies are available at Riverbank House, Bideford, EX39 2QG

Community and Resources- Household Support Fund 7 £302,310.00 inclusive of 12% for administration of Household Support Fund 7 has been allocated by Devon Council to Torridge District Council to help those people in financial hardship, typically those people currently in receipt of benefits. This is for period 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2026. Encompass are assisting TDC with reviewing application. This was voted for unanimous.

Cllr Chris Bright Notice of Motion - The Plough Arts Centres The exceptional reward of £45,000 of exceptional funding assistance to be approved and delivered in two payments of £22,500 (one in financial year 2025/2026 and one in April for financial year 2026/2027. Over the next 2 years the Plough Arts Centres will report twice a year to External Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Lead member Cllr Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin and Ward member Cllr Chris Bright spoke very positively regarding the importance of The Plough to the community.

Members voted for 11 and 1 against with no abstentions.

The Globe Hotel community project in Great Torrington Please support and help spread the word for The Globe Hotel community project in Great Torrington who need to reach £230,000, for the Globe Hotel Torrington crowdfunding project. As of today £153,895, has been raised and if we achieve the target the hotel will be owned by the community and over half a million pounds would be released by central government towards its renovation. The aim of the globe project is to provide a training hotel to train young people in the hospitality sector. The Globe next door to the Plough would work incredibly well together and offer much potential and benefit for the community and further afield!

Loan Request for ARC, A LOAN OF £100,000 to the Atlantic Raquet Centre to be repaid over 10 years with terms to be recommended by Full Council. Voted for unanimously by members.

Torridge Estuary Strategy 2025-2030 The estuary strategy is to be adopted and that the 1-year action plan be submitted to members by January 2026 to ensure delivery of key actions within the adopted strategy. Voted for unanimously.

No questions for Cllr Wheatley.

6) Clerk's Report.

Sheepwash Bridge, Sheepwash Village sign and 30mph signs, Parking and Bus Stop, Footpaths, Clerk Appraisal. Asset Checking.

Sheepwash Bridge. I was informed that the bridge has been repaired, but this is not correct. I will contact the Highways Officer.

Sheepwash Village sign and 30mph signs. A location for the 30mph signs has been agreed and the work will commence shortly. The plan is still for the Sheepwash sign to be installed at the same time by the same contractors. I have been told that I will be informed when the work is going to happen. Councillors asked how much it will be to install, Clerk to check the minutes for the amount. 13th March 2024 item 16. DCC contractor would be able to complete the work for that price estimation (£269.84. +VAT) and we would just need to arrange handover or collection of the sign at some point.

Parking and Bus Stop. Highways Traffic Team have been informed that the Parish Council and the local Police force would like the bus stop marked as a bus stop. I have been Copying Police officer Donna Gutteridge into all emails with Highways. I have not heard from the team on their decision. Now we have a new County Councillor I will be asking her to help move this forward and well as the 30mph signs and how the bridge can be protected. The Parish Council would like the bus stop marked as a bus stop. Clerk to inform Highways.

Footpaths. I have asked that footpaths 3 and 8 are walked by the DCC footpath warden as each year these footpaths have maize growing on them. Maize should be knee high by the 1st July which means it will now start being an access problem on the footpaths. The online map I have access to does show areas on footpath 8 that have been logged as having surfaces issues and footpath 1 has a log for a hedge issue. This is now in the hands of DCC footpath warden.

Clerk Appraisal. The Appraisal was completed on the 3rd June by Cllr Fairall. All Councillors were able to inform Cllr Fairall of any concerns, issues or praise.

Asset Checking. The Park is checked monthly by a Councillor. I will be over in the village to complete the Annual Asset Check in the next couple of weeks. I have been working on making sure the Parish Council has all the asset paperwork up to date. Are there any issues that the councillors or members of the public have seen that I need to look at when I am here completing the checks? Before the meeting Cllr Moys handed the Clerk a list of issues with a number of benches and the gazebo.

7) Chair's Report. Marquee.

The Parish Council have bought a marquee for the Parish; the marquee is for public events, not for private hire. The Parish Council received grants for the marquee from The Bridgeland Trust (£240) and the Village Hall (£150). The marquee will be stored in the Parish Council shed. The next public event is the shindig on 2nd August.

8) Community Hall, Section 106

Cllr Ansell gave the following update. We have asked our solicitor to have a conference call/ online meeting with the landowners' solicitor and TDC. This has not happened yet. It feels it is now time to contact Sir Geoffrey and the Chief Executive of TDC and the leader of the Council again. They have been copied into a number of emails. The PC Planning Sub-Group would like TDC to take legal action on the landowner as they are not complying with the Section 106 agreement. The Parish Council agreed that Sir Geoffrey and TDC should be contacted again.

9) Goal Post.

Clerk has enquired with a company that was recommended to her by the play inspector company. She has enquired for the cost of goal posts which can easily be moved for events. It seems Black Torrington has removable goal posts. The Parish Council cannot stop people bring their own goal posts to the park but they will need to remove them when they leave. The Parish Council will move forward with this when the Clerk has the cost of removable goal posts.

10) Lawn Mower.

Councillors discussed three issues here. The first was how to fit the new marquee in the Parish Council shed. It was agreed the salt in the shed would be moved out of the shed. The old marquee needs to be disposed of; this will make room for the new marquee. The second issue is the Parish Council lawn mower. This is used to cut Jubilee Park which is Parish Council property. At some point in time the Church started using the Parish Council lawn mower to cut the graveyard. Councillors had to decide if

they were going to ask the Church to pay for the use of the lawn mower or tell the church not to use the lawn mower and buy their own for the graveyard cutting. The Councillors voted and the majority vote was to ask the Church not to use the Parish Council lawn mower and buy their own. The third issue, (as Clerk I do not know how this issue arose) is should the Parish Council shed be moved. It was suggested that the shed is moved to a corner of Jubilee Park, Councillors did not like the idea of the shed being moved out of sight as more likely to be broken in to. The shed is staying where it currently is.

11) Pottery Picture at Jubilee entrance.

This was brought up by a member of the public at the March meeting. The frame needs repairing and the pottery needs checking. Cllr Ansell has a person in mind she can ask about repairing the frame and getting an idea of cost. It is thought the pottery came from a potter in Bideford. If this need repairing, Cllr Wheatley can help with contact details of the potter.

12) PLANNING:

12a) Planning Applications. None.

12b) Planning Decisions.

1/0394/2025/FUL Erection of single-storey side extension Westover Farm, Sheepwash, Beaworthy.
Application was granted permission. Read out to the meeting.

12c) Planning Appeal.

TDC Ref E/20/0096/UND. Appeal Reference APP/W1145/C/24/3356368, Clinton House.

In progress, no decision yet. Clerk will keep checking for a decision.

13) FINANCE:

13a) as at the 1st July 2025:

Main Account £18,642.41

Saving Account £18,734.05

Expenditure:

Date	£	Detail	Transfer
08.05.2025	125.34	DALC membership	Bacs
08.05.2025	185.26	Visionict Ltd (website)	Bacs
08.05.2025	108.00	Devon Garden Solution (weed killing)	Bacs
13.05.2025	2.40	HMRC	Bacs
23.05.2025	74.65	M Ritson. Clean up day items	Bacs
23.05.2025	850.63	Came and Company Insurance	Bacs
31.05.2025	6.00	Service Charge	DD
16.06.2025	650.00	Marquee	Bacs
16.06.2025	42.00	Buckland Accounts (Audit of end of year A/c)	Bacs
20.06.2025	404.60	Salary April - June	Bacs
Total	2,448.88		

Income:

Date	£	Detail
23.06.2025	240.00	Bridgeland Trust, Marquee
24.06.2025	150.00	Sheepwash Village Hall, Marquee
Total	390.00	

The above was read out to the meeting.

13b) Grant requests.

Village Hall Grant.

Historically the Parish Council have granted an amount to the Village Hall to cover hall hire for meetings and for the hall to use the remaining funds for maintenance. Last year the amount was £500. All Councillors agreed £500 to be granted to the Village Hall.

Dartmoor Search and Rescue Grant.

Dartmoor Search and Rescue is made up entirely of volunteers who provide 24/7 search and rescue support. There are currently fundraising to replace the 32-year-old Land Rover capable of off-road rescue operations. The cost to replace is £70,000. The cost per year to keep the current Land Rover running is £20,000. The Councillors agreed that it is a good cause and the amount of £100 was agreed.

14) Items for Information. Items emailed out to Councillors.

TDC Housing Monitoring Dashboard.

Councillors have been emailed the link to have their say on the future of local government.

15) Items to be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on 10th September 2025. Goal posts, pottery frame, paths by the river.

Sir Geoffrey Cox will be in Sheepwash Village Hall on the 29th July 10am – 11am for an open surgery. Please pop into the Hall and tell Sir Geoffrey your thoughts and views and raise any issues you have. The Parish Council's main issue is the Luke's Farm Section 106 not being completed in a timely manner.

Meeting Closed 8.11pm

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