

# *Goodleigh Parish Council*

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1 April 2025 at 6:30pm at Goodleigh Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs N Thorne (Chairman), R Gulwell, Dr S Ley, Mrs F Underwood and R Underwood.

**In Attendance:** 3 members of the public, Cllr M Prowse (NDC), Cllr Mrs A Davis (DCC), Parish Clerk.

**155. Items from the public**

No matters raised.

**156. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ms L Boyle and S Clarke.

**157. Approval of Minutes of meeting held 4 March 2025**

Min. 146.1 was amended to include the comments from Highways to a previous application (66208) for the same site:

*The proposed development will result in an increase in the volume of traffic entering and leaving the county road through an access that does not provide adequate visibility from and of emerging vehicles, with consequent risk of additional danger to all users of that road and interference with the free flow of traffic... The proposed development will create a street, to which the provisions of the Advance Payments Code apply, that does not achieve an adoptable standard and is not, therefore, adequate to serve the proposed development.*

A second response to be submitted to the planning dept stating that the parish council fully supported this response from DCC Highways.

The amended Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

**158. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

None.

**159. Reports**

**1. District Councillor**

Cllr Prowse reported that the consultation on Housing Strategy had been completed. A small amount of funding was available.

North Devon and Torrington councils still did not have a five year supply of land for housing. The two councils were continuing to prepare a new Local Plan.

Barnstaple Regeneration. The scaffolding on the building had been taken down.

The council's preferred option for the reorganisation of local government had been submitted to government. Their response was awaited in due course.

Cllr Prowse would look into the current position regarding Honey Hill.

**2. County Councillor**

A report had been received from Cllr Mrs Davis:

**Local Government Reorganisation**

The update is that Devon County will have a full council meeting last month councillors voted on the County Submission: several options have been submitted so that the new council after May 1<sup>st</sup> can work on what is the best option for the whole of Devon.

Link to the report;

Agenda for Council on Thursday, 20th March, 2025, 2.00 pm - Democracy in Devon

Background below;

The English Devolution White Paper was published just before Christmas.

Extract from the ministers letter probably gives some explanation as to where we are heading as residents in a two tier area;

*Local government reorganisation My intention is to formally invite unitary proposals in January 2025 from all councils in two-tier areas, and small neighbouring unitary councils. In this invitation, I will set out further detail on the criteria I will consider when taking decisions on the proposals that are submitted to Government. I intend to ask for interim plans by March 2025. As*

*set out in the White Paper, new unitary councils must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. For most areas, this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 or more. However, there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area, including on devolution. Final decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. We will ask you to work with other councils in your area to develop unitary proposals that are in the best interests of the whole area, rather than developing competing proposals.*

### **Statement from Andrea**

Following publication of the Government's Devolution White Paper it is clear that considerable change is going to happen in Local Government in Devon.

We have two options;

1. Do nothing and the government will impose changes
2. Engage with government to get the best result for the residents of Devon.

I believe that engagement with the government is the best option.

While I may not agree with all the government's proposals, I need to do everything I can to ensure that the changes will make local government sustainable for the long term and able to withstand shocks like the pandemic and the world financial crisis. At the heart of all this must be a stronger voice to inform the government of the issues my residents in Combe Martin Rural and the residents in the wider area of Devon face.

Update 05.02.25- The Government has turned down Devon County Council's request to postpone its elections in May.

This afternoon Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Angela Rayner announced that the council's request was among those which have been rejected, meaning that the council's May elections will proceed as planned.

The announcement coincides with confirmation that the Government has signed the necessary legislation to bring the Devon and Torbay's Combined County Authority (CCA) into being. The Devon and Torbay CCA is the governance needed for devolved decision-making powers and funding to flow from Whitehall to local decision-makers in Devon and Torbay. Through the Devon and Torbay CCA, it means that decisions that were previously made in Whitehall will now be made locally on priority issues including housing, jobs and skills, transport and economy.

Letter received from minister Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

*We ask for an interim plan to be submitted on or before 21 March 2025, in line with the guidance set out in the attached Annex. My officials will provide feedback on your plan to help support you to develop final proposals. I will expect any full proposal to be submitted by 28 November. If I decide to implement any proposal, and the necessary legislation is agreed by Parliament, we will work with you to move to elections to new 'shadow' unitary councils as soon as possible as is the usual arrangement in the process of local government reorganisation. Following submission, I will consider any and all proposals carefully before taking decisions on how to proceed.*

### **A399 Bray Valley**

Many of you will know I've been campaigning for the road to be repaired for many months, it is not in the area I represent but it is a vital road for many of us accessing the A361 North Devon Link Road.

The road will be repaired under a full closure, subject to weather and any extenuating circumstances overnight Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 7pm-06.00am

### **Road Closure Bratton Road from Chelfham to Collard Bridge**

There is a full closure for substantial patching works, 31<sup>st</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April, 08.30am-5pm.

### **School holidays activity and food programme**

The Programme for Spring is now live.

DCC have partnered with EEQU to use a new booking system which is better for families, here is the link please have a look at the activities available there is a map you can search in your own area. EEQU Booking System. It will automatically check eligibility as well.

There are over 100 schemes offering physical activity and food for 4 hours for 4 days over the Spring holiday parents may book up to 4 sessions per child.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/eyscs/new-booking-system-makes-it-easier-for-parents-to-access-holiday-activities-and-food-programme/>

The DCC website is very useful for reporting highway problems and the reports go straight to the contractor. Report a problem - Roads and transport

Alternatively, the highway contact number is 0345 155 1004

If it's a river flooding the environment agency can be contacted on 0345 988 1188

Winter road updates; <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/safe-travel/winter-travel/>

Travel Devon website; home - Travel Devon

*Finally from me a personal note;*

*Thank you for being such a lovely Parish Council and residents, I've had a great time coming to the meetings and meeting so many of you, I hope to be back after May 1<sup>st</sup> but if I'm not re elected I want to wish you well for the future.*

*Andrea Davis*

*County Councillor*

*Combe Martin Rural Division*

*Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk*

Cllr Mrs Davis was thanked for all her work that she had done for Goodleigh during her present term of office.

**160. Planning Applications**

No new planning applications had been received.

**161. Play Area**

It was reported that the work on the play area had been completed.

It was agreed to hold an opening ceremony at 3.45pm on Friday 26 April. Mr Adams had v=been invited to perform the opening, assisted by some of the village children.

It was agreed to inform the North Devon Journal of the opening ceremony.

**162. Meeting with Acorn Homes**

It was agreed to hold the meeting with Acorn Homes and the Planning Officer on Tuesday 8 April at 10am., meeting at the Village Hall. Cllr Prowse offered to check that the planning officer was available.

**163. Correspondence Received**

A response had been received from North Devon Homes regarding the value of the open space around the play area. Their surveyor had made an informal valuation of £20000 - £25000.

Cllr Prowse queried whether North Devon Homes owned the freehold of the land. He said that he would make some enquiries.

**164. Surface Water/Drains/Highways**

It was reported that some of the potholes in the parish had been repaired.

**165. Matters from the Chairman**

The Chairman reported on the large problem with moles on the playing field, which also appeared to be affecting neighbouring gardens.

Considerable problems and bad feeling had been generated following unofficial notes of the last meeting had been published prior to the minutes of the meeting.

It was agreed that the minutes of parish council meetings would be published within five working days, and that unofficial notes would not be published until after the minutes had been posted on the council website.

**166. Finance**

**1. Request for Grant towards upkeep of burial ground**

An application had been received from Goodleigh United Church for a grant towards the cost of maintaining the burial ground.

It was agreed to award a grant of £600, the amount allocated in the budget. Cheque No.001110

**2. Payments**

Alvian – play area	£20552.40	Grant No. 001104
Mr D Adams	£ 65.04	Grant No. 001105
North Devon Homes	£ 7.50	Grant No. 001106
Goodleigh Village Hall	£ 33.00	Grant No. 001107
Clerk’s Salary & Expenses	£ 67.27	Grant No. 001108
HMRC	£ 16.40	Grant No. 001109

The six accounts were approved for payment.

An invoice for the annual inspection of the play area had been received from Playsafety, despite the inspection not being done. The inspector had arrived whilst the play area had been closed while the work was being carried out.

It was agreed not to pay the invoice, and to inform Playsafety that it would only be paid when the inspection had been completed.

**167. Items for the next Agenda:**

Audio recording of meetings; Play Area; Meeting with Acorn Homes.

**168. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6 May 2025**

Cllr Thorne tendered his apologies for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....