

Goodleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2025 at 6:50pm at Goodleigh Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Ms L Boyle, S Clarke, R Gulwell, Dr S Ley, Dr F Underwood and R Underwood.

In Attendance: 4 members of the public, Cllr M Prowse (NDC), Parish Clerk.

In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by Cllr Clarke.

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr Clarke stated that he was resigning from the parish council, and would therefore not be seeking re-election as Vice Chairman.

Chairman

Cllr Mrs Boyle proposed that Cllr Thorne be re-elected as Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Clarke. All in agreement.

Vice Chairman

Cllr Dr Underwood proposed that Cllr Mrs Boyle be elected as \vice \chairman. Seconded by Cllr Gulwell. All in agreement.

2. Items from the public

It was noted that when the parish council boundary was extended to include Gunn, the North Devon Council and Devon County Council wards had not been amended. This meant that Cllr Prowse and Cllr Mrs Davis did not represent the residents of Gunn.

The position regarding the parish council minutes were clarified.

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs N Thorne and Cllr Mrs A Davis (DCC)

4. Approval of Minutes of meeting held 1 April 2025

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

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

6. Planning Application

80011 Proposed single storey extension to dwelling, Yeotown Barn Snapper Barnstaple

No objections were raised to the application.

7. Audio Recording of Meetings

Cllr Gulwell outlined the reasons behind the suggestion to record meetings. There were no objections in principle. Cllr Gulwell to obtain further details.

8. Play Area

It was reported that the Grand Opening went very well. Thanks were extended to Cllr Dr Underwood for all her work. She was currently preparing a report for the North Devon Gazette.

Cllr Prowse reported that the council was currently in talks with North Devon Homes regarding the sale value they had placed on the land.

9. Meeting with Acorn Homes

A meeting had taken place between parish councillors and Acorn Homes, with NDC Planning dept in attendance.

As expected, Acorn Homes would be submitting a new planning application, as they did not consider the original application to be viable. In order to provide the play area and affordable homes, it was likely that 11 additional properties would be necessary.

Concern was expressed over the Village Hall drainage, which passed under the site, where the pile of soil had been tipped. It was feared that this may have damaged the pipes. It was agreed that details should be passed to the clerk, who would forward them to Acorn Homes.

10. Correspondence Received

1. An email had been received from the owner of a holiday home in the village. When leaving the property on a Sunday it was necessary to leave the rubbish bin on the roadside. He had requested NDC to return the bin to inside the gateway. This was not being done, and consequently the bin had become damaged.
It was agreed that there was nothing the parish council could do.
2. A request had been received to use the village hall car park for an occasional visit by a food takeaway van. Passed to the Village Hall Committee.
3. A councillor had received a complaint from a parishioner alleging moles had spread from the playing field to their garden. Noted.

11. Surface Water/Drains/Highways

The poor condition of a road at Gunn was reported. Details to be passed to the Clerk, who would report the matter to DCC Highways.

Cllr Prowse reported on the current position regarding the Highways comments on a recent planning application.

12. Matters from the Chairman

None.

13. Finance.

1. Problems with Lloyds Bank Account

Cllr Dr Ley reported on a recent problem with the bank account when attempting to pay the contractor for work on the play area. It had transpired that none of the present councillors were on the banks current records as being cheque signatories. Cllr Dr Ley was thanked for her work, and in enabling the payment of the contractor.

The Clerk reported that he had now received some forms from the bank for councillors to sign, to become signatories. It was agreed that Cllrs Gulwell, Dr Ley, Mrs M Boyler should complete the forms for the Clerk to return.

2. Adoption of Accounts

Copies of the accounts for 2024/25 had been circulated to councillors. It was unanimously agreed that these should be adopted as a true record of the council's finances.

3. Completion of Annual Audit Return

1. It was agreed to apply for a Certificate of Exemption, as both the councils income and expenditure was below £25k, and the council fulfilled the other requirements.
2. The Annual Governance Statement was agreed, completed and signed.
3. The Accounting Statement was also agreed and signed as a true record.

4. **Receipt:** NDC – 50% Precept £3500.00

5. Payments

N Devon Tree & Garden Services	£	120.00
NDC - emptying dog bins	£	123.08
Goodleigh Village Hall	£	33.00
Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£	70.52
HMRC	£	16.40
Dr S Ley reimbursement for payment to Alvian		£20552.40

14. Items for the next Agenda:

Audio recording of meetings; Payment for Lengthsman work; Litter Pick

15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3 June 2025

Before the meeting closed, the Clerk reported that he would be resigning form the post immediately after the July meeting. Rather than finish after the next meeting, he would see this year's audit to its conclusion. This would need to be with the auditor in early June, before submitting it to the external auditor.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date