

# *Goodleigh Parish Council*

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.00pm at Goodleigh Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs N Thorne (Chairman), Dr S Ley, Dr F Underwood, R Underwood, R Gulwell and C King, Visiting Cllr Ed Tyldesley (DCC for Gunn)

**In Attendance:** 3 members of the public, Parish Clerk (FM)

**1. Apologies**

- Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs M Boyle, Cllr M Prowse (NDC), Cllr Mrs A Davies (DCC)

**2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

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

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- None

**4. Planning Applications**

80910 – removal of Agricultural occupancy to allow unrestricted dwelling at 1 Tree Close, Gunn. The council unanimously supported this application as it has been over 40 years since this agricultural facility that facilitated this tie has ceased trading and local communities should be able to provide accommodation for local people.

80979 – discharge of conditions 8 (Biodiversity Gain Plan and 9 (HMMP) attached to planning permission 80589 (Slurry tower at Bampfield Farm) – the Council agreed to defer any comment until further information is available.

**5. Items from the public**

- There were no items from the public

**6. Reports**

**a. District Councillor**

- The Chairman had a call with Cllr Prowse this morning. Malcolm mentioned that the SWW Senior Leadership Team were not aware of how poor the state of the water works facility was in the village. They have requested the details of how often the tankers are used to do the emptying of the sewage waste. It was commented that SWW water should already know this as they are commissioning the emptying, however Cllr Rob Gulwell did mention that when he was working from home he would be able to give an accurate count as they pass by his house. It was also noted that the Village Hall would have CCTV footage that would show the tankers coming and going.
- It would appear that the SWW SLT were also unaware of how many buildings were being put up. Cllr F Underwood explained that Acorn Homes have been unable to provide any reports from SWW in consideration of their planning application.
- The Justification report from Acorn Homes is now available to view on the planning portal.
- Honey Hill – are we able to provide the W3W location details for the exact spot?

**b. County Councillor**

## **Goodleigh Parish Council County Councillors Report November 2025**

**Libraries- upcoming Consultation**

The County Council Cabinet recently approved the launch of a **12-week consultation** regarding the long-term sustainability and future models for our library services. This is a vital process that requires input from every community to help us find the most effective and efficient path forward.

Our libraries, currently run successfully by the charity Libraries Unlimited, are undeniably invaluable local assets. We recognize the profound impact they have:

• **High Engagement:** Last year, our 50 libraries recorded **2.3 million visits**, demonstrating their status as essential community anchors.

- **Family Focus:** With over **113,000 active users**—and children representing the single largest group at 28%—libraries are fundamental to early literacy and lifelong learning.
- **Diverse Programming:** They hosted more than **12,000 events**, including crucial 'bounce-and-rhyme' sessions, digital literacy classes like Coder Dojos, and social groups, attracting over 218,000 participants.

### **A Critical Role in Rural Life**

We must approach this review with careful consideration for our remote rural communities. For these areas, the local library is often much more than a place for books; it is a key hub for social cohesion and essential access.

Libraries serve as:

1. **Warm, Safe Spaces:** Providing a free, neutral venue to tackle social isolation, particularly for our older residents.
2. **Digital Gateways:** Offering the only free public access to computers and broadband, which is crucial for digital inclusion—a necessity for accessing vital services, applying for jobs, and staying connected in today's world. The challenge before us is how to preserve these core functions while ensuring the service is financially robust for the future.

The upcoming consultation is designed to explore a range of thoughtful options. These include innovative approaches such as revised, flexible opening hours; extending access through enhanced volunteer and technology support; and exploring the transition of some libraries into community hubs.

This transition would see local organisations take on management with ongoing support from the County Council. I strongly encourage everyone to participate fully in the 12-week consultation. I will forward the details when they are available.

### **Local Government Reorganisation in Devon**

**Parish councils were invited to an online DALC meeting about LGR. If you were unable to attend there is a recording I believe.**

[A stronger future shaped by communities: Devon unveils 'leading' option for local government change - News](#)

I have linked the press release above. Devon County Council will submit their preferred option for Devon by the 28<sup>th</sup> December, the final decision about what that will be will be made by the Devon County Council cabinet in November.

### **Exmoor National Park Management Plan**

Exmoor National Park Authority launched the new five year statutory Exmoor Management Plan (2025-2030), as part of the events leading up to Exmoor Day 2025 (19 October). Cllr Walley came along and represented Kentisbury and Trentishoe PC.

Adopted in July and developed as a "Partnership Plan for Exmoor", the document outlines how the National Park and its partners will respond to global and local challenges and sets out a vision for a thriving, nature-rich Exmoor. It sets out interconnected aims aligning with national Government priorities for Protected Landscapes and reflecting the voices of those who live in, work in, visit and care for Exmoor.

These include:

**A Nature-Rich Landscape** – Enhancing biodiversity and restoring habitats, including 4,500 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat by 2030.

**A Net Zero National Park** – Tackling climate change through reducing carbon emissions, peatland restoration, expanding woodland and tree cover from 18 to 21% of the National Park by 2030 and sustainable land use.

**A Cared-for Landscape and Heritage** – Protecting Exmoor's natural beauty, tranquillity, and cultural heritage, including reducing the number of heritage assets at risk.

**A Welcoming Place for All** – Improving access, health, and wellbeing through inclusive experiences and community engagement, with a particular focus on young people.

**A Great Place to Live, Work and Do Business** – Supporting sustainable rural livelihoods and local enterprise.

You can find a user-friendly summary of the Plan and supporting resources, at [www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/management-plan](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/management-plan)

<https://youtu.be/MXaL2QNIciY>

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### **Highway Defects**

With the winter fast approaching it is more likely there will be defects in the highway network, this includes streetlights and signs.

[Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

The DCC website is very useful for reporting problems and the reports go straight to the contractor. 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

Please do get in touch if you think I can help with anything; [Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk)

Andrea

County Councillor

Combe Martin Rural Division

[Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk)

**7. Correspondence Received**

- Request for Information from the Insurance Company – Chairman has completed the document.
- ROSPA playground inspection has been completed – remedial works are required, The Council has some funding to utilise from the National Lottery funding that should be used, Dr Ley will work out what is available and the flooring company can be contacted to see if they can carry out the work.

**8. Christmas Lunch**

- The fliers have been distributed around the village including Gunn and Snapper with replies from 27 people wanting to attend. 6 replied that they are unable to come with 4 of those saying that the date wasn't suitable rather than them not wanting to attend.
- The council all agreed that they were happy for the event to go ahead on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and invitations will now be sent to the specific residents

**9. Surface Water/Drains/Highways**

- Cllr F Underwood explained the culvert at the bottom of Lake Hill on the bend has been blocked and Mr Heard had been contacted to help clear the blockage. This was done and the stream was now flowing much improved.
- Crow Hill still an issue – Cllr Ed Tyldesley kindly offered to contact Highways again on our behalf.

**10. Bench Repairs**

- The Chairman has contacted a builder and will have a price ready for the next meeting

**11. Audio Recording of Meetings**

- This current meeting is being recorded and a transcript of the recording will be available and sent to the Clerk via email.

**12. Matters from the Chairman**

- Remembrance Service to be held at the memorial at 10:50 on Sunday Morning, are any of the village councillors available to attend?

**13. Lloyds Bank – update**

- Cllr N Thorne and Dr S Ley to arrange an additional signatory for the Clerk, Fiona Morris.
- The Clerk noted that the bank statements and cheque book were still being sent the previous clerk's address and this should be amended.

**14. Finance**

**1. Payments**

Goodleigh Village Hall	£ 33.00
North Devon Council Dog Waste	£ 126.83

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

Christmas Lunch, Pre-cept, Insurance, Online Banking, Benches, Budget /Costs

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 at 7pm

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

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....