

Goodleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7.00pm at Goodleigh Village Hall

Present: Cllrs N Thorne (Chairman), Dr S Ley, R Underwood, C King, K Smith, Cllr A Davies (DCC), Cllr M Prowse (NDC), Cllr M Boyle

In Attendance: 9 members of the public, Parish Clerk (FM)

1. Apologies

- Apologies were received from Cllr R Gulwell and Dr F Underwood

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held 3rd February 2026

- The minutes for the previous meeting agreed and approved.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- None

4. Planning Applications

- Reference 81425 – Old Mazzard Garden, Maidenford Bridge, Landkey, EX32 7NF
Retrospective creation of hardcore area to entrance of agricultural enclosure – 17/03/26 – no objections were raised.

5. Items from the public

- Concern was raised by the villagers at Gunn with regard the parking of the contractors' vans on the road outside the New Build on the left as you enter the village from the direction of Gunn. The Chairman will have a word with the landowner.

6. Reports

- **District Councillor** –
 - Cllr Prowse has reported that the Local Parish increased portion of the Council tax is 2.99% as previously suggested.
 - The Bear St/ Queens St car park will be completed prior to the new holiday season commencing. Barnstaple has issued a bid for Town of Culture with an increase in short term contracted staff to promote cultural events. The new shopping arcade is to be opened shortly bucking the downward trend of the high street demise. Green Lanes continues to be profitable for the Council and footfall has increased to pre-covid levels.
 - The LGR continues to raise concerns with the prospect of fewer Councillors able to act for the communities going forward.
 - It has been noted that SWW are having to intervene more regularly with flushing rather than just emptying the sewage facility in the village – this, along with the lack of any constructive communication to the Council, Cllr Prowse is optimistic that this is a realisation for SWW that there is a problem. The Hold is still in place for the additional new and amended planning applications from Acorn Homes.
 - Honey Hill – going to court again in March.
- **County Councillor – Cllr Andrea Davies, Combe Martin Division – report attached**
- **County Councillor – Cllr Ed Tydesley, Chulmleigh & Landkey – report attached**

7. Correspondence Received

- NDC ROI letter for information handed to the Chair for further clarification

8. Surface Water/Drains/Highways

- It was mentioned that the villages should continue to raise drainage issues with the Council directly through the website.

- Parking on the junction splays is an issue although the Goodleigh residents did highlight that it is not the people that live in Goodleigh that are causing the problems. It was suggested that the local PCSO is invited to attend a Council Meeting. The Council reminded the residents that it is important to report all motor incidents to the police so that they are on record.
- The Speedwatch Team will deploy between 8.30-9.30 and again in the early evenings as the days draw out.
- It was suggested that the owners of the Chapel holiday let be contacted and encouraged to offer parking up by the church for their guests to eliminate the obstruction of the splay into Lake Hill.

9. Bench & Playground Repairs

- The repairer for the benches has been contacted with the approval to carry out the repairs.
- Alvian has sent the quote for the playground repairs. The council agreed to everything apart from the new gate as this was deemed too expensive. Rob Underwood has offered to fix a new spring to the gate.

10. Matters from the Chairman

- Alex, who monitors the De-fib mentioned that the pads have expired and it was agreed that he could purchase the new ones and the council will re-imburse the costs.

11. Finance

Payments

Goodleigh Village Hall	£33.00
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12. Lloyds Banking Update

- Dr S Ley has spent a considerable amount of time sorting the e-banking and has enabled Cllrs N Thorne, R Gulwell and M Boyle to be authorised signatories on the account. The Clerk will have administrative viewing access.
- Some old signatories have been removed.

13. Items for the next Agenda:

Playground and bench repairs, Village parking,

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Goodleigh Parish Council County Councillors report March 2026

Last Tuesday the budget meeting of Devon County Council approved spending plans for 2026/27 and agreed a 4.99 per cent increase on the County Councils council tax share.

This amounts to £89.91 a year (£1.73 a week) for a Band D property for the county council's share (precept).

This would result in a council tax requirement for the authority of just over £610 million for 26/27.

To balance the position, the authority has to deliver £38.98 million of savings, alternative funding or additional income.

The budget explains how the council will continue to support local services at a time when costs are rising and demand for help is increasing.

The council will spend £839.2 million on day-to-day services next year. This is £33.2 million more (4.1 per cent) than in 2025/26.

Councillors also agreed a £770.6 million capital investment programme covering the five years from 2026/27 to 2030/31.

This money will be used for major projects such as road repairs, new school places, support for children with special educational needs, and improvements to council buildings across Devon.

The two biggest spend areas which account for 79% of DCC's expenditure;

1. Children and families

The Children and families budget will see the largest increase in funding across the council.

Spending will rise to £268 million in 2026/27, an increase of £19.1 million. This reflects growing pressure on children's social care, early help for families, and support for children who cannot live at home.

Children and families – capital investment

A total of £76.5 million will be invested over five years in children's homes, school expansions and specialist education provision.

Over the next five years, £25.8 million will be spent on new and expanded specialist schools to create more places for children who need extra support.

2. Adult social care

Adult social care continues to be the council's biggest area of spending.

The budget for adult social care will rise to £395.9 million in 2026/27, an increase of £9.9 million, or 2.6 per cent. This helps cover rising costs, including higher wages for care staff.

Roads and transport

Spending on highways maintenance will rise to £32.4 million in 2026/27, an increase of £2 million.

Full Council also agreed an additional £4 million investment for highways maintenance over the next financial year.

Public health, communities and libraries

The council will receive £37.7 million to support public health services, including help with drug and alcohol misuse and stop-smoking services.

Spending on community services and libraries will total £14.4 million in 2026/27.

Full council also agreed additional funding of £225,000 to restore the book fund to £500,000 and an extra £425,000 to support general library delivery during transition.

Together, these total £650,000, and reverses the proposed efficiency saving within the original libraries budget resulting in a libraries budget of more than £7 million.

In addition, a £1 million reserve for Libraries and Rural Hubs will be established to support genuine transformation and community led improvement.

Additional funding

The council also approved targeted funding which reflects priorities that have arisen through meetings of the council's scrutiny committees, community feedback and consultations with businesses and voluntary organisations.

These include an additional £600,000 to improve the speed in which Education Health Care Plans are delivered; £300,000 additional foster care support; £106,000 to strengthen domestic abuse provision; increase of each councillor's locality budget to £10,000.

There is also an additional £500,000 for post-16 and foster care transport.

Highways Update following the recent storms

Background

- Through January and into February, Devon has been impacted by 3 named storms
- These storms alongside the previously reported freeze/thaw weather pattern is incredibly damaging for the carriageways and has led to severe structural damage and a significant increase in pothole numbers.

Response

Whilst DCC have recovered access to all communities, it is becoming more aware of the significant impact of the 3 named storms on the minor network. This is becoming more evident as flood water recedes and the team continue to widen their inspections of the network and we receive more information and feedback from the public and local communities. There are currently 2,900 safety defect potholes outstanding with a further 1,600 reports received this week which we are endeavouring to inspect and repair at the earliest opportunity.

We are currently assessing more than 600 reports a day.

The impact of the most recent storm on the A379 Slapton Line has been particularly significant with a loss of sea defence and road structure. We are currently working with South Hams DC, the EA and Natural England to understand and assess the impact and consider short term and longer term recovery options. To ensure we can react as swiftly and effectively as possible we have paused programmed works.

This has made available 5 jettors and 6 gully emptiers across the county which will be working into the weekend and through the next week to address reported drainage issues.

There are 50 gangs committed to the support of the recovery operation who have been working around the clock, not only to clear the impact of the storm but to also undertake winter service treatments to ensure the safety of road users when temperatures have dropped significantly. Many of these teams continue to work additional hours on Saturdays and Sundays to keep the network as safe as possible.

Please continue to report defects on the highway.

With the winter now very much upon us, 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 1

Local Government Reorganisation

Summary

The Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Communities (MHCLG) has launched a formal consultation to restructure Devon's local government. The current "two-tier" system (County and District councils) is proposed to be replaced by a Unitary model—a single-tier authority designed to be more efficient and sustainable.

As your representative, my sole priority is ensuring that any change protects the Combe Martin Rural Division. Our remote area relies on a delicate balance of agriculture, hospitality, and transport connectivity, and our voice must not be lost in this transition.

The 5 proposals in this consultation were made by the following councils on 28 November 2025:

1. Devon County Council proposed 3 unitary councils These would comprise the current areas of:

- **Devon Unitary Council:** East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge, Torridge and West Devon
- **Plymouth** to remain unchanged
- **Torbay** to remain unchanged

2. South Hams District Council, Teignbridge Borough Council, West Devon Borough Council proposed 3 unitary councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- **Exeter and Northern Devon Unitary:** East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge
- **Plymouth** to remain unchanged

- **Torbay and Southern Devon Unitary:** South Hams, Teignbridge, Torbay and West Devon

3. East Devon Borough Council, Mid Devon District Council, North Devon Council, Torridge District Council proposed 3 unitary councils. This includes a request to split existing district council areas between the proposed new councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- **Exeter and Northern Devon Unitary:** East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon, and Torridge
- **Plymouth Expanded:** parts of the parishes of Bickleigh, Brixton, Shaugh Prior and Sparkwell from the neighbouring district of South Hams
- **Torbay and Southern Devon Unitary:** South Hams, Teignbridge, Torbay and West Devon

4. Exeter City Council and Plymouth City Council proposed 4 unitary councils. This includes a request to split existing district council areas between the proposed new councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- **Devon Coast and Countryside:** The rest of Devon
- **Exeter:** plus 15 parishes from within Teignbridge District Council, 28 parishes from within East Devon District Council and 6 parishes from within Mid-Devon District Council.
- **Plymouth:** plus 13 parishes from South Hams
- **Torbay:** plus 22 parishes from within Teignbridge District Council and South Hams District Council.

5. Torbay Council proposed 4 unitary councils. This includes a request to split existing district council areas between the proposed new councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- **Exeter Council:** plus 15 parishes from within Teignbridge District Council, 28 parishes from within East Devon District Council and 6 parishes from within Mid Devon District Council
- **Plymouth Council:** plus 13 parishes from South Hams
- **Rural Devon Coast and Countryside Council:** The rest of Devon
- **Torbay Council** to remain unchanged

You can find all five proposals listed above at: www.devonlgr.co.uk.

Why Your Feedback is Vital- my take on this!

Living in a remote, rural area, we face unique challenges. We must ask:

1. Will our voice be heard? Will a single large council respond to a blocked lane in Combe Martin as quickly as it would to a city street? That in reality is no different to how the current system operates. ***I will always ensure our voice is heard!***
2. Will our economy be supported? How will these models protect our seasonal hospitality and farming sectors?
3. Are the savings real? Will the £28m in savings be reinvested into rural infrastructure and transport?

How to Participate

The consultation closes at 11:59 pm on Thursday, 26 March 2026.

- Online: Submit your views via the [MHCLG Consultation Portal](#).
- Review the Cases: Detailed business cases are available at Combe Martin Library (after 13th Feb) or online at www.devonlgr.co.uk.

Government is interested in whether each model:

- ? Is based on sensible geographies and economic areas**
- ? Will deliver the outcomes described in the proposals**
- ? Is the right size to be efficient, improve capacity, and withstand financial shocks**
- ? Will enable stronger community engagement and support devolution**

? Will deliver high-quality, sustainable public services that meet local needs

There is a free text box under each option where you can talk about anything that matters to you. They have told us that AI will be used to analyse the results, so hopefully any strong themes will be visible to Government when they look at the output of the consultation.

Please do get in touch if you think I can help with anything; Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

Andrea

County Councillor

Combe Martin Rural Division

Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

County Councillor Report – Feb/Mar 2026

Dear Parish Councillors,

February and March have marked a significant moment for Devon. After months of scrutiny, debate and difficult decisions, the County Council has now agreed its 2026–27 budget. This is our first full budget of the new administration, and it sets a clear direction: stabilising essential services, repairing what has been neglected, and investing in the foundations that keep Devon moving. As you'd expect from a budget of over £2 billion, it has taken a long time to get to this point.

£15 Million Extra for Devon's Roads

The headline for many residents will rightly be highways.

This year's budget includes an additional £15 million investment in Devon's roads, alongside a commitment to maintain £10 million per year in additional funding over the following five years. This is a major shift in approach. For too long, highways funding has been reactive and insufficient, leading to a cycle of patching rather than repairing.

The extra funding will allow us to move beyond emergency pothole filling and begin tackling structural deterioration in a more strategic way. That means more resurfacing, more preventative maintenance, and more drainage work to stop water destroying road foundations in the first place.

After one of the worst winters on record for storm damage, this investment is both timely and essential. While it will not fix every problem overnight, it represents a serious and sustained commitment to improving the condition of Devon's roads.

Protecting Frontline Services

Despite the continued unfairness of national funding arrangements, we have delivered a balanced budget that protects frontline services.

Adult social care remains the largest area of council spending, accounting for nearly half of the total budget. Demand continues to rise, particularly as Devon has one of the oldest populations in the country. This budget provides stability while work continues to modernise services in a way that protects dignity and independence.

Children's services and SEND provision also remain a priority. While financial pressures are significant, we are committed to improving outcomes and ensuring that vulnerable children receive the support they need.

There was also significant national news on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities funding. The Government has confirmed it will write off around 90 per cent of councils' historic High Needs deficits, including Devon's, which had reached approximately £200 million. It is important to be clear that this deficit did not arise from local overspending. Councils have a statutory duty to support children with SEND, and when national funding failed to keep pace with rising demand, local authorities were required to meet those costs regardless. In effect, councils have been carrying debt on behalf of central government in order to protect children and families. This decision is therefore the Government repaying money that should have been properly funded in the first place. I welcome both the write off and the stated commitment to put SEND funding onto a sustainable national footing so that councils are not placed in this position again.

Importantly, our budget is built around long-term sustainability, with a renewed focus on rebuilding reserves after years of erosion.

Libraries, Communities and Local Investment

There is additional funding to strengthen library services and develop them as resilient community hubs, particularly in rural areas. Libraries are so important for rural communities like ours, they are warm spaces, digital access points, advice centres and meeting places. In the National Year of Reading, this investment sends an important signal about literacy and opportunity. As the consultation has only just closed, we will have to wait until later in the spring to hear what residents want the library services to look like in the future, however what is clear is that communities want these spaces protected. Message received, loud and clear.

Locality budgets are set to continue and expand in the new financial year, with the allocation opening in April. Each councillor will now have £10,000 to allocate to community projects, up from £8k last year. These funds may be modest in the context of the overall council budget, but their impact at parish level can be transformational. From supporting events like the Landkey Wassail to funding youth activities and small infrastructure improvements, locality funding remains one of the most direct ways to strengthen community life.

Scrutiny and Standing Up for Devon

February also saw intense scrutiny activity as committees examined every line of the budget. These sessions were lengthy and detailed, but they matter. They ensure that decisions are evidence-based and transparent.

There has also been progress in other areas. Sustained pressure has led to positive change on Fire Co-Responders, protecting an important element of rural emergency response. This demonstrates that robust scrutiny can achieve real outcomes for our communities.

At the same time, we continue to face uncertainty around Local Government Reorganisation and future national funding reforms. Large rural counties like Devon are still disadvantaged by the current funding formula. We will continue pressing for a fairer settlement that reflects the real cost of delivering services across a geographically large and dispersed county.

Two Labour-run councils up country have openly said that they will not be cooperating with the government on LGR. In the face of cancelled and then un-cancelled elections in Exeter and 29 other areas, its looking more and more likely that the government are about to U-turn on LGR.

Looking Ahead

The coming months will be about delivery. Highways teams will move from winter emergency response into planned recovery and resurfacing programmes. Drainage work will be critical to ensuring that new road surfaces last. Parish councils can continue to support this work by reporting issues promptly and sharing reference numbers where follow-up is required.

I am also continuing plans to establish a Division Parish Assembly, bringing together all 14 parishes in our division to share practical solutions and strengthen collaboration. I believe this will provide a valuable forum for collective problem solving and mutual support.

This budget does not solve every challenge facing Devon. The financial climate remains extremely difficult. But it does mark a turning point. It demonstrates that even in constrained circumstances, we can choose to invest in the essentials, protect communities, and begin repairing the foundations.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and for the tireless work you do for your parishes.

With best wishes,
Cllr Ed Tyldesley