

Goodleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 7pm at Goodleigh Village Hall

Present: Cllrs N. Thorn, Ms L Boyle, R Gulwell, Dr S Ley, K Smith, C King.

In Attendance: 6 members of the public, Cllr M Haworth-Booth (NDC Gunn), Parish Clerk.

2026/07/1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Dr F Underwood, R Underwood and Cllr M Prowse (NDC),

2026/07/2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held 2nd June 2026

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

2026/07/3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

2026/07/4. Planning Applications

None

Mr Phil Heathcote Trustee of Barnstaple & Yeo Valley Railway Trust spoke about the Trust's plans for opening the old Lynton to Barnstaple railway line. Quarterly updates are available by way of the Trackbed Trails publications which are now to be circulated to the Parish Councillors. There is a pre-planning application being considered to lay track at Snapper Holt. A question was raised about parking and increased traffic through Snapper, however Phil explained that it would not be an operational railway.

2026/07/5. Items from the public

The Chair of the Goodleigh Village Hall Committee explained that the committee were disappointed not to receive any ongoing funding support from the Parish Council, especially in light of the £150 donation towards the Skittle Alley refurbishment project. They pointed out that the Hall is expensive to maintain with a leaking roof, outside woodwork needing re-painting along with concerns over the current state of the driveway. The driveway is now owned by ACORN homes, however the Hall is still responsible for the maintenance. The Parish Council Chair did not feel it was appropriate for the Village Hall to receive an ongoing annual 'grant' from the Council. As an alternative to this, it was discussed that the Parish Council could consider supporting individual refurbishment projects as and when they arose. All Councillors were in agreement with this option and would review applications from the Village Hall Committee on a case-by-case basis going forward.

2026/07/6. Reports:

1. District Councillor – Goodleigh

Cllr Prowse was unable to attend the meeting, however did send the following by email:

Coombe Cross

Following our teams meeting I have fed back the comments of the Parish Council to Planning. Initially I was assured that the accessway section to be transferred to the Parish Council will be constructed to adoptable standards and, according to Debbie Butler, none will be brick pavers but constructed of tarmac to that standard. I have asked for written confirmation of that on a separate drawing, clearly setting out materials, means of construction and which sections will be adopted by DCC, which may be in a management company (ie the road by the 6 additional proposed by the play area) and that to be transferred to the Parish Council.

I have also asked her to get confirmation from the developer that the RoW that exists for SWW through the old gate pillars will be rescinded and re-directed through the adopted road.

The issue over whether the EA will give a licence for a private sewerage system seems unresolved although in other similar cases they seemed to have backed down - we'll see. I'll share any movement on this when I hear.

Finally I understand Hastoe Housing Association have backed out as the affordable housing partner and have been replaced by North Devon Homes. They are apparently keen to include one shared ownership unit and keep 4 for social rent.

2. District Councillor for Gunn

Cllr Haworth-Booth mentioned that some funding was allocated to assist in the purchase of the VAS for Gunn, although there is still a way to go to secure all the money required. It was suggested that the Gunn Villagers contact local businesses for donations.

3. County Councillor – additional report attached

- The Highways officer has been to investigate the mirrors that have popped up around the village. Mirrors are not authorised on the highway as they are considered a hazard to motorists as they reflect light and interfere with drivers' vision. However should the mirrors not be on the highway but positioned on private land, it would be the landowners that are responsible should any accidents/ incidents occur.
- The blocking drains at the bottom of Northleigh Hill have been mentioned again.

2026/07/7. Correspondence

- Receipt of a request from Goodleigh United Church for a donation towards the upkeep of St Gregory's Church graveyard. Cllr C King proposed a £600 donation, seconded by Cllr L Boyle. Unanimously agreed.
- Freedom of Information Request received on Monday 6th July 2026 from Garry Braund with regard to Honey Hill/ Land opposite Collard Bridge – Cllr M Prowse to contact NDC for further information and advice. Initial enquiries suggest that some of the information requested relates to a Subject Access Request under UK GDPR which has a different application process to the original submission. The Council has 20 working days from receipt of the email to reply with all relevant information collated or reasons for the refusal to comply with the request. This should therefore be completed on or before 30th July 2026. Clerk to schedule an extra-ordinary meeting in two weeks to review any data and the time taken to collate the information.

2026/07/8. Surface Water/Drains/Highways

Acorn Homes have not cut back the hedge on the main road opposite Coombe Cottages to alleviate the viewing restrictions – report to Highways via DCC website.

2026/07/9. Parking

Clerk to contact Councillor Advisory Group for assistance.

2026/07/10. Gunn VAS and Speedwatch

Speedwatch team to attend Gunn – email R Underwood to encourage the team to act quickly. Cllr M Haworth-Booth will also report this issue to the Councillor Advisory Group.

2026/07/11. Bench Repairs

Hardwood has been ordered and should be delivered prior to the weekend.

2026/07/12. Matters from the Chairman

- A tree in playing field at Northleigh Hill needs removing – Chairman to set up a working party to safely remove and dispose of it during September as this is an appropriate time, not during school holidays.
- The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should consider selling a portion of the playing field as the new one in Coombe Close would be utilised more effectively once completed. Considerations should be made for when would be a suitable time and understanding the covenant that is attached to the land. The Chairman will carry out initial investigations.

- A Sub-Committee which includes Cllrs N Thorne, Dr S Ley and C King was created to support the governance and compliance of the Goodleigh Village Hall Skittle Alley Fundraising Committee. The sub-committee will attend the meeting on 12/08/2026 at Yew Tree House at 7pm. The Parish Clerk will attend to take the minutes which will be shared with the Parish Council.

2026/07/13. Finance

1. Payments

Goodleigh Village Hall	£ 33.00
Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£120.00
HMRC	£ 30.00
Resourceful Bookkeeping Service	£ 4.00
Julie Snooks (Internal Auditor)	£250.00
ND Tree & Garden Services	£120.00

2. Administration

IT Policy adopted
Employment Contract signed

2026/07/14. Items for the next Agenda:
Benches, Parking, Reactive Speed Signs, FOIA request

2026/07/15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4th August 2026

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date