

Goodleigh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th August 2026 at 7pm at Goodleigh Village Hall

Present: Cllrs N Thorne, Ms L Boyle, R Gulwell, Dr S Ley, K Smith, C King, Dr F Underwood and R Underwood.

In Attendance: 3 members of the public, Cllr A Davies (DCC), Parish Clerk.
Cllr M Haworth-Booth (NDC Gunn) joined at 7.30pm

2026/08/1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Prowse (NDC),

2026/08/2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held 7th July 2026

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

2026/08/3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

2026/08/4. Planning Applications

None

2026/08/5. Items from the public

The hedgerows from Coombe Close into School Lane are overgrown. The residents of No's 4-8 Coombe Close maintain their side of the hedge but not the roadside. There were also a number of large potholes appearing in the lane. One resident of Coombe Close explained that he had cut the grass, oiled the new bench slats and painted the street sign on the entrance to the lane. Another resident of Coombe Close agreed to trim the hedge on the lane side going up towards the school. Cllr Davies to contact the Highways officer again as the surface of the road was impeding safe access to the school.

The Clerk to write to the residents of No's 4-8 Coombe Close to politely remind them that it is the residents' responsibility to keep the hedgerow tidy enabling safe access to the school and neighbouring properties.

Berry Lane in Gunn needs re-surfacing – clerk to write to the Highways Officer

2026/08/6. Reports:

1. District Councillor – Goodleigh

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

Just been on a teams meeting with some colleagues and the CE of North Devon. He has the job of trying to come up with a warding system for the new Council. Looks like there will be 24 councillors for the North Devon part (replacing 50 from NDC and DCC). Initially the thought was 3 member wards across each county electoral division of 10,000 electors meaning in our case the area Andrea now represents - 25 or so parishes. It was agreed that in the bigger rural divisions would be better if they could be split into single member wards - not sure if this will be possible in the time frame as Govt are wanting the arrangements later this month, hence there will be little or no consultation!

I have asked for but not yet received a clear map with specification for the proposed land to be transferred to the Parish Council. Acorn has indicated that the access will be built to adoptable standards but it may be time to arrange another site meeting with Debbie Butler and the agent for Acorn so we can iron these issues out along with the ongoing sewerage impasse. If everyone thinks that helpful I'll get things moving for early September?

Feeling rather sad at the demise of North Devon Council but we just have to get on with it. The new Local Plan process will carry on so it is a chance for us to get it far enough on before the huge new one takes over.

2. County Councillor Report

- Cllr Davies echoed the statement the Cllr Prowse had provided adding the decision over the warding splits is to be made on or before 17th August 2026 hence there is definitely no time for consultation.
- Cllr Davies is vice-chair of the Local Government Reorganisation Scrutiny Committee, with Cllr Ed Tyldesley as Chair. Cllr Tyldesley's July/August report will be published on line.

2026/087. Correspondence

Cllr Dr F Underwood formally acknowledged the additional work undertaken by the Clerk and Cllr Dr S Ley in order to produce the required documentation for the FOIA request made by Mr Braund.

Cllr Dr F Underwood also wanted to make the Parish Council aware of the Devon Communities Information pack which assists with supporting village projects and emergency planning. Cllr Dr F Underwood specifically mentioned Martyn's Law which will need to be considered for the Village Hall going forward.

The Clerk and Cllr Dr F Underwood to undertake a review of the Community Emergency Plan which requires reviewing and updating.

2026/08/8. Surface Water/Drains/Highways

Acorn Homes have not cut back the hedge on the main road opposite Coombe Cottages to alleviate the viewing restrictions – contact Acorn to request that they get in touch with Tony, the hedge cutter.

Cllr King agreed to upload information about the drain at the bottom of Northleigh Hill to the DCC website.

Lake Hill – the current water leak has been reported to SWW

2026/08/9. Parking

Clerk requested assistance from Cllr M Haworth-Booth to be involved with the local Councillor Advocate Scheme.

2026/08/10. Gunn VAS and Speedwatch

Locality Budget Funding has been approved and allocated, application now needs to be completed on line. The battery system last about 3 weeks so it is necessary to assign this task to someone. Three safe sites have been identified for installation.

The Speedwatch team attended Gunn and observed 7 out of 27 cars were speeding between 0830 and 0930.

2026/08/11. Bench Repairs

Two benches in the village have been repaired. The bench located by the raised walkway opposite Lake Hill lane is in a very poor state and should be removed.

2026/08/12. Matters from the Chairman

Ash tree removal – weather depending it should be ideal time to remove the tree towards the end of September/ early October.

2026/08/13. Finance

1. Payments

Goodleigh Village Hall	£ 33.00
Clerk's Salary & Expenses	£120.00
HMRC	£ 30.00
Resourceful Bookkeeping Service	£ 4.00
ND Tree & Garden Services	£120.00

2. Administration

Reminder to the Council of the sub-committee meeting on 12th August for the Skittle Alley Fundraising event.

Review the IT Policy to ensure that items pertaining to council matters are deleted from personal email boxes after 7 years.

2026/08/14. Items for the next Agenda:

Benches, Christmas Dinner, Acorn Homes, Parking, Hedges at Coombe Close and Coombe Cottages

2026/08/15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1 September 2026

2026/08/16. Additional Item from the Public

A further discussion was held about noise emanating from the village hall on Saturday afternoon which one member of the public felt was inappropriate. The resident was told to direct his complaint to the Chair of the Village Hall Committee as this was not a Parish Council matter.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date