

# **Dunchideock Parish Council**

Minutes of Dunchideock Parish Council Meeting  
Held at the Village Hall on 14 July 2025 at 19:30

**Present:** Councillors Dudley Swain (DSw) (Chairman), Trevor Baker (TB), Derren Summers (DSu), David Barclay-Watt and 2 members of the public.

**211 Apologies for absence**

Edward Ellis

**212 Declarations of Interest - None**

**213 Public Discussion**

Members of the public asked questions about:-

- a) What use might the phone box should the Parish Council buy it. See minute 220.
- b) Will the bus shelter contain a timetable? Yes.

**214 Minutes**

Minutes of the PC meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were agreed and signed off.

**215 County and District Councillor's Reports –** Neither apologies nor reports had been received.

**216 Financial Report**

DBW explained the financial position, with the current balance at £21,559.99. No progress has been made regarding the recovery of VAT for 2024/25 but this will be investigated.

**217 Approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and Internal Audit**

The AGAR for 2024/25 was reviewed and signed off by DSw as Chairman and DBW as acting RFO. Penny Clapham progressed the internal audit but was unable to access the necessary data online. The AGAR Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statement and Certificate of Exemption Form 2 were approved. It was agreed the Notice of Public Rights to be from 15 July to 25 August.

**218 Items of Expenditure**

It was agreed to pay Penny Clapham's fee of £70 for her AGAR and Internal Audit work.

**219 Speed Limit on Dunchideock Roads**

DSu reported that investigations with Devon Highways have not been fruitful. They have little evidence of speeding traffic problems in Dunchideock. DSu will see whether locals can produce dashcam evidence of dangerous situations that might influence decisions.

**220 Bus Stop Shelter**

DSu reported that he was still awaiting details from Mike Gardener about his design for the shelter. The question of land transfer was discussed and more detail is to be ascertained. It needs to include space around the shelter to undertake maintenance.

**221 Notice Boards**

It was agreed to replace the boards at Dunchideock Bridge and Underdown with more permanent boards. TB and DSu proposed several alternatives. Cllrs. are to investigate these options and propose at the next meeting what should be progressed, considering materials, size, security and cost.

**222 Removal of Phone Box**

There has been no response from TDC further to our request that the box is retained by BT or failing that, the Parish Council to consider adoption for £1 to ensure it remains as a village presence. If this were to happen, there will be discussions in the community regarding the options for its use.

**223 Parish Clerk & RFO**

Two responses have been received but neither appear worth following up, for several reasons. It

was agreed the Chairman will review the Job Description and Person Specification to perhaps enable more realistic requirements that might attract an applicant.

**224 Casual Vacancies** - Co-options advertised on the notice board and web site. There have been no responses.

**225 Parish Council Website**

The Chairman has set up a new Parish Council website [www.dunchideock.net](http://www.dunchideock.net) with WIX. It will enable the council to comply with requirements to publish various financial and administrative matters on the web. DSu will add the web link to the WhatsApp Group.

**226 Public Discussion**

There was discussion regarding whether the Parish Council would change to a Parish Meeting. It was explained that the Governance Review concluded in 2024 this is not to be an option. Additionally, the member of the public requested the Parish Council ask BT for a wi-fi range extender to be installed at the phone box. Nobody knew anything about this topic but it was explained that the forthcoming fibre-optics transmission will be the better option.

A suggestion to site the Bus Stop Shelter further up the hill. This will be considered.

A website with a .gov.uk domain is not possible as the PC does not have a paid clerk/RFO.

There was discussion regarding the link from the PC's new website to the Chairman's own website for village hall details. This will be resolved and possibly updated. The Village Hall does not have a website.

**227 Date of Meeting**

Date of next meeting is 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:40*

Signed .....

Dated .....