

Dunchideock Parish Council

Minutes of Dunchideock Parish Council Meeting
Held at the Village Hall on 9 March 2026 at 19:30

Present: Councillors Dudley Swain (DSw) (Chairman), Trevor Baker (TB), David Barclay-Watt (DB-W), Derren Summers (DSu) and one member of the public.

- 285 Apologies for absence** – Edward Ellis
- 286 Declarations of Interest** - None
- 287 Public Discussion** - There were no questions
- 288 Minutes** - Minutes of the PC meeting held on 12th January 2026 were agreed and signed off.
- 289 County and District Councillor’s Reports** – Neither apologies nor reports had been received.
- 290 Local Government Reorganisation** It was agreed that there is nothing further to add to the November 2025 minute 255.
- 291 Finance** DB-W explained the financial position and tabled the income/expenditure to 28 February, the current balance is £15,258.55 Progress is being made on VAT reclaims for 24/25. It was agreed to minute that DBW is acting as Responsible Financial Officer for the Council.
- 292 Annual Audit**
Three options for Auditor were discussed. It was agreed to progress a 3 year deal with “Specialists In Local Councils” at £95 per year. The bank reconciliation, cash book and variances for 2024/25 remain to be completed and put on the web site.
- 293 PC Document Updates** – The Internal Control and Risk Assessment policies and Standing Orders and Financial Regulations will be updated for the Audit. DSw will bring these to the May meeting.
- 294 Payments to npower** - The invoices will now be sent to the Parish Clerk.
- 295 Planning Application** – Pitmans Barn oak trees. It was agreed to make no comment.
- 296 Notice Boards** - The two boards are in store at Dunchideock Barton. Recent bad weather had prevented progress for their installation. DSu has contacted The Haldon Hotel, who kindly agreed to install them free of charge, and will liaise with EE for possible assistance. Installation might take place 12/03/26
- 297 Phone Box** – The maintenance requirements will be considered later this year.
- 298 Village Name Signs** – DCC responses are still awaited, to be chased up again by DSw.
- 299 Parish Paths Partnership** – An explanation of our PRoW situation will be sent to DCC to set out why we cannot complete the Annual Survey at present.
- 300 Parish Clerk & RFO** – The vacancy has been re-advertised on DALC website.
- 301 Casual Vacancies** - Co-options are advertised on the notice board and web site. No responses yet.
- 302 Public Discussion** – A member of the public highlighted a weather warning for 12/03/26.
- 303 Date of next Meeting** – The Annual Parish, Annual Council and Ordinary meetings will be on 11th May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:00 pm

Signed

Dated