



STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Hopper (Chairman), Allen, Cadbury, Chase, Coupe, Lovell, McNally, Pegg, Phillips, Rastall & Williamson

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Councillor Taylor and two members of the public

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

There were no questions/comments.

100326.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

100326.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and invited to state whether they have any interest in the items to be discussed during this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

Unforeseen requests for a Dispensation to be considered at this point only if there was no way a Councillor would have been aware of such before the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

100326.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10 February 2026.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY by those members present that these minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of that meeting.

100326.04 CRIME REPORT

In the period 1 – 28 February, PCSO Bunce reported that there were 9 recorded offences in the Starcross area:

- Domestic (words of advice passed) 1
- ASB Personal (Noise complaint) 1
- Theft of motor vehicle 1
- Burglary residential (item taken) 1
- Burglary residential (keys stolen) 1
- Theft (apple watch and cash taken) 1
- Criminal damage (motorcycle damaged) 1
- Burglary (items of clothing stolen) 1
- Violence less serious (domestic) 1

The thefts and burglaries are possibly part of a series in the wider area.

100356.05 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Connett was not present at the meeting. The Chair wished to record the Parish Council's thanks to Cllr Connett for offering £1000 from his 2026/27 locality budget towards the cycle track project.

District Cllr Taylor reported as follows:

Teignbridge Executive has reversed its decision to close Teignmouth Lido and it will remain open this summer. As an Asset of Community Value, once a disposal is confirmed there is a six-week period in which an offer from a qualified community group can trigger a sale moratorium. That period is soon to end, meanwhile at least one group has identified itself as being interested in putting forward a proposal.

The 2026/27 Budget was approved at the end of February. The Teignbridge band D council tax for 2026/27 is increasing by 2.99% or £6.05 to £208.33 per annum. Points of interest include the continued investment in housing (Homes4Teignbridge) with the 23-home 'Passive Haus Plus' Sherborne House car park social-rent flats scheme budget increased to £7,243,317. Also, up to 100% council tax support will be available for those households in most need.

The Inspectors' Final Report for the Teignbridge Local Plan 2020–2040 is expected imminently. Once received, this Plan – which has been many years in the making - will be taken to Full Council with a recommendation for adoption, hopefully at the meeting of the 19 May. During the latter stages of Local Plan preparation, the Government introduced significant reforms to the planning system which have now passed into law. Although TDC have progressed the Plan under the transitional arrangements, it is required to undertake an immediate review of the Plan following adoption. These transitional arrangements apply to LPAs whose adopted housing requirement is less than 80% of the sum calculated, using the new national 'standard method'. The 2020–2040 Local Plan includes a requirement of 720 homes per year, whereas the Labour Government's new standard method algorithm calculates a requirement of 1,088 homes per year. Notwithstanding that TDC's latest Plan has yet to be adopted, the Council is currently legally required to: start work on another new Local Plan; to give formal notice of commencement by 30 June 2026; and to meet the newly introduced 'Gateway 1' (a stage which includes a draft vision and a Land Availability Assessment) all by 31 October 2026.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Community Match Fund - £200,000 / year has been announced for the next 4 years for locally driven community infrastructure projects (this includes indoor community facilities, but cannot cover general maintenance). TDC will match fund up to 50% to a maximum of £100,000. Applications can only be made by Town/Parish Councils, but can be done in partnership with other organisations. Bid guidance and evaluation criteria available as well as an enquiry form on the TDC website. First application round closes on 5 September 2026.

100326.06 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Rastall, Coupe & Phillips)

- 6.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 10 February – 8 March 2026 and were asked to approve the payments listed (copy attached).
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the payments listed are made.

- 6.2 Data and Digital Compliance update (Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return)
- To adopt an IT policy which incorporates a 'Bring Your Own Device' policy
 - To adopt a Data Protection Policy which incorporates a Data Retention Schedule
 - To receive and note the data audit

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to adopt both the IT policy (which incorporates a 'Bring Your Own Device' policy) and the Data Protection Policy (which incorporates a Data Retention Schedule).

The data audit, listing the data held by the Parish Council and its members was noted.

Together, these policies and documents support compliance with Assertion 10 – Digital and Data Compliance.

Members have now been issued with their own '.gov.uk' email address for Parish Council business.

- 6.3 Proposal: To accept the annual insurance quotation from Hiscox for 1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the annual insurance quotation for £2,328.39.

- 6.4 Proposal: To agree the allocation of section 137 grants for 2026/27 (applications circulated to Councillors)
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to agree the allocation of S137 grants as follows:

- Starcross in Bloom - £171.14 - public liability insurance and two new planters on The Strand
- RBL Poppy Appeal - £20 - purchase of poppy wreath
- St Pauls Church - £280 - upkeep of village clock
- Starcross Fishing & Cruising Club - £240 – towards the purchase of lightweight/smaller oars

Applications from Starcross Twinning Association and Starcross Over 60s Club were not supported.

ACTION: Clerk to notify applicants of outcome

FUNDING: Precept 26/27

- 6.5 Proposal: To approve the current plan as outlined in the CORNER BUSINESS PLAN of February 2026 and to allocate £20,000 from Parish Council Reserves and CIL Payments to support funding applications. This Resolution to be reviewed at the December 2026 Parish Council Meeting.
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Coupe

ACTION: Clerk to Ring Fence funds

FUNDING: Reserves and CIL

AGREED BY A MAJORITY (9 votes for: 2 abstentions) to approve the current plan for the Corner Business Plan and allocate £20,000 from Parish Council Reserves and CIL Payments to support funding applications.

- 6.6 Proposal: To fund from Reserves the sum of £1389.00 + VAT for the cleaning and restoration of the Starcross War Memorial on The Strand.

1. *The RBL Club is not registered for VAT. The Parish Council will act as the buyer which will enable us to claim back the VAT portion of the invoice and the project will be entirely financed from SPC Reserve funds.*
2. *That the PC issue the PO to Orchard Memorial for the **maximum sum of £1389.00 + VAT** as their quotation OM01472 of 16th February 2026*
3. *The RBL acts as the communication channel with the supplier.*
4. *That this agreement by the Parish Council does not constitute any acceptance of ownership or any future responsibility for maintenance of the memorial.*

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Chase

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to fund £1389 + VAT from Reserves for the cleaning and restoration of the Starcross War Memorial on The Strand, as proposed.

ACTION: Cllr Hopper to liaise with RBL Mary Poole to arrange issue of a PO

FUNDING: From Reserves

- 6.7 Proposal: Local Government Reform submission (www.devonlgr.co.uk)
To consider the five proposals that have been submitted for Devon and establish the Parish Council's preferred option.
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Chase

AGREED BY MAJORITY (7 votes for) to support the 'Plymouth & Exeter' proposal.
<https://www.devonlgr.co.uk/plymouth-and-exeter>

ACTION: Cllr Hopper to submit decision.

- 6.8 Proposal: To allocate £687.61 CIL payment towards the new Playpark path
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Cadbury

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to allocate £687.61 CIL payment towards the new Playpark path.

- 6.9 Committee Chair & Action Report
None
-

**100326.07 PLANNING
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury & McNally)**

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

7.1 New applications/appeals

- 7.1.1 26/00116/HOU – Rothesay, The Strand, Starcross
Construction of boundary raised planters

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to raise no objections.

7.2 Decisions:

- 7.2.1 26/00220/CLDP – 22 Hamilton Grove, Starcross
Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed single storey rear extension

Members noted that TDC has certified that the proposed works are lawful.

- 7.2.2 26/000035/AGR – Higher Cofford, Kenton
Creation of three hardcore cow tracks to improve grazing access and cow welfare

Members noted that TDC has determined that Prior Approval is required.

- 7.3 Committee Chair and Action Report
None
-

**100326.08 PAVILION, SPORTSFIELD AND BOATPARK
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper & Pegg)**

- 8.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper a total of £43.34 for items purchased for the Pavilion Cafe
Proposer: Cllr Rastall Seconder: Cllr McNally

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund
FUNDING: Pavilion Café

- 8.2 Proposal: To permit the Pavilion Committee to purchase stock for the Shanty Festival on the 21 March in order to provide refreshments. Records and invoices to be provided.
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to permit the Pavilion Committee to purchase stock for the Shanty Festival, as proposed.

FUNDING: Shanty

- 8.3 Proposal: To purchase 10 additional chairs (black) for the Pavilion from Eracco @ £9.16 each + freight charge £10.19
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to purchase 10 additional chairs (black) for the Pavilion, as proposed.

ACTION: Cllr Hopper to order
FUNDING: Pavilion Maintenance

- 8.4 **Committee Chair & Action Report**
Cllr Rastall reported that all the arrangements for the Cockwood Shanty Festival are in place. Starcross Pavilion is hosting the event on Saturday 21 March.

Cllr Rastall updated members on actions taken in respect of fire safety in the Pavilion:

- Fire test instructions have been drafted. Cllr Pegg will be carrying out the checks every fortnight.
- Cllr Rastall will be ordering a new log book from Tamar Security to keep records up to date
- A quote is being sought from Tamar Security for a fire assessment. This was last carried out in 2018.
- Additional signage will be put up at the back door of the main hall to compliment existing signage.
- The Pavilion hire agreement to be reviewed to ensure that equipment brought into the Pavilion by hirers meets the necessary fire safety requirements.

A question was asked about the frequency of fire tests and whether fortnightly was sufficient. It was agreed to review the current arrangements once the fire assessment is completed.

Cllr Rastall advised that planned cobbling work is taking place on Well Street from 16 - 18 March. 'Slow' signage is also being installed.

100326.09 PARKS AND GARDENS
(Cllrs Chase, Lovell & Allen)

- 9.1 **Committee Chair & Action Report**
Weather permitting, work will start on the playpark path on Monday 16 March.

The equipment all seems fine. The metal railing around the Strand gardens is broken in places and is hazardous. The Committee will have a look and propose appropriate action to make it safe.

100326.10 WORKING PARTIES, EXTERNAL PROJECTS & NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS
(Updates and Action Reports)

- 10.1 **Traffic & Speedwatch (Cllr McNally)**
The first session of the year was on Saturday 14 February. Batteries in the signs were also replaced. The number of speeding vehicles was low. New batteries will need to be purchased soon. Funds are ringfenced for this.
- 10.2 **Two meetings have been arranged on 31 March: one with Rhys Andrews (DCC Highways) and the other with TDC officers to discuss TDC Assets.**

100326.11 RESIDENTS' CORRESPONDENCE
None

-
- 100326.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 7 April 2026** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.
-

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 7 April 2026

Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 10 March 2026

| Summary of Bank Balances at 8 March 2026 | |
|---|--------------------|
| Current (C) | £35,730.57 |
| Pavilion Trading (P) | £7,768.32 |
| Allocated Reserves (A) | £72,008.63 |
| Total | £115,507.52 |

| Income: 10 February - 8 March 2026 | | |
|---|---------|---|
| Pavilion hire | £112.50 | P |
| Pavilion café | £223.15 | P |
| Bank interest (27 Feb) | £52.44 | A |

| Payments for approval | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------|---|
| Clerk | Salary & disbursements (February) | £635.87 | C |
| Plant Tech | Grass cutting & maintenance (February) | £622.08 | C |
| T Greenslade | Maintenance of the Strand & Millennium Gardens (April 2025 – March 2026) | £600 | C |
| J Hopper | Items purchased for Pavilion & Café (8.1 March) | £43.34 | P |
| T Greenslade | Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing, supplies (Feb) | £177.51 | P |
| Exeter Brewery | Beer for Shanty (Lager cases are on sale or return) | £566.40 | P |

| Direct Debit: 10 February - 8 March 2026 | | | |
|---|---|----------|---|
| Bankline (16/2) | Banking fees | £23.15 | C |
| PWLB | Pavilion loan repayment | £1515.79 | C |
| Talk Talk (16/2) | Pavilion telephone & broadband | £31.92 | P |
| Biffa (23/2) | Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection) | £45.46 | P |

NB. Payments of £724.02 and £140.20 will be taken by Octopus Energy on 13 & 16 March for Pavilion energy usage

| Clerk (February) | Salary | Tax | Net | Disbursements |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|---------|----------------|
| Salary | £591.50 | £3.80 | £587.70 | |
| Telephone and Internet | - | - | - | £5.00 |
| Using home as an office | - | - | - | £8.67 |
| Mileage @ 45p per mile | - | - | - | £15.30 |
| Quickbooks | - | - | - | £19.20 |
| TOTAL | | | | £635.87 |