



STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), Derry Tydeman (Powderham Estate), Megan Debenham (Starcross Allotments) and 10 members of the public (including a group from the Starcross Fishing & Cruising Club)

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

Derry Tydeman – Powderham Estate

Derry summarised the traffic management arrangements which have been put into place for the events 25-28 June. He also plans to attend June's meeting to answer and questions or concerns which arise between now and then.

In summary, Powderham has been planning for four-day concert series at the end of June. They are expecting 24,000 people on Thursday 25 June, 26,000 on Friday 26 June, 35,000 on Saturday 27 June and 35,000 on Sunday 28 June. A further 2000 people will be working at these events.

At the end of last year, they met with various representatives from different local authorities for feedback on last year's concert arrangements and have tried to address the concerns that were raised. These were primarily around traffic, including parking, picking up/dropping off and generally people trying to avoid the parking restrictions. It was noted that this caused a lot of difficulties for local residents. This has resulted in a fairly heavy-handed traffic management plan that prevents all non-authorized, non-pre-arranged private vehicles accessing the Estate.

Unfortunately, this information has been released to ticket-holders before the announcement went out to local residents which was a Ticketmaster error. The maps which have been shared were intended for ticket-holders not residents.

All roads will have restrictions on them between 14.00 and 01.30 on each of the four event days. Road closed signs will be erected on every road leading to Powderham from Kenn, Cockwood, Mamhead and Exminster. Each sign will be manned by traffic enforcement officers. Residents will be issued with car mirror hangers, however, enabling them to pass through. Anyone trying to access the village for any other reasons will be able to do so and this will be done on an honesty-based system. All 21 traffic marshals will be linked by radio to Derry in event control in case of any issues.

In respect of local people who are trying to access the event, a private No.2 bus has been paid for by the event and will be able to transport local people safely along the A379. 160 shuttle buses have been put on and anyone trying to walk along the A379 will be picked up. There should therefore be no foot traffic through Kenton and Starcross. No taxis will be able to access the 'road closed' network. At 21.00, the A379 towards Exminster and along The Strand in Starcross will become one-way systems and effectively dual carriageways so that people can exit the concerts quicker.

The organisers have requested a short pyrotechnic display at around 10pm on the Saturday and Sunday nights. They will each last 1min 19sec.

The event has appointed 3 x Community Resident Liaison Officers (CRLO) and they will be on various shift patterns from next week until the end of the events. They have a dedicated phone number which will be shared in due course. If any resident has any issues, they should call a CRLO who are well-known members of the community (Heather Mcgrouter-Bradley, Jennifer Rowland and Philippa Sage).

Designated litter wardens have also been appointed.

Additional trains in both directions will be running; they are expecting 5000 people to travel to the event by train. Starcross station will be manned throughout the event and the coastguard and RLNI will be on stand-by.

Four traffic officers are being appointed to issue parking tickets if necessary and tow trucks will be situated at either end of the village and vehicles will be removed if in breach of the parking restrictions. They have also paid for 4 off-duty police officers on motorbikes who will respond to any issues when required. The event has also arranged to buy out the car park in Starcross to accommodate residents' displaced street parking.

Once the main arena closes, a second stage will open to try and retain some people as others are exiting.

Derry concluded that this is a very expensive traffic management plan but they want to get it right as they would like the show to come back every year.

In response to questions, Derry confirmed:

Diversion routes will be in place for those travelling from Teignmouth/Dawlish to Exeter and vice versa during the periods of road closure.

People will still be able to access services in the village, e.g. the pharmacy, if required.

There will be a host of additional provision around Starcross station, including extra toilets, lighting, security, traffic and medical provision.

The whole site will be reset and replenished after each event. This will include litter picking along the path from the station. There will be 500 bike racks to accommodate those intending to cycle to the event.

Derry intends to publish more information in the Starcross Newsletter and can make a document available for the Parish Council's website.

Derry confirmed his attendance at the next meeting to answer any outstanding queries. Otherwise, the Estate will host a feedback session at the end of the events season (October) and another at the start of next year's events. Residents can sign up to their newsletter to receive notifications of those meetings.

The Chair thanked Derry for attending the meeting and explaining the work that has gone into the management of these events.

Megan Debenham – Starcross Allotments

Advised members that currently the allotment rules are on the same document as the Tenancy Agreement. Starcross Allotments are proposing at item 9.2 that these documents are separated so that rules can be updated and issued to tenants independently of the tenancy agreement.

Starcross Fishing & Cruising Club

The group presented an early-stage community project aimed at reconnecting Starcross with its historic relationship to the Exe Estuary. The proposal seeks to bring together heritage, community, environmental awareness, sustainability, education, recreation, and wellbeing through the construction and use of a traditional wooden salmon boat. It was emphasised that Starcross is best understood from the water and that the village's history and identity are closely linked to the estuary.

The project proposes rebuilding a traditional wooden salmon boat, a vessel that was used on the Exe Estuary for centuries. Once common throughout the estuary, only three examples remain today: one in Cockwood Harbour, one in Lympstone and one wreck remaining on the Exe.

The group believes these boats are an important part of the area's heritage and wishes to preserve and revive the traditional boatbuilding skills associated with them.

A central aim of the project is community participation throughout its lifecycle, including volunteers helping to build the boat, volunteers and residents rowing and maintaining the boat, opportunities for residents to learn traditional woodworking and boatbuilding skills and increased access to and appreciation of the Exe Estuary and its environment.

The group noted that amongst them they already have access to many of the skills required to build the vessel.

Several potential locations are being explored for the construction phase. The build will require a sheltered workspace, storage and access to tools and power. The anticipated build programme is approximately 12 months once funding is secured.

The group is currently developing a full-life cost assessment, including capital costs of construction, site costs equipment and materials, ongoing maintenance and future storage requirements. Given the project's heritage, education, health, wellbeing, recreation, and environmental benefits, the organisers hope to access a range of funding streams.

The group is seeking advice from the Parish Council regarding funding opportunities, community initiatives, local expertise and contacts. They are also considering establishing an appropriate legal structure, such as a charity or Community Interest Company (CIC), to manage funding and oversee the project.

The group highlighted the success of a fibreglass replica salmon boat owned by the Starcross Fishing and Cruising Club. Although access is currently limited to club members, the boat has been involved in more than 200 activities over the past 12 months, including rowing sessions and maintenance events. This demonstrates significant local interest in rowing and maritime heritage activities.

The new project aims to create a community-owned asset that is accessible to the wider public rather than being restricted to club membership.

Members of the Parish Council expressed interest in the proposal and offered encouragement. The Chair thanked the group for attending and wished them success with the project.

Starcross Station – Fencing

Residents expressed their concerns about the new fencing erected by Network Rail which is not only impacting the uninterrupted view of the Estuary, but is also a climbing hazard. The new infill panels also create a humming noise in the wind.

Residents have written to Network Rail; having received an unsatisfactory response to date, including a lack of acknowledgement of the risks that have been created from the installation, concerns have been escalated and are currently being reviewed. They also sought the support of the Parish Council in representing their concerns.

It is understood that the old fence is being replaced as it is coming away from the platform. However, the new solution is not necessarily going to be any better. Questions have been asked about the visual aspect and climbing risk, and whether the community would be consulted on their plans.

The Chair advised that initially, the Parish Council had expressed a neutral view because it was only aware of the visual impact and not aware of the safety concern. However, it has since written to Network Rail to seek further information and clarification. It was noted that Network Rail has not consulted with the Parish Council.

The Chair advised that Council will be considering its response at item 9.3 when members have had the opportunity to debate the issues.

120526.01 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Members submitted their nominations for Chair to the Clerk.

AGREED that Cllr Hopper is re-elected as Chair.

120526.02 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Members submitted their nominations for Vice Chair to the Clerk.

AGREED that Cllr Chase is re-elected as Vice Chair.

120526.03 ELECTION OF SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Members submitted to the clerk their nominations for Safeguarding Officer.

AGREED that Cllr Phillips is elected as Safeguarding Officer.

120526.04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr Chase
 - Cllr McNally
 - County Cllr Connett
 - District Cllr Taylor
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120526.05 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.

120526.06 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2026.

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

120526.07 CRIME REPORT

In the period, 1 - 30 April 2026, there were 4 recorded offences in the Starcross area:

- Sexual offences (indecent photos of children found) x 1
 - Violence less serious (phone calls threatening harm) x 1
 - Violence less serious (father assaulted child) x 1
 - Sexual offences (sextortion via Tik Tok) x 1
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120526.08 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

No reports

120526.09 WORKING PARTIES, EXTERNAL PROJECTS & NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS (Updates and Action Reports)

9.1 Traffic & Speedwatch report

On behalf of Cllr McNally, Cllr Pegg reported that during week beginning 5 May, 200 cars were checked: 22 were speeding and 1 vehicle was recorded doing 60mph along The Strand. Details have been passed to the police.

9.2 Proposal: To ratify the new Starcross Allotments Tenancy Agreement, and the new Starcross Allotments Rules and Conditions (documents circulated)

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder:

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to ratify the new Starcross Allotments Tenancy Agreement and new Starcross Allotments Rules and Conditions Rules and Conditions

9.3 Proposal: To discuss the replacement fence on the station. In particular loss of view, safety and noise. To consider the suggested remedies offered by Network Rail and whether SPC should take further action.

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Phillips

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to write to Network Rail raising concerns about the safety aspects of the new fencing which have been brought to the Parish Council's attention and seek reassurance that all precautions are being taken to ensure that it is safe. Also to advise that residents attending the meeting have drawn the Council's attention to the fact that the new fencing also impacts on the view.

It would be suggested to Network Rail that a consultation about the fencing would have been welcomed by the Parish Council and may have helped to alleviate some of the concerns now being raised; regrettably, this did not happen. Additionally, the Parish Council would request that, in future, it is given the courtesy of being involved in discussion of any changes.

ACTION: Cllr Phillips to compose and circulate

120526.10 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

(Cllrs Hopper, Chase, Rastall, Coupe & Phillips)

- 10.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 15 April – 11 May 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.

10.2 **Audit 2025-26**

- 10.2.1 Members received and noted the year-end bank reconciliation.

- 10.2.2 Members received the internal audit report and noted that no issues had been raised.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that this Council is confident that the internal audit arrangements provide excellent reassurance for the public that the financial systems are robust and fit for purpose and to continue with the appointment of Lee Accounting (South West) Ltd as the Internal Auditor to the Parish Council
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Williamson

- 10.2.3 Members received Section 1 of the Annual Return (Annual Governance Statement 2025/26).

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to complete and approve Section 1 of the Annual Return and authorise the Chair and Clerk/RFO to sign it.
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Williamson

- 10.2.4 Members received Section 2 of the Annual Return (Accounting Statements 2025/26).

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to approve Section 2 of the Annual Return and authorise the Chair and Clerk/RFO to sign it.
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Williamson

- 10.3 Proposal: To adopt the document Starcross Infrastructure Plan 2026 as Council policy and add to the Parish Council website. Document circulated.

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to adopt the document Starcross Infrastructure Plan 2026 as Council policy and add to the Parish Council website.

ACTION Clerk to add to website.

- 10.4 Discussion regarding finance and expenditure for 2026-27

Cllr Coupe suggested that with Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon and uncertainty over the future financial responsibilities of Parish Councils, this Parish Council should be focusing on and prioritising the projects on which it has been working (such as the pump track and an all-weather shelter in the play area) and using its reserves to complete them sooner rather than later. Grants can still be pursued, but if applications are unsuccessful, the Parish Council should proceed using its reserves. Projects such as the pump track and the shelter in the play area would both be assets to the community; fully costed proposals should be brought to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

- 10.5 Proposal: To agree £50 attendance fee for South West Ambulance for the defibrillator training

Proposer: Cllr Williamson: Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to agree £50 attendance fee, as proposed.

- 10.6 Committee Chair & Action Report
None
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120526.11 PLANNING
(Cllrs Pegg, Cadbury & McNally)

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)

11.1 New applications/appeals

- 11.1.1 26/00717/LBC – Rothesay, The Strand, Starcross
Construction of boundary raised planters as approved under application
26/00116/HOU (see below)

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to raise no objections.

11.2 Decisions:

- 11.2.1 26/00116/HOU – Rothesay, The Stand, Starcross
Construction of boundary raised planters

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning consent.

- 11.3 Committee Chair and Action Report
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120526.12 PAVILION, SPORTSFIELD AND BOATPARK
(Cllrs Rastall, Hopper & Pegg)

- 12.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Rastall £12.99 for a pack of hand towels for the Pavilion kitchen
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: tbc

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Rastall £12.99, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund'
FUNDING: Pavilion Maintenance

- 12.2 Proposal: To purchase two more shelves for the Bisley lockable cupboard in the hall for a total of £35.78
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Hopper

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to purchase two more shelves, as proposed.

ACTION: Cllr Rastall to order
FUNDING: Pavilion Maintenance

- 12.3 Proposal: To accept a quote for Pavilion carpet cleaning from ServiceMaster for £185 + VAT
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Hopper

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept a quote for Pavilion carpet cleaning, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to issue PO
FUNDING: Pavilion Maintenance

- 12.4 Committee Chair & Action Report
None
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**120526.13 PARKS AND GARDENS
(Cllrs Chase, Lovell & Allen)**

- 13.1 Committee Chair & Action Report
The Committee is aware of the ROSPA work and is looking into getting the necessary work done. They also continue to look at the community corner.
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120526.14 RESIDENTS' CORRESPONDENCE
None

120526.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 16 June 2026** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 16 June 2026

Note: Where a document or paper is referred to on the Agenda, this document will be available on request from the Clerk by emailing starcrossp for cclerk@gmail.com

Starcross Parish Council Finance Report – 12 May 2026

Summary of Bank Balances at 11 May 2026	
Current (C)	£61,036.26
Pavilion Trading (P)	£6,836.93
Allocated Reserves (A)	£72,114.61
Total	£139,987.80

Income: 15 April – 11 May 2026		
TDC (First instalment of precept)	£27732.50	C
TDC (CIL – Higher Cofford)	£2842.65	C
HMRC (s126 VAT reclaim 2025-26)	£3589.62	C
HMRC (Pavilion VAT Q4)	£237.12	C
Pavilion hire	£277.50	P
Pavilion café	£239.80	P
Hiscox (Insurance claim)	£1000	P
Bank interest (30 April)	£50.35	A

Payments for approval			
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (April)	£639.67	C
Plant Tech	Grass cutting & maintenance (April)	£1244.16	C
Orchard Memorials	Renovation work to Starcross Memorial (50%)	£833.40	C
Devon Association of Local Councils	Annual membership	£608.81	C
Lee Accounting (SW) Ltd	Internal audit of accounts	£240	C
S Rastall	Reimbursement for pack of hand towels purchased for the Pavilion kitchen (item 12.1 May)	£12.99	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing, supplies (April)	£226	P

Direct Debit: 15 April – 11 May 2026			
Bankline (15/4)	Banking fees	£23.15	C
HMRC	PAYE & NI (Q4)	£89.31	C
Information Commissioners Office (29/4)	Date Protection Licence renewal	£47	C
Talk Talk (16/4)	Pavilion telephone & broadband	£35.92	P
Biffa (27/4)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£45.46	P

Clerk (April)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£591.50	-	£591.50	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£5.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£8.67
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£19.20
TOTAL				£639.67