



STARCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Starcross Parish Council held in Starcross Pavilion on Tuesday 8 September 2026 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Also present:

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk)

RESIDENTS' QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions/comments from residents.

There were no residents present.

080926.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr Williamson
- Cllr McNally
- County Cllr Connett
- District Cllr Taylor

080926.02 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.

080926.03 RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

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

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

080926.04 CRIME REPORT

- 4.1 In the period 1 – 31 August 2026, there were 7 recorded offences in the Starcross area:
- Violence less serious (male has been bullied and pushed due to his disability in the workplace) x 1
 - Non domestic stalking x 1
 - Violence less serious (messages sent to victim by suspected ex friend via Tik Tok) x 1
 - Domestic assault (attacked by girlfriend) x 1
 - Theft (door key from key safe) x 1
 - Mal comms x 1
 - Sexual offence (rape of child) x 1 Sextortion (exchanged images online threats made to publish images) x 1
- 4.2 An offer has been made by the police to give a cyber awareness presentation in the parish. This was supported and, after discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs Phillips and Rastall would get in touch with PCSO Bunce to discuss the best time for this to be arranged as a stand-alone event for the community.

District Cllr Taylor sent the following written report:

A meeting of the **CIL Community Match Fund Bid Evaluation Group** is expected in the next week or so. As your Ward representative and a member of the Group, I will of course continue to promote the bid made by SPC for the Starcross playing field pump track - and I very much hope that the bid is successful

Councillor Community Fund. The CCF is now open and available for on-line bids. The total amount in my Councillor fund is relatively modest at £1000 - and I already have a couple of bids in the pipeline (one each from community groups in Starcross and Kenton). Link below for further details and applications - minimum bid £100.

[Apply for a Councillors' Community Fund - Teignbridge District Council](#)

At this morning's Executive Meeting, an investment in refuse collection to the tune of £158,678 was agreed. This additional funding is expected to help recover the performance in collection service levels, which have unfortunately been dropping despite the best efforts of our front line teams. This investment is expected to decrease the reliance on temporary or agency staff and overtime working, leading to a more dependable service in the future. I spoke at the meeting and thanked the public for their forbearance and their support for our hard-working crews over recent weeks.

[\(Public Pack\)Waste Operational Staff Review Agenda Supplement for Executive, 08/09/2026 10:00](#)

A Notice of Motion from the Council Leader, Richard Keeling was also debated at the Executive Meeting, calling for the Government's proposal for Local Government Reform (LGR) for Devon to be withdrawn and reconsidered. This agenda item had to an extent been overtaken by Monday's announcement from Government, stating that LGR in Devon (and a dozen or so other areas) is to be paused pending a review. The timing of this review will have implications for Councils with elections due in 2027, which will I understand are now take place with boundaries as existing.

The debate particularly centred around the poorly considered proposals for Devon's rural coastal and countryside areas, an area far larger than the 3 other new Combined Authorities put together.

A letter to the Leader of the Council from the Government Minister regarding Devon LGR was circulated to members.

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

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

- 6.1 **Financial Report** – members received and noted the financial report 15 July – 7 September 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 Members noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on the new rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2026 (+3.3%). Clerk's salary will be backdated accordingly.

Committee Chair Report:

- 6.3 General Report/Question & Answers
It was agreed to review the Committee structure and confirm membership of each Committee/Working Group.

Whole Council to Debate (accompanying documents)**7.1 New applications/appeals**

- 7.1.1 26/01049/FUL - Land At Ngr 297273 81384, Staplake Lane, Starcross
Agricultural storage shed/shed shelter to replace existing storage container
Proposer: Cllr Pegg; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the recommendation of the Planning Committee to make no comment.

7.2 Decisions:

None

7.3 General Report/Question & Answers

None

- 8.1 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £34.79 for purchase of butter portions from Makro
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

FUNDING: Pavilion Cafe

- 8.2 Proposal: To reimburse Cllr Hopper £14.00 for costs of Land Search re sports field
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to reimburse Cllr Hopper, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to refund

FUNDING: Administration

- 8.3 Proposal: To replace damaged dog bin on sports field: cost of bin £255.19 (+ VAT),
labour £114.58
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Lovell

NB: In the absence of a formal vote and due the urgency, this was approved via email with councillors and clerk

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to retrospectively approve the cost of replacing the damaged dog bin on the sportsfield, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to issue PO

FUNDING: Reserves

- 8.4 Proposal: To accept quote of £20 from Zen Maintenance to secure library shelves
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the quote of £20 from Zen Maintenance to secure the library shelves, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to issue PO

FUNDING: Pavilion Maintenance

- 8.5 Proposal: To accept quote of £30 from Zen Maintenance to repair the loose slab on Pavilion pathway
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept quote of £30 from Zen Maintenance to repair the loose slab on Pavilion pathway, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to issue PO

FUNDING: Pavilion Maintenance

- 8.6 Proposal: Gasology to repair inflow to blocked gas ring on Pavilion cooker - £70.
Proposer: Cllr Rastall; Seconder: Cllr Hopper

NB: Urgent repair to ensure no gas leak

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to retrospectively approve the repair of the Pavilion gas cooker, as proposed.

ACTION: Work completed

FUNDING: Pavilion maintenance

- 8.7 Proposal: To purchase three fire extinguishers and three containers for the Pavilion as outlined in the recent Fire Assessment. Supplier: Safelinks 3 x P50 water mist @ £156.48; 3xUFDFS1R stand @ £19.08. Freight £5. Total £531.68
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

NB. The Council awaits approval of this purchase from MGC Services

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to purchase three fire extinguishers and three containers for the Pavilion as outlined in the recent Fire Assessment, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange payment

FUNDING: Pavilion maintenance

- 8.8 Proposal: To accept the cleaning of the hard floors in the Pavilion, i.e. changing areas, lobby, disabled toilets and officials room. Rogers Carpet Care £350
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the quote from Rogers Carpet Care to clean the hard floors, as proposed.

ACTION: Cllr Rastall to progress order

FUNDING: Pavilion maintenance

- 8.9 Proposal: To carry out annual maintenance on Pavilion shutters and to repair inoperable side window shutter
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to retrospectively approve the carrying out of the annual maintenance on the Pavilion and repair the inoperable side window shutter

ACTION: Invoice submitted

FUNDING: Pavilion maintenance

NB. Maintenance quote in hand and as there was a security risk, brought forward to enable repairs to side window shutter within the same visit at no additional cost.

- 8.10 Proposal: To accept quotation from Steve Swift for cutting sports field hedges inside and out - £480
Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Rastall

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept quotation from Steve Swift, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to raise PO

FUNDING: Sports field hedge cut

Committee Chair Report:

- 8.11 General Report/Questions & Answers
Cllr Rastall gave a summary of activity in the Pavilion over the summer period. Members thanked Cllr Rastall and all the volunteers who ensure the smooth running of the Pavilion.
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080926.09

PARKS & GARDENS

(Cllrs Chase, Coupe, Pegg, Lovell & Allen)

Committee Chair Report:

- 9.1 Bonhay Park Community Corner (Cllr Coupe)
Business plan - for discussion and vote (copy circulated)
Proposer: Cllr Coupe; Seconder: Cllr Chase

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY:

- To approve the negotiations with TDC to fund the Bonhay Playpark as detailed in the business plan
- That the £3000 allocated in the Parish Council's 2026/7 budget (Bonhay Playpark Project Contribution) is considered with the TDC grant thus reducing the grant required from £38724 to £35724

- 9.2 Proposal: To accept quotation from Zen Maintenance for renovation, repair and refinishing of wooden bench slats followed by painting with wood preservative. Two days labour plus materials £193.79
Proposer: Cllr Coupe; Seconder: Cllr Chase

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the quotation from Zen Maintenance, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to raise PO

FUNDING: Playpark equipment maintenance

- 9.3 Proposal: To accept quotation from Zen Maintenance to apply preservative to Bonhay Gardens fence. Total cost £449.31 (*Retrospective approval*)
Proposer: Cllr Coupe; Seconder: Cllr Chase

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to retrospectively approve the quotation from Zen Maintenance to apply preservative to Bonhay Gardens fence, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to raise PO

FUNDING: Playpark equipment maintenance

- 9.4 Proposal: To accept quotation from Zen Maintenance to apply timber preservative and steel preservative paint to Rhino Trim Trail equipment as referenced within the 2026 ROSPA report for Bonhay Gardens. Total cost £218.75
Proposer: Cllr Coupe; Seconder: Cllr Chase

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the quotation from Zen Maintenance to apply timber preservative and steel preservative paint to Rhino Trim Trail, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to raise PO

FUNDING: Playpark equipment maintenance

- 9.5 Proposal: To accept quotation from Zen Maintenance to paint the play equipment to address minor concerns within the 2026 ROSPA report for Bonhay Gardens. Five days labour plus materials. Total cost: £492.99
Proposer: Cllr Coupe; Seconder: Cllr Chase

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept a quotation from Zen Maintenance to paint the play equipment to address minor concerns within the 2026 ROSPA report for Bonhay Gardens, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to raise PO

FUNDING: Playpark equipment maintenance

- 9.6 Proposal: To accept quotation from Zen Maintenance to repair rubber matting to play equipment where damaged and/or uneven to address concerns of trip hazard within the 2026 ROSPA report for Bonhay Gardens. Three days labour plus materials and security fencing to prevent trip hazard. Total cost £890.97

Proposer: Cllr Coupe; Seconder: Cllr Chase

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to repair one of the mats as a trial before proceeding with the whole area. Cllr Coupe to update members on its effectiveness before the remaining sections are completed.

ACTION: Clerk to raise PO and Cllr Coupe to communicate the decision to Zen Maintenance

FUNDING: Playpark equipment maintenance

Committee Chair Report:

- 9.7 General Report/Question & Answers

Cllr Chase advised that there has been another complaint about rodents, though the maintenance contractor has not seen any sign of any rodents in the playpark. She has contacted Teign Housing as a potential source of the problem.

080926.10 WORKING PARTIES, EXTERNAL PROJECTS & NON-COMMITTEE ITEMS (Updates and Action Reports)

- 10.1 **Traffic & Speedwatch (Cllr McNally)**

There was a speedwatch session on 10 August. A resident has expressed concerns about speeding vehicles along The Strand in the early mornings and late evenings. Details have been passed to the police with a view to Zero Vision attending to carry out speed checks during these times.

- 10.2 **Highways & Pavements (Cllrs Hopper, Phillips, Lovell & Allen)**

The pavement has been resurfaced outside the school. The Working Party will now pursue The Strand as the next area of priority.

- 10.3 **Communications & PR (Cllrs Williamson & Hopper)**

No report

- 10.4 **Technical (Cllr McNally)**

The clerk is to contact the website host about increasing storage for councillors' mailboxes.

- 10.5 **Bike Track (Cllrs Hopper, Coupe, Rastall, Phillips & Williamson)**

The project continues to progress. It has been confirmed that planning permission is not required.

- 10.6 **Library (Cllr Lovell)**

Cllr Lovell is delighted with the new shelves and hopes to be filling them with new books very shortly.

- 10.7 **Boat Park (Cllrs Pegg & McNally)**

Clerk to write to licence holders about a rogue canoe.

Proposal: To accept a quote of £100 from Zen Maintenance to erect boat park sign

Proposer: Cllr Hopper; Seconder: Cllr Pegg

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to accept a quote of £100 from Zen Maintenance to erect a boat park sign, as proposed.

ACTION: Clerk to raise PO

FUNDING: Boat Park Maintenance and Repairs

- 10.8 **Exe Estuary Partnership (Cllr Coupe)**
Cllr Coupe is awaiting details of the next meeting.

080926.11 RESIDENTS' CORRESPONDENCE
None

080926.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 13 October 2026** in the Pavilion commencing at 7.30pm.

SIGNED:
Chairman of the Parish Council

DATE: 13 October 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 – 8 September 2026

Summary of Bank Balances at 7 September 2026	
Current (C)	£44,797.67
Pavilion Trading (P)	£8,062.80
Allocated Reserves (A)	£72,316.35
Total	£125,176.82

Income: 15 July – 7 September 2026		
Dinghy rack	£60	C
Pavilion hire	£1218.70	P
Starcross Dons	£120	P
Pavilion café	£233.05	P
Bank interest (31/7 & 28/8)	£99.26	A

Payments for approval		(includes VAT when applicable)	
Clerk	Salary & disbursements (July & Aug)	£1264.04	C
HMRC	PAYE & NI (Q1)	£78.51	C
HMRC	VAT	£9.38	P
Plant Tech	Grass cutting & maintenance (July & Aug)	£1986.24	C
PKF Littlejohn	External audit	£378	C
PWLB	Loan repayment	£1495.07	C
Glasdon	Dog waste bin (item 8.3 Sept)	£306.23	C
Source for Business	Pavilion water (meter read 13/8/26)	£98.93	C
D Lovell	Mileage expense – meeting at TDC (31 miles @ 45p per mile)	£13.95	C
J Hopper	Reimbursement for café items and land searches (items 8.1 & 8.2 September)	£48.79	P
T Greenslade	Pavilion - cleaning, fobbing, supplies, window cleaning (July & Aug)	£518.13	P
All Doors	Pavilion shutter service and repair (item 8.9 Sept)	£369.60	P
Gasology	Call out to repair gas hob	£70	P

Direct Debit: 15 July – 7 September 2026			
Bankline (15/7 & 15/8)	Banking fees	£47.20	C
Talk Talk (16/7 & 14/8)	Pavilion telephone & broadband	£71.84	P
Biffa (27/7 & 24/8)	Waste bin at Pavilion (rental & collection)	£91.76	P

Clerk (July & Aug)	Salary	Tax	Net	Disbursements
Salary	£1183	-	£1183	
Telephone and Internet	-	-	-	£10.00
Using home as an office	-	-	-	£17.34
Mileage @ 45p per mile	-	-	-	£15.30
Quickbooks	-	-	-	£38.40
TOTAL				£1264.04