

TALATON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF TALATON PARISH COUNCIL** held on **WEDNESDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER 2025** at **7.30pm**. The meeting was held at the **PARISH HALL, TALATON EX5 2RG**

PRESENT: - Cllrs G Hawkins (**Vice-Chair**), K Walker, S Wood, A Peters, D Hirt and the Clerk (Mrs C McIntyre)

25/09/01

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lenehan (Chair); Cllr Bos and EDDC Cllr R Jefferies

25/09/02

PUBLIC FIFTEEN MINUTE OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public present

25/09/03

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF 2ND JULY 2025 AND TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES BY THE VICE-CHAIR AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the meeting of 2nd July 2025 be approved as a true and correct record. They were signed by the Vice-Chair

Proposed by Cllr Hirt and seconded by Cllr Walker

25/09/04

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were none

25/09/05

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED) TO AGREE ANY ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH AFTER THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

It was **AGREED** that Item 7 – ‘Allotment Quotes’ and Item 21 - ‘Clerk’s Salary’ should be discussed in Confidential Session

25/09/06

FINANCE: CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ITEMS I – III

i. Approval of accounts for the period 1st July – 31st August 2025

NAME OF ACCOUNT	BALANCE
Community (Current)	£601.28
Business Premium (Reserve)	£11,019.38

ii. Approval of the September 2025 Payment Schedule

NUMBER	CHEQUE NUMBER /BACS	PAYEE	DETAILS	COST	VAT	TOTAL
1	Bacs	HMRC	Income Tax July/Aug	£98.20		£98.20
2	Bacs	Employee	Salary July/Aug (inc back pay)	£393.20		£393.20
3	Bacs	Talatton Parish Hall	Room hire April-June	£100.00		£100.00
4	Bacs	EDDC	Emptying dog bins	£416.00	£83.20	£499.20

Initials.....

5	Bacs	ATH Gardens & Landscapes	Grounds Maintenance July	£157.50		£157.50
6	Bacs	ATH Gardens & Landscapes	Grounds Maintenance August	£157.50		£157.50
			TOTALS	£1,322.40	£83.20	£1,405.60

iii. Proposed Transfer of funds (£1000) from the Business Premium to the Community Account

iv. The External Auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP had received the Council's notification of exempt status for the year end 31st March 2025 re the Council's accounts. This meant that there was no review to be performed and consequently no auditor certificate and report or any other closure document to be issued by PKF Littlejohn. The information was noted by the Council

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Items i-iii

Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by the Vice-Chair

25/09/07

CORRESPONDENCE

a. The following correspondence was noted by the Council

EDDC – Invitation to complete local government reorganisation survey (responses had to be received by 11th August)

EDDC – Consultation on how EDDC can improve communication and collaboration with town and parish councils which runs from 1st Sept – 27th Oct

EDDC – Update on neighbourhood planning in the district including the on-going preparation of the East Devon Local Plan

EDDC – Update on Local Government Reorganisation

EDDC – Rural Broadband Consultation Summary Report

DCC – Beautiful Days – details of temporary footpath closures

DCC - changes to the Devon bus network wef 31st August 2025

Peninsula Transport Team £100k Rural Mobility Fund

b. The following item of late correspondence was noted by the Council

EDDC – Local Government Reorganisation Survey closing date extended to 31st August

EDDC – DCRF Forum 9th October – Beehive 10.00am – Testing an emergency plan

25/09/08

ALLOTMENTS UPDATE AND ANY ACTIONS TO BE AGREED INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF QUOTES FOR WORKS AND ENTERING INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH EDDC AND TO MAKE DECISIONS ACCORDINGLY

The Council went into Confidential Session to discuss the quotes

The Clerk had approached three contractors but only two had submitted quotes. The quotes were for repairing the fence posts/gates and the shed. The Clerk advised that she had contacted EDDC regarding S106 funding which it appeared could be used for allotment purposes. After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Council seek further quotes for removing the existing fence, gates and fence posts and to erect a new fence and posts and installation of gates. In addition, the quote from Andy Hazeldine be accepted for the repairs to the shed and for the strimming of the grass up to the water bowser to ensure a clear access for allotment holders (to be carried out monthly in the growing season). The extra task to be added to Mr Hazeldine's existing grass cutting contract, if he was agreeable to the same. The Clerk advised that once all the fence quotes had been received and a decision made (as to which contractor to use) at the October meeting, then it would be necessary for the Council to agree to entering into a funding agreement with EDDC. EDDC would also need to get internal approval for the funding and from EDDC Cllr Richard Jefferies

Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Wood

The Council then went back into public session

Initials.....

The trees/hedge between the allotments and the treatment works had now been trimmed by SWW's contractor. The condition of the allotments which had caused concern to the Council had all improved and were all in a better condition (other than Plot 6 which was not used and covered in black plastic). A different tap had been placed onto the water bowser (at the bottom of Plot 6) which made it a lot easier to use the bowser.

25/09/09

COUNCIL'S NEW WEBSITE – UPDATE AND TO AGREE NEW FORMAT ETC

After much discussion the following was **RESOLVED**:-

- i. The Council's domain name to be:- **talatonparishcouncil.gov.uk**
- ii. Green to be the primary colour to use on the website
- iii. The Clerk would see if any of the photos on the existing website could be used as a header image (nice resolution landscape photo)
- iv. Headshots of the councillors and Clerk to be taken at the next meeting when all councillors were present
- v. Mailboxes would have **cllr.initial.lastname** as the format
- vi. To retain ownership of the existing domain name at a cost of £25 per annum in view of the possibility of it being used for malicious purposes if the Council did not take this course of action

Proposed by the Vice-Chair and seconded by Cllr Hirt

25/09/10

UPDATE ON ACTION REQUIRED (IF ANY) FOR THE GRIT BIN NEAR THE TELEPHONE BOX AND TO CONSIDER THE ROADWAY ADJACENT AND IF FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED

After much discussion it was **AGREED** that the grit bin should remain in situ. The responses from SWW regarding the road works and the further delayed date for the commencement of the works were noted by the Council

25/09/11

UPDATE ON ESCOT MATTERS INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF REPORT FROM WILDWOOD RE ESCAPED BEARS

a. Escaping Bears

Paul Whitfield of Wildwood advised:-

'Wildwood have been working closely with East Devon District Council in relation to this incident. Wildwood Devon has a zoo licence that is granted and enforced by the council. Following the incident there was a Section 11 Special Zoo Inspection that took place on 1 July 2025. That was attended by:

- *Emma-Jayne Weston, Animal Health & Licensing Officer, Environmental Health/Environmental Protection, East Devon District Council; and*
- *Dr Matt Hartley – DEFRA Appointed Vet Inspector.*

Following the inspection, a number of directions were given to Wildwood including the review of safe systems of work, retraining of staff and updating the emergency procedures. All the directions have been now been fully complied with. The inspectors were confident that Wildwood had taken the incident seriously and that steps have been taken to ensure that it will not happen again.

Our internal report is confidential and can't be shared. However, full details of all the circumstances around the incident have been shared with the zoo inspectors and I would be happy to put you in touch with Emma-Jayne if that would be helpful'?

Further information had been received from Emma-Jayne Weston - Animal Health and Licensing Officer at EDDC

Emma-Jayne advised that the issue at Wildwood was human error. *'The whole incident did not exceed 1 hour. An inspection was carried out within 24 hours of the incident by myself and a vet inspector, to establish how the incident had occurred and to ensure Wildwood's licensing conditions were being complied with. Escape drills/staff training etc were looked at. Adjustments have been made to the licence with further requirements re safe systems of working and further training of staff. The recall system of ringing a bell worked which resulted in the bears going voluntarily back into their enclosure'.*

The Council noted this information

Initials.....

b. Update re the planning application at Escot Ref. No: 21/2045/FUL | Validated: Fri 30 Jul 2021 | Status: Awaiting decision Expiry date:- 2/11/22 - Change of use from agricultural land to outdoor leisure pursuits and associated operational development. Land North Of The Shrubbery Escot Park Ottery St Mary
Andrew Wood – Head of Planning at EDDC had advised the Clerk that the Case Officer in relation to the application had been away on leave but was back next week and he would chase this up then.
Cllr Richard Jefferies was also chasing up this matter

c. Ed Polding DCC Highways Officer re the water run off from the fields at Escot
Ed has advised:- *‘I have been told by the management company that as well as the different field usage, the field will be ploughed horizontally to help prevent the runoff. Let’s hope the new crop eventually helps to reduce the severity of the issues we have had here in the past. I will keep an eye on the situation when the at the beginning of winter’*

25/09/12

VILLAGE GREEN (THE MOOR) – UPDATE RE VONEUS

The Clerk advised that the Council’s solicitors had still not received the signed part agreement and compensation from Voneus’s solicitors and were continuing to chase up the matter

25/09/13

GRANTS UPDATE FROM RECIPIENTS AWARDED GRANTS IN 24/25

The grant recipients namely the Calendar; Knit and Natter; Tale Valley Trust and Talaton Parish Hall had all provided updates to the Clerk as to what their grant monies had been spent on, or were intended to be spent on. The information had been circulated to all councillors. The Clerk would advertise the next tranche of grant giving in the next edition of the Calendar

25/09/14

EDDC SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES FOR COUNCILLORS

Information had been e-mailed to councillors. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council’s current allowance system remain ie only the Chair to receive an allowance of £100 per year

Proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Walker

25/09/15

CONSIDERATION OF THE BEACON LAND AND THE MOOR (BOTH LEASED TO THE PARISH COUNCIL) AND ANY POTENTIAL ISSUES AND TO MAKE DECISIONS ACCORDINGLY

Information had been e-mailed to councillors regarding the Council’s responsibilities in respect of the two parcels of land in Talaton that they leased and on which were several trees. Information had also been provided by the Council’s insurers which needed to be complied with. After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk obtain three quotes from arboriculturalists as to how much it would be for them to examine the trees and to advise what work (if any) would be required. The Clerk thought it may be appropriate to approach the County Councillor for the area, to see whether part of her Locality budget could fund the cost of the report and any subsequent tree work required, once the quotes came in. It was also requested that the Clerk insert information in the next edition of the Calendar advising land owners of their responsibilities regarding trees on their land

Proposed by Cllr Peters and seconded by Cllr Walker

25/09/16

DCC RESPONSE RE 20MPH SPEED REDUCTION IN TALATON AND TO CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF A VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (VAS) IN THE PARISH

DCC had confirmed that Talaton has not been selected for a 20mph speed reduction area. A parishioner had suggested Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) be installed instead. The Clerk had explored this option. However the information provided by Ed Polding DCC’s Highway Officer indicated that a VAS would be too costly and was not affordable by the Council. After some debate it was **RESOLVED** not to proceed further with this project due to cost. *Proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by the Vice-Chair*

25/09/17

PARISH MAINTENANCE: ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION AND UPDATE ON ITEMS REPORTED AND TO AGREE ANY FINANCIAL PROVISION (IF APPLICABLE)

1. Ivy around telegraph pole (DP 247) at the bottom of Rosemary Lane (reported by Lady Anne) - BT advised 27th July that it was not willing to come out as they considered ivy was not dangerous. They would only remove it in the event of works being required to the pole (and in

Initials.....

order to effect the works, the ivy would need to be removed). BT suggested the owner of the ivy should trim it back. The Clerk had looked at Land Registry records and it appeared that the land on which the pole was sited was not registered, so ownership was not known

2. Pot holes - Lady Anne was advised that all pot holes were reported to DCC by the Clerk. They had to meet a criteria to be repaired. If someone in the village was willing to volunteer as a road warden (which would mean being trained by DCC) he/she would then be insured to fill in minor pot holes etc. However previous requests by the Council for a road warden, had not generated any positive responses.
3. Village Green - Lady Anne requested that a section of the village green be used to widen Rosemary Lane in view of larger vehicles parking there and other vehicles having problems negotiating around them. Lady Anne was advised that as the Village Green was protected, then the Council would not be willing to follow up this suggestion
4. Water leak outside the toilets at Talaton Inn - reported to SWW by Clerk on 27th July. SWW advised that they would get one of their inspectors to investigate and carry out any necessary repairs. It was understood that SWW were currently carrying out works in the area and that there had been an unpleasant smell (presumably coming from the drains). It was understood that SWW was 'on the case'.
5. The overgrown hedge running from Bankside to Orchard Close had been reported to EDDC by the Clerk by email 27th July. EDDC advised 26th August 'An outside Contractor has been requested to cut this back as Streetscene do not have the capacity to undertake these works'. Cllr Walker advised that the work had still not been carried out.
6. Problem property at Hillside - garden overgrown etc – The Clerk requested on 27th July that EDDC should provide an update as to when the garden etc would be cleared. A further reminder was sent by Clerk on 13th August. EDDC advised 26th Aug 'it is with the voids team (Kim Slater) and we have requested to cut back the garden asap- Apologies for the delay.' The Vice-Chair was unhappy with this response. The Clerk would contact EDDC Cllr Jefferies to see if he could expedite matters
7. Broken manhole cover in road opposite Hillside – DCC advised that an assessment was being carried out
8. Network rail advised that the ivy growing on the brickwork of the railway bridge near the allotments presented no concerns and the next vegetation clearance would be in 2027
9. Ed Polding has advised that the verge running from Sunhaven to the Newtown junction did not qualify as a safety defect (height of grass) and no further action would be taken by DCC
10. A report on Talaton Talk advised that 'The rivets have come undone and it won't take much more wind to break' (in relation to the finger post at the Newtown Junction). The Clerk would relay this matter to DCC via its website

25/09/18

PLANNING MATTERS TO INCLUDE THE CONSIDERATION OF:-

25/1407/LBC - Mill Farm Fairmile Devon EX11 1LS - Aaron & Cheney Fairchild

Proposal: Re-render north, south, east and west elevations. Replace 1no. window (WG3) on ground floor north elevation; replace 2no. windows (WG1 and WG2) on ground floor and 3no. windows (WF1, WF2 and WF3) on first floor west elevation; replace 3no. windows (WG4, WG5 and WG6) on ground floor and 1no. window (WF4) on first floor south elevation

A site visit had taken place. Following this it was **RESOLVED** that the following comments be submitted to EDDC – 'Talaton Parish Council approves the application. We are happy to see that the concrete rendering is to be replaced with lime rendering. However in our opinion the windows desperately need replacing with suitable double glazed windows which are environmentally suitable and will also provide adequate sound proofing'

Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by the Vice-Chair

25/09/19

TO REPORT ANY DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL (INCLUDING PLANNING)

Paytherden Solar Farm and the lorries travelling through the village

The Clerk and Chair agreed that the matter should be reported to the Enforcement Officer which the Clerk had actioned under the Council's delegated authority. She is waiting a response. It was **AGREED** that the matter should be included on the October agenda for further consideration

Initials.....

25/09/20

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY (TO INCLUDE DEFIBS AND DETAILS OF JULY `DROP-IN`) FOR INFORMATION ONLY OR DISCUSSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

The Chair had checked the defib at the shop and it was found to be in good order. However following this inspection, the Clerk had been advised that the defib had been used and it would be necessary to check to see whether it was back in situ. The Vice-Chair would check and let the Clerk know. The Vice-Chair confirmed that she had checked the Newtown defib and that it was in good order. Matters pertaining to the July `Drop-In` had been previously discussed at this meeting

25/09/21

MATTERS OF URGENCY: ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE VICE-CHAIR'S DISCRETION

There were none

The Council went into Confidential Session to discuss the Clerk's salary

25/09/22

CLERK'S SALARY RE NALC AGREED SALARY INCREASE AND TO APPROVE (IF APPROPRIATE)

Details of the proposed salary and backpay had been emailed to councillors. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Clerk's new rate of pay and back pay due.

Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by the Vice-Chair

The Council then went back into Public Session

25/09/23

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1st October 25

25/09/24

CLOSE OF MEETING

20.40

SIGNATURE OF THE CHAIR	
DATE OF SIGNATURE	

Initials.....