SHALDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Committee Meeting
held at the Methodist Hall at 7 pm
Tuesday 27 January 2026

Committee: Cllr Danielle Westlake (DWest), Cllr Chris Clarance (CC), Cllr Andy Burnham (AB), Cllr Jo Cumbley (JC), Cllr Claire Stoyle (CS) & Cllr Lucy Bufton (LB)

Also attending: Nickie Hamblin (Clerk) Heather Horner, Devon County Councillor (HH)

1. **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:** for absence received prior to the meeting these are to be noted. **None.**

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** acknowledgement of any such interests received for any part of the agenda or any request for dispensation made prior to the meeting to the Clerk. CC declare an interest on item 11 boat renewal fees.

3. **RATIFICATION OF MINUTES** of Full Council meeting on. **Approved: - Propose**r: JC **Seconder**: .CS

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –** Members of the public to raise questions or make comment regarding any other activity, new or ongoing within the community. ***(5 minutes per person/question).***

Teign Heritage

Two representatives from Teign Heritage Museum outlined their primary aim: to increase public engagement with local heritage and promote related research. They have collaborated with Shaldon Wildlife and Labrador Bay to ensure Shaldon is represented in this work.

A £30,000 grant application has been submitted to the Arts Council (National Lottery) to install two new multimedia displays in the Teignmouth galleries—one with general information in the museum one in the upstairs gallery focused on the social history of Teignmouth and Shaldon. They noted a desire to create similar content for Shaldon, though suitable locations for multi-media have been difficult to identify.

As an alternative or complementary approach, they proposed developing a heritage trail for Shaldon. Existing boards exist at the Ness (WW2), King George V Field, and Homeyards; any new boards would be smaller, be placed on the flat, and also act as signposts to the existing boards. The trail would include photographs and contextual information similar to the boards in Teignmouth. A QR code linking to the Teign Heritage website would also be included.

Initial costing for designing and printing six boards is £3,000. Decisions are required on board locations, land ownership, permissions, and content. A walkaround to assess potential sites was suggested, with DW and LB expressing interest. The group will hear the outcome of the grant application by the end of March and it was agreed if successful to contact the Parish Council again to arrange a walkaround.

Public support will be important, and the TIC representative confirmed their willingness to be involved.

Resident.

A resident wished Councillors a Happy New Year and asked about the removal of bollards on Ringmore Road. The Council confirmed it was not involved; one resident had requested a single bollard be

removed through the County Council, but all were removed, creating a safety issue with cars mounting the narrow pavement. HH will investigate possible solutions. Additionally, CS noted that a large hedge on Ringmore Road further restricts pavement access. The Council agreed to write to the homeowner requesting the hedge be trimmed, with the Clerk tasked to prepare and send the letter.

5. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** See separate Agenda.

6. **CLERK'S REPORT:** Details will be available on website after the meeting. In addition JC raised the issue of a warning sign by the Village Shop, originally discussed at the end of last year. DW confirmed the owner had installed a window in the side wall, but JC noted a sign was still needed due to the danger of stepping directly into the road. DW will follow up with the owner by phone and if necessary by letter thereafter, and HH will investigate whether DCC can assist. The Clerk will email HH outlining the circumstances and preferred solution.

7. **FINANCE:**
   7.1 To agree Monthly Statement of Accounts for November and December (payments & receipts) – **Agreed.**
   7.2 To agree payments to approve invoices and future payments. **Agreed**
   7.3 Approve and issue a precept demand to the collecting authority Teignbridge District Council as recommended by the Finance Committee meeting held on 12 November 2024 and Full Council at meeting held on 25 November 2025. **Agreed unanimously**.

8. **TEIGN HERITAGE** – To discuss and decide if the Council wish to support the Heritage Trail Boards proposed by the Museum to be installed in February 2027 – **Agreed unanimously.** Representatives to email the Clerk and set out what they would require in a letter of support from the Council.

9. **TORQUAY CUSTODY SUITE 'PILOT' CLOSURE.** To ratify the decision made by Councillors, by email, in December to write to the Chief Constable urging him to re-consider such a 'pilot 'closure **Agreed unanimously.**

10. **DONATION FOR SHALDON SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TREE.** To ratify the decision made by Councillors, by email, in December to donate to the cost of the tree. **Agreed unanimously**. Clerk informed the Council that despite reminding the school she had still not received bank details to be able to make the donation.

11. **BOAT RENEWAL FEES 2025.** To discuss the outcome of enforcement notices placed on boats in December expiring on 9 January and actions arising going forward - The Clerk reported that only one individual has refused to pay the required fees and has initiated a claim against the Council via the Stafford-based online pilot scheme for small claims. As the matter is not straightforward, the Council has requested that the case be transferred to Torquay and Newton Abbot Court.

    CC queried the legal costs incurred to date (approximately £3,500) and whether these were expected to rise. The Clerk confirmed that costs would increase to approximately £10,000 if the case proceeded to a full hearing, though these costs would be recoverable from the Claimant should the Council be successful. The legal budget for 2026/27 has been adjusted accordingly.

    The Clerk reiterated that the Council cannot provide any benefit to an individual or group that is not equally available to others. It was noted that the boat owners claiming prescriptive rights have not made any application to the Land Registry to formalise such rights despite being advised to do so. If outstanding fees remain unpaid by the end of March, enforcement notices may be issued on the boats.

    It was further agreed to review the Sailing Club lease, specifically the clause relating to separate arrangements, and that the Beach Committee would take this forward.

12. **WATER FOUNTAIN.** To discuss and decide if to apply for the grant from Devon County Council to enable the installation of a water fountain. Sea-Changers Coastal Fountain Fund 2026 - Devon Funding News - JC reported that only two potential locations for a water tap had been identified. The playground site has no existing pipework, and installing new services would be prohibitively expensive. The alternative option would be to use one of the beach taps near the Ferry Shelter, but responsibility and ownership of those taps is unclear. The Council would need to fund a water fountain upfront costing up to £2,500 and reclaim the amount through a grant. It was agreed that the project would not be taken forward at this time.

13. **NESS LIGHTS.** If testing has taken place to discuss and decide how to proceed on the basis of the results of such testing - CC reported having contacted the manager at JN Builders, who supplied the lighting. The only way to confirm functionality is to switch the lights on shortly before Easter and leave them operating. Following recent storm damage, all lights on the seaward pylon are now pointing downward and one of the three lights has broken off. CC noted that the brackets are not stainless steel, the electrical cable has been pulled out, and significant work would be required on the seaward pylon. CC also confirmed he has one sealed LED light available at home.

    An initial investigation is required to understand the cabinet setup, including whether there are separate fuses for each pylon. There is broad support for reinstating the lights and replacing the brackets with stainless steel, but costings need to be established.

    As no decision has yet been made in the 2026 budget, it was agreed that an inspection and assessment should be undertaken first, with costs and future requirements to be reported back before any commitment is made. **The Council approved** the initial investigation and associated costs. CC will lead on this work, with unanimous support.

14. **SHALDON IN BLOOM** – To discuss and agree the application form prepared by Cllr Westlake. DW reported that entry this year is free; otherwise the cost would have been £50. Judging will take place between 1–21 July, with an appointment to be arranged for a village walkaround. Judges will visit existing community projects including St Nicholas Churchyard, Homeyards, the village green and all Council maintained flowerbeds. DW noted that judging reflects not only planting standards but wider community involvement.

    JC suggested approaching the current flower supplier to explore whether they might offer discounted flower boxes or hanging baskets for residents, similar to an arrangement previously made during Regatta. It was proposed that this could be publicised; however, the Clerk advised that the Council cannot promote one business over another, though individual residents may make private approaches.

    It was agreed that the Council will submit the application.

15. **TORQUAY ROAD TRAFFIC LIGHTS** – To discuss and decide if any further pressure can be put on DCC Highways to resolve this matter. HH reported on ongoing discussions with the Director of Climate and Environment (Highways) and the Director of Legal Services regarding the unresolved structural issue. Design engineers have visited the site and undertaken bore testing, and the property owner has been in contact with them. Although the expected repair timeframe is now projected for the summer, HH has pressed for completion by February or at least by the end of March ahead of the holiday season. There has been no recent communication from Highways, despite repeated requests.

    The property owner is keen for the work to proceed but requires clear communication, particularly as costs continue to rise and further deterioration is possible. Engineers have advised the owner that the condition will not improve while the structure remains open. The estimated cost is £100,000+, and temporary traffic lights will remain in place until it is done which is additional cost.

Questions over ownership persist: the owner's legal advisers confirm the structure is not on his title, DCC has previously stated it does not belong to them, and TDC also deny responsibility. DCC has indicated it will undertake the repair and resolve ownership and cost liability afterwards.

JC asked what support the Parish Council could offer and suggested increasing public pressure, including organising a public event (such as a "second birthday party" marking two years since the issue arose) and engaging the media. HH emphasised that Highways holds an £87m repair budget and that stronger pressure from the Parish Council would be helpful. It was agreed that escalating public awareness should be explored, and HH would follow this up with the Parish Council to see what could be done but liked the idea of a birthday party.

16. **BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS –** To discuss the impact of Teignmouth Town Council pulling its support, financially and logistically, for the annual joint Teignmouth and Shaldon Bonfire and Fireworks. To decide upon potential strategies moving forward and the wording for a social media, Facebook, post - Councillors expressed disappointment that Teignmouth has withdrawn support for the event but agreed to continue exploring ways to deliver it despite several significant challenges. A possible alternative is hiring a barge to position in the river for the display; AB will investigate costs. The primary concern is crowd management, since the Council would still be responsible for controlling crowds at the Point and potentially the bridge, even if the event is not held at the Point. This would require external contractors and increase costs.

    JC and the Clerk will determine the Council's obligations under both scenarios by consulting TDC, TSAG, and the Harbour Master before the next committee meeting on 17 March 2026. RP will provide JC with a Dartmouth Harbour contact to learn how they manage crowds for fireworks on both riverbanks. JC will also produce a shorter, clearer Facebook update outlining the difficulties the Council now faces, to be posted by week's end.

17. **UPDATES: The following updates in these areas are now available on the website, unless otherwise stated below, together with the minutes and will not be gone through at the meeting.**

    - Harbour Commission/Consultative Group – Cllr Stoyle – no report.
    - Botanical Gardens – Cllr Westlake – report available on website.
    - Playpark – Cllr Cumbley – no report.
    - Bonfire & Fireworks Event– No report on Agenda.
    - Green Spaces in Village – Cllr Westlake. No report.
    - 20 mph limit for village – Cllr Westlake. No report but the group is looking at cutting costs.
    - Stakeholders Meeting re: Teign Estuary Water Quality – Cllr Westlake – report available on the website.

18. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**. Available on website after meeting.

19. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**. Available on website after meeting.

20. **DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING –** 24 February 2026.

21. **ADDITIONAL URGENT MATTER – STATE OF THE BEACH AFTER RECENT STORM CHANDRA.** The storm of recent days has left a lot of debris and the very large tree trunks up and down the beach. DW thanked residents who had helped clear debris from the beach. A volunteer noted a large amount of polystyrene, which is hard to dispose of and harmful to the river and sea, as well as many small plastic particles. It was decided to leave the beach for now, as upcoming high tides and winter storms are likely to move or undo any clean-up efforts. A beach clean will be scheduled after the last two high tides in March. Additionally, the drop from the promenade to the beach has been reported to TDC as a potential hazard, and TDC confirmed it is their responsibility to manage any public warnings.

PART 2

1. Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt/confidential information.

2. Transfer of Assets by Teignbridge District Council – Update from the Working Group to Councillors. Clerk updated the Councillors on progress and next Working Group meeting was booked in the diary.

Approved & Signed …… Dated ……
Danielle Westlake
Chairperson