SHALDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at the Methodist Hall at 7 pm Tuesday 24 March 2026

Present: Councillors Danielle Westlake (Chair), Chris Clarance, Jo Cumbley, Claire Stoyle, Lucy Bufton, Richard Perks, Parish Clerk, 7 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES:** Councillor Andy Burnham, Councillor Heather Horner (DCC)

2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** Councillor L Bufton declared an interest in agenda items 12 and 14. Councillor Clarance declared an interest in agenda items 10 and 14

3. **RATIFICATION OF MINUTES** It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 24 February 2026 which were confirmed as a true and correct record.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** Councillor Cumbley reported that the IFCA are drafting a byelaw to control cockle picking. There will be a public consultation. It was agreed that the Parish Council write a letter of support.

   Councillor Westlake confirmed there will be a PACT meeting at the Methodist Hall 25 March 10.30-11.30 am.

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

6. **CLERK'S REPORT:** The Clerks report had been circulated and was noted.

7. **FINANCE:**
   7.1 It was resolved to agree the Monthly Statement of Accounts for February (payments & receipts).
   7.2 To agree payments to approve invoices and future payments. Agreed
   7.3 It was resolved to adopt the Risk Assessment that had been circulated.

8. **TRANSFER OF ASSETS - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**. A presentation on the possible Public Toilets Acquisition was given by Councillor Perks. It was resolved to express an interest in the Ness and Strand toilets to TDC.

9. **TRANSFER OF ASSETS – NO INTEREST**. It was resolved not to express an interest in the other assets that had been offered from TDC.

10. **DINGHIES - OUTCOME OF CLAIM AGAINST THE COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO DINGHY.** The claim had been withdrawn. The following statement was read out by DW regarding the above:

    "After receiving the Court Order dated 9 February 2026, transferring this matter to the County Court at Torquay and Newton Abbot for a hearing, the individual who made the claim informed the SPC solicitor that he wished to now withdraw it and so end the legal proceedings against SPC in which he had sought to establish a formal right to store his boat on Shaldon Beach through long use.

    In response our solicitor informed the claimant that the Council had a strong defence to his claim and believed that he would not be able to establish in law the storage rights he sought. To protect village funds against him making similar unfounded claims in the future, the Council was only prepared to waive its entitlement to recover costs in circumstances where it is absolutely clear that there can be no further attempts made by him to claim a formal Right of Storage on the Beach. This would include via any future Court Proceedings and also any Application to HM Land Registry. The claimant agreed to this and has now

declared in writing ***that he does not have, and has not acquired, an easement or right of storage on Shaldon Beach, through prescription, long user or otherwise.*** *The Council also required him to make payment of the outstanding £70.00 Licence Fee for the calendar year 2025 as part of any resolution of the Court Proceedings.*

The agreement has now been signed by both the claimant and the Council and the payment of £70 for 2025 has been received by the Clerk. This matter is now closed and no further action can be taken concerning the above.

Despite the withdrawal of this claim at an early stage, the total legal costs SPC has incurred defending it are ***£2,107.00 + VAT.***

The deadline for payment and signing the 2026 terms and conditions is 27.3.26. There are currently 21 payments o/s.

11. **BOATS BEING STORED ON THE HIGHWAY**. The dinghy on the roadway on The Green has been removed. The boat on bricks by Sunny Patch will remain pending further exploration of alternatives. Cllr Westlake will be meeting Cllr Heather Horner & liaising with Highways to look at the options.

12. **RIVER TEIGN ROWING CLUB COASTAL REGATTA**. It was resolved to approve the request for the use of the beach for the Regatta on the 9 May. The Clerk has received the insurance and risk assessment.

13. **BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS EVENT.** Councillor Cumbley gave a summary of the Bonfire and Firework Committee meeting. It was resolved to go ahead with the event using the Point as the firing location for the fireworks and it will be held on 31 October 2026 with a Halloween Theme.

14. **ACTIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE BEACH COMMITTEE**. It was resolved to approve the recommendations and Terms of Reference for the Committee. It was agreed to accept the following annual fee proposal for SSC boats - this should be set against whatever the current dinghy fee is at the time on the rest of Shaldon Beach with the reduction of 30% so for example for 2026 year the fee would be £50 per boat. It was also agreed that the sailing club would be invoiced in the future for 40 boats.

15. **TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON TORQUAY ROAD AND ACTION.** No response had been received from DCC on how the work would affect traffic control. It was agreed that the work should be completed in September to minimise any effect on summer holiday traffic.

    Councillor C Stoyle left the meeting.

16. **MEMORIAL BENCH THE GREEN –** It was agreed to accept the proposal that had been circulated for a 10-year agreement at a cost £2,035 in line with TDC.

17. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.** It was agreed to invite those that had received a grant in 2025/2026 to the meeting on the 12 May as well as DCC to provide an update about the road.

18. **UPDATES: The following updates in these areas are now available on the website, unless otherwise stated below**

    - Harbour Commission/Consultative Group – Cllr Stoyle – no update.
    - Botanical Gardens – Cllr Westlake – Available on website after meeting.
    - Playpark – Cllr Cumbley – No update.
    - Bonfire & Fireworks Event– Cllr Burnham – See Agenda Item.
    - Green Spaces in Village – Cllr Westlake – Available on website after meeting.

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

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

21. **DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING –** 28 April 2026.

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. **Appointment of Clerk/RFO to replace current Clerk**. It was resolved to appoint L Storey as Clerk/RFO with effect from 20 April 2026.

Approved & Signed …… **Dated ……**
Danielle Westlake
Chairperson