SHALDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held in the Methodist Hall at 6.30 pm Tuesday 12 May 2026.

Councillors Present: Danielle Westlake (Chair), Chris Clarance, Andy Burnham, Jo Cumbley, Lucy Bufton, Claire Stoyle, Councillor H Horner, 5 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES** – Councillor R Perks

2. **RATIFICATION OF MINUTES** of Annual Parish Meeting on 13 May 2025. **Agreed unanimously.**

3. **ANNUAL REPORTS**

Councillor D Westlake - Chair

What a year!
At the start of May last year we were riding high after the official opening of the new Playpark.
In June following refusal to pay the increased amount for dinghies on the beach to £70 by about 17 people and before the parish council deciding whether to renew The Beach Lease with TDC a vote was taken to hold a community Public meeting to gauge opinion. A small minority dominated the meeting making it difficult for all views to be heard. So a decision was taken that the community could write in and give their opinions and the full council having considered all opinions in a fair manner, voted by a majority to continue with the lease for the time being and to continue with the request for £70 per dinghy unless Prescriptive rights could be proved by owners, in the interests of fairness.
Cllr Palmer resigned leading to a Casual vacancy. 2 candidates came forwards potentially provoking an election. One Candidate withdrew- leaving Cllr Richard Perks to be elected unopposed. He took up post from September 2025.
With one final payment still outstanding, enforcement action on a single dinghy was started and then suspended when a legal claim was presented by the dinghy owner. The council chose by a majority to respond legally to this action. The litigant subsequently withdrew their claim and paid for their space. This year we have received all payments, save for a couple who have lodged a claim with the land registry – we still await the outcome of these claims.
TDC announced after a study that they would be shutting some public toilets across the district from April 27 when the Unitary Shadow Authority would come into operation. The Strand Toilets in Shaldon were earmarked for closure. We sprung into action and within under 2 weeks had a petition of nearly 3500 signatures to " Save Shaldon's Toilets From Closure". Nothing has united this community like toilets it would seem!
SPC sent representatives to the TDC Council Meeting to present the petition and following the chamber vote the result was a majority to keep all toilets open until April 2027 and after which communities would be encouraged to take on their own toilets. Shaldon Toilets ended up making BBC Local News and then BBC National Breakfast news a few days later! SPC have so far expressed an interest to TDC in respect of assets of the Ness Toilets and The Strand Toilets and are currently carrying out investigations to determine realistic costs and variables for future operation. No further decisions have yet been made.
Early November saw a very successful Bonfire and Fireworks event. However we were upset in December to learn that Teignmouth Town Council (TTC) no longer wished to continue with the joint venture of this. SPC were determined that we should try and continue independent of TTC. Having had offers of support from Teignmouth folks and with a small buffer financially from previous years donations, it was decided we could manage to hold the event again by ourselves this coming year.
Autumn also saw our youngest councillor Lucy Bufton and partner Daniel welcome Baby Bonnie. This is the first time that a sitting councillor from SPC has had a baby and we are so grateful that Lucy, almost without a break in service is still a fully operational member of our council. Bravo Lucy, we are immensely proud of Bonnie and yourself.

February saw us mark the 2nd anniversary of the road and embankment collapse and the not so temporary traffic lights with a tongue in cheek party with cake. Within a week our county Cllr Heather Horner had the news that DCC will be carrying out repair works.
The council voted unanimously to enter the Village for the 2026 SW in Bloom Competion and we are hopeful that when the judging occurs in July we will be successful for our first entry in over 20 years.
We continue to use Boyces for our planted areas and are helped maintain these as well as lengthsman duties by John & Barry of Barton Landscapes. Richard Turner assists with mowing on a regular basis.
We said farewell to Nicola Hamelin at our April Council Meeting. Nicola joined SPC nearly 4 years ago as a new clerk and has made the role her own and brought us up to date with all local government policies and kept us on the straight and narrow. We have had a seamless transition to our new clerk Ms Laura Storey, who joins us with many years' experience as a CILCA qualified clerk. Welcome Laura. We feel very fortunate to have found someone so swiftly – Clerks are hard to come by!
Finally,
We meet today fresh off an incredible beach Reprofiling and clear up. Shaldon folks all coming together when needed – the beach is looking amazing and we are so grateful for everyone's help.
A great way to end this year!

Councillor A Burnham – Planning

Planning applications have remained consistent throughout the year. A number of new residents have moved into the parish and undertaken improvements to their properties. There have also been instances of unauthorised works, which have been investigated and followed up by the Council where appropriate.

Councillor J Cumbley - Vice Chair- Play Park report

Councillor Cumbley Chairperson of Playpark. I am happy to report that we are now at the end of the first year since the fully renovated Playpark opened its gates and that, as hoped, it is firmly established at the heart of our community. In stark contrast to how little it was used before the renovation, lots of local children now regularly play in there before and after school and at weekends, with their numbers increased hugely by families visiting from outside the village specifically to play there over holiday periods. The playpark has brought life to the Ringmore end of the village, increasing the use of the playing fields alongside the playpark and enticing families to take advantage of the new coffee shop and reopened Shipwright's Arms.

The one year full warranty on parts and labour for the playpark equipment is now at an end and, although the equipment itself is still covered under warranties of varying lengths, we have negotiated an annual contract at a fixed price for the next 3 years to cover its maintenance. All the equipment will be inspected at quarterly intervals by the company who originally installed it, Rhinoplay, with bolts and screws etc tightened or replaced where necessary. In addition, an inspector for RoSPA carried out our first full annual inspection of all the equipment in March, passing it with only minor recommendations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllrs Stoyle and Bufton who between them continue to undertake weekly inspections in the playpark and report to the Clerk, thus enabling us to have an efficient early warning system in place for the identification of any issues.

It is also right that our thanks should again go to the brilliant Alison Melville – Shreeve who continues to keep a watchful eye on the new trees and shrubs planted in the playpark early last year, and to maintain our very attractive natural willow "wigwam", which is much loved by younger children. The planting of the wigwam, alongside the improved drainage provision around certain pieces of equipment, has helped the park be generally much less muddy than before and remain usable even when the weather has been as horribly rainy as it was over the Winter and early Spring.

All in all, a very successful year in the playpark – thank you to everyone who has visited and supported it.

Councillor A Burnham – Bonfire & Fireworks

Volunteers have rallied together to ensure this annual event can still take place following Teignmouth Town Council's decision not to provide financial or logistical support this year.
Due to tidal conditions, the event will be held on 31 October. The bonfire will be constructed using pallets rather than materials donated by village residents.The event will operate across two sites and is being project managed by ITUS to ensure it is delivered safely and effectively.

This remains a free community event, and organisers hope to secure sponsorship for future years to help support its continued success.

Councillor D Westlake – Finance

The Parish Council accounts have recently been audited and are in a healthy position.

4. **DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor H Horner – DCC

Chair, councillors, and residents—thank you for inviting me to give my County Councillor update this evening.
Devon County Council is now in year two of its four-year term. Later this month, at the County Council AGM, leadership roles and committee places will be confirmed and we will continue delivering the 2025–2029 Strategic Plan.
The biggest pressures remain adult social care and children's services. Demand keeps rising, and to protect essential services while still investing in roads, schools and infrastructure, the Council's financial plan includes increased borrowing.
Borrowing is expected to rise from £474 million in 2024 to a projected £558 million by March next year—money that ultimately has to be repaid by residents and taxpayers.
In practice, that means tighter choices and less flexibility: beyond the essentials, improvements must be prioritised and can take longer than we would like. So let me briefly focus on what that means for Shaldon.

What this means for Shaldon
When budgets are tight, services do not usually stop—but timescales lengthen, priorities narrow, and capacity is stretched. For Shaldon, there are four areas residents tend to notice most.
First: highways—especially the A379 and our local roads. Safety-critical repairs come first, but routine maintenance like potholes, drainage and gully clearance is under constant pressure, so non-urgent repairs can be deferred.
On the long-running A379 wall repair, it has taken more than two years to reach delivery and I am continuing to press to keep it moving— including practical issues like access arrangements with the Old Toll House.
Second: flooding, drainage and environmental resilience. Preventative works—like drainage improvements and flood-mitigation—are often hardest to fund in a tight budget, even though they can save disruption and cost in the long run.
And while responses to pollution incidents and water-quality concerns still happen, longer-term solutions often rely on partnership working and external funding.
Third: public transport and accessibility. Rural and coastal bus provision—especially evenings and weekends—remains fragile, and budget pressure limits the County Council's ability to support marginal routes.
Fourth: community projects. Locality budgets still exist, but they are limited—so the best chance of support is where priorities are clear, costs are modest, and the community benefit is well evidenced.
Finally: capacity and response times. Even where funding exists, officer time is limited, which affects response times and follow-up—particularly on complex highways and environmental issues. Clear reporting and persistence from residents and the Parish Council really helps.
To close: I will continue to make sure Shaldon is not overlooked. But in the current financial climate we should expect safety-critical work to come first, bigger projects to take longer and need sustained pressure, and preventative or discretionary improvements to be harder to secure.
Thank you. Please do keep raising issues with me—I'm happy to take questions now, or to speak with anyone afterwards.

5. TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor C Clarance - TDC

The transfer of assets from TDC is progressing as they try to balance their books for the future. The floodlighting on the Ness is trying to get going however it has been impacted by the cliff fall. There has been a 2.9% rise in Council Tax. The Local plan revision has been adopted. Shaldon is surrounded by the undeveloped coast to which helps safeguard the area from development.

6. Michelle Smith, Management Partner from the Doctors Surgery gave an update on the latest developments. Michelle confirmed that the doctors don't own the building and the lease expires 2028. There will be a note going in the Parish magazine. There are 8 sites to be managed.

7. **SPECIAL INTEREST REPORTS** from Organisations who have links with the village and have benefitted from grants given by the Council:

    - Over 60s Club – The Hub – No report
    - Shaldon Bowling Club – No report
    - Teign Sea Scouts – No report

    - Tourist Information Cabin – The AGM was successful and included a few new recruits. We have improved the cabin. Numbers have dwindled however we continue to be self-sufficient for another 12 months.

    - St. Nicholas churchyard working party - The Parish Council kindly gave us a sum of money to purchase hand tools for use at our monthly gatherings at St Nicholas churchyard. Kneelers, leaf grabbers, secateurs and loppers were the kinds of things we purchased with the grant. The tools have been an enormous help and besides the gift itself we were touched that the Parish Council were giving us the encouragement that small community groups like ours need. The churchyard is not just a church-space, it is a community space and is place where many come to pay their respects to loved ones, or just take a stroll around as they walk their dog. Our aim was to bring tidiness and order to an overgrown churchyard and we felt encouraged that the Parish Council have supported us in this endeavour. Thank you so much, Nia Pearson.

    - Friends of Shaldon Botanical Gardens - Alison Melville-Shreeve reported that we meet every week day morning. Every Tuesday a group from school who rotate every 6 weeks attend. We received £250 to buy tools which are being well used.

    - RBL Shaldon - Tim reported that this year marks the centenary of the Shaldon branch and gave a historical overview. The community have supported the branch including what has become the water carnival. We are looking for new recruits. Councillor Westlake gave thanks on behalf of the Parish Council.

8. **FRIENDS OF THE RIVER TEIGN**

Interim Project Report to Shaldon Parish Council. *A full report will be available later in the year.*

Project Status — Green Overall, the project is progressing as planned and its scope has expanded significantly.

Funding — Green

Thanks to the funding from Shaldon Parish Council, we have secured:
- One Bactiquick testing device
- 30 tests at the available promotional price

Additional funding has also been secured:
- £500 from Bishopsteignton Parish Council for further testing
- £885 raised through our own fundraising activities.

In addition:
- We have secured the loan of an additional Bactiquick device for August
- Discounts on further testing supplies
- Applications for further funding have been submitted to:
    - Teignmouth Town Council
    - Teign Estuary Partnership
    - Local councillors' locality budgets

Project Design — Green
In light of the increased funding and support secured, the scope of the project has been expanded to include daily testing at four locations :

- Shaldon
- Combe Cellars
- Teignmouth Back Beach
- Teignmouth Front Beach

31 tests at each location during August.
Purchase of a further Bactiquick device

We have also secured, free of charge:
- Additional screening for *E. coli* and Intestinal enterococci
- DNA testing to provide further supporting data.

We are discussing with the Environment Agency the provision of salinity testing equipment. These additions will significantly increase both the depth and quantity of the data collected. We are working on testing protocols.

Risk — Amber
The principal risks identified at this stage are:
- Increased complexity arising from the expanded scope of the project
- Recruitment of additional volunteers to ensure successful delivery

Further volunteer support will be important to maintaining the testing schedule and overall resilience of the project.

Other Updates
- The Gales Hill issue has been successfully resolved.
  Charitable status has now been secured for Friends of the River Teign.

9. **GRAEME SMITH, TEIGNBRIDGE COASTAL OFFICER** gave an overview of the Teignmouth Beach Management Plan. A reminder that the Teign Estuary and Coastal partnership have a grant scheme.

10. **OPEN FORUM.** A parishioner raised concerns about dog poo. The Parish Council agreed to contract the dog warden.

11. **DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**: 11 May 2027 7.00 pm