Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council
Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 10 November 2026 at 7.30 pm at Woodah Farm

Present: Cllr C Wood (Chairman), Cllr H Brook, Cllr R Crocker, Cllr D'Aubney, Cllr K Salter, District Cllr A Swain (until item 4) and A Miller (Clerk)

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Cllr Newton-Humes sent his apologies.

2 Declarations of Interest / Requests for Dispensations

None.

Open Forum
None.

3 County and District Councillors' and Police Reports

District Cllr Swain reported that after the central government paused the local government reorganization in Devon, the district council elections will go ahead in May 2027, but the length of the new district councillors' term is uncertain.
It is expected that there will be an election in 2028 for the mayor of the combined authority of Devon, Torbay and Plymouth.
Residents on low income can apply to Teignbridge District Council for financial help with heating oil costs on the District Council's website: https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/financial-help/crisis-and-resilience-fund/heating-oil-financial-support/

4 To Receive a Report About the Four Parishes Meeting in October 2026

Cllr Crocker reported about the four parishes meeting, which was held in October with representatives from Christow, Bridford, Dunsford and Doddiscombsleigh:
These meetings are held annually or biannually to discuss issues which affect several parishes in the Teign Valley. It is very useful for communication between parishes.
Among the topics discussed were planning issues, streetlights, dark skies, possible energy and money saving measures.
There is a community policeman every second month at Christow at the community shop.
Residents of the Teign Valley, including Doddiscombsleigh, can meet with the policeman and discuss issues in the area.
A possibility to link the four parishes' website to inform residents about events in the area was discussed.

5 Ratification of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved The Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting of 15 September 2026 were unanimously accepted as a true record.
The Chair signed the Minutes.

6 Councillor Vacancy and Co-option and a Review of Councillor's Responsibilities

Resolved The Parish Council reviewed the responsibility areas and agreed that Cllr D'Aubney will be the contact with the Church, help with the Parish Path Partnership scheme and finance.

7 To Discuss the Replacement of the Notice Board at the Triangle

Resolved The Parish Council agreed to order a new notice board in light oak from Greenbarns.co.uk and use Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money to fund the project.

8 Planning

8.1 To Note Planning Decisions

The Parish Council noted the following decisions:
26/00933/FUL The Nobody Inn – Siting of two glamping pods on land in ancillary use to Nobody Inn public house – permission granted
26/01477/EXMPTC St Michaels Church, Ivy - Sever at base and strip pole as much as safely possible – approved
26/01478/EXMPTC Tanglewood – Tree works in conservation area – approved
26/01482/EXMPTC Shippen Barton Ivy - Sever at base and strip pole – approved

Regarding the application at item 8.2, its status is 'pending consideration' on the District Council website, but according to the acknowledgement letter, if the Planning Authority does not give feedback before 28 October 2026, the project can go ahead. There was no sign of objection or request for further information on the website before the deadline, so the application can be considered approved.

8.2 To Discuss a Planning Application

26/01534/AGR Sheldon - Small timber feed store with open front for storing hay and concentrate feed
See item 8.1.

8.3 To Receive an Update from the Local Plan Working Group

None.

9 To Discuss Highways Issues

9.1 To Receive a Highways Update

<u>Road Warden Scheme</u>

- The tarmac received from Devon County Council needs to be used up in December 2026. Cllr Brook to organize the work. It was agreed to prioritize the road from the school towards Sheldon.
- All the councillors agreed to participate in Devon County Council's training program for road warden scheme volunteers and watch the core training video. It was discussed who has chapter 8 training within the community to help with pothole filling.

Lengthsman Work

- Strimming work was carried out in September.
- Drain clearing work was carried out at the end of October, but the Parish Council has not received an invoice yet.
- The lengthsman gave an estimate of £160+VAT for the raised footpath repair between the church and the pub, which can be paid from CIL money.
  Resolved The Parish Council agreed to order the repair work.
  The Parish Council agreed to position a reflective sign to the church end of the path.

20 Is Plenty Campaign

The Parish Council will return to the topic later.

School Warning Sign and Overgrown Vegetation

A resident drew the Parish Council's attention to the fact that the flashing warning sign before the school did not work. Previously the Parish Council had reported the problem to Devon Highways, and they replaced the battery in the solar panel unit, but this has not solved the problem. The solar panel is under overgrown vegetation, on an unregistered land.
Resolved The Council agreed to ask Devon Highways to cut back the tree shading the solar panel and repair the warning light.

9.2 To Receive a Parish Path Partnership and Footpath Update

None.

10 To Discuss Finance

10.1 To Receive a Finance Report, Approve the Bank Reconciliation and Note the Budget – Actual Comparison

The total bank balance on 31 October 2026 was £24,117.94. After deducting the amount of earmarked funds and grants, the general reserve was £12,107.49.
Since the last meeting, the second part of the precept £4,670 and a community infrastructure levy (CIL) of £494.67 was credited in the current account and an interest of £92.41 was credited in the savings account.
The Parish Council noted the finance report for 31 October 2026 and the budget – actual comparison for 30 September 2026.
Resolved The Parish Council approved the bank reconciliation for 30 September 2026.

10.2 To Review the Banking Arrangements

In line with the new bank mandate agreed in September 2026, Cllr D'Aubney has been provided access to the online banking system and now he can approve payments.
The Clerk reminded the councillors who did not have access to the online platform to contact the bank and restore their access to the system.

10.3 To Discuss How to Use Up the CIL Fund

The CIL fund on 31 October 2026 was £7,863.
The Parish Council has to spend a minimum of £2,415 by the end of this financial year, or the District Council can ask the amount to be paid back.
Minimum an additional £1,014 has to be spent on qualifying projects in each of the next two financial years.
Currently the following project ideas are supported by the District Council:

Replacement of the notice board at the Triangle. The expected cost is £2600 + delivery and installation cost.
Raised footpath repair £160+VAT.
The District Council would also support the replacement of the gateway signs in the village. Depending on the design, the signs can cost £600-£900 each.
The Parish Council agreed to replace the notice board and order the raised footpath repair but did not support the replacement of the gateway signs.
It was agreed to gather the opinion of residents about possible qualifying infrastructure projects. The item will be on the agenda for January 2027.

10.4 To Discuss Possible Project Ideas for the 2026/27 Budget

A possibility of a permanent council address was discussed, with a post-box located in the bus shelter, but the Parish Council did not support the change.
No other projects were recommended.

10.5 To Approve Payments

Venue hire 10 November 2026 £10.00
Unity Bank fee Aug – Sep 2026 £14.00
Card monthly fee Sep - Oct 2026 £6.00
Office mobile phone top up Oct - Nov 2026 £10.00
Lengthsman fee September 2026 £84.00
Clerk's salary and expenses Jul – Sep 2026 £1,027.35
New councillor training – Cllr D'Aubney £18.00
Planning training for the Clerk - Devon CPRE £15.00
Resolved The Council unanimously approved the payments.

11 Clerk's Correspondence

Defibrillator training on 11 November 2026 at the pub. Cllr Brook agreed to welcome the trainer and the participants.
Cllrs Brook, Wood and D'Aubney agreed to help with publishing of agendas and draft minutes on the parish notice board.
The Parish Council agreed to a two-week leave for the Clerk in December.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting of 12 January 2027

13 Councillors' and Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman thanked everybody for their participation. Special thanks to the volunteers who maintained the Triangle and decorated it for Remembrance Sunday.
The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.24 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman
Date

DRAFT