

MINUTES POUGHILL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Village Hall at 7:30 pm on Thursday 10th March 2026

Attendees: Cllr Wellerd (Chair), DCllr Colthorpe, Cllr Clark, Cllr English, Cllr Wild.

1. Members of Public: None.

2. Apologies: CCllr Keeble.

3. Declaration of Interests: Cllr Wellerd and Cllr Wild declared an interest in 6.2

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

4.1 Minutes from the meeting held on 08th January 2026 were approved.

5. Actions from January Meeting.

5.1 Streetlight No. 6 - DCC responded that they cannot make exceptions to the time at which streetlights are turned off. No further action.

5.2 Tomb in church yard - Some repointing has been carried out. No further action.

6. Finance.

6.1 Notification of payments and receipts since the last meeting and current financial status.

The Current Account balance at 01/03/2026 is £2,727.83, plus £1,685.93 in the Instant Access Savings Account.

Date	Details	Interest	Receipt	Payment	Savings Balance	Balance
					£1,684.31	£3,201.15
09-Jan	Service Charges			£4.25		
09-Jan	Interest		£0.86			
14-Jan	Thornes Farm Shop - Newsletter Sales			£2.21		
14-Jan	CF Community Shop - News Letter Sales			£2.39		
02-Feb	D Kingdon			£126.04		
02-Feb	HMRC - PAYE			£31.40		
09-Feb	Service Charges			£4.25		
09-Feb	Interest		0.76			
12-Feb	Value Products			£68.54		
17-Feb	D Kingdon			£126.04		
17-Feb	HMRC - PAYE			£31.40		
18-Feb	Hedgerow Print Ltd			£86.00		
	Balance				£1,685.93	£2,727.83

6.2 A grant to Poughill Village Hall for £400.00 has been approved – Proposed Cllr Colthorpe, Seconded Cllr English.

7. Governance

7.1 The Freedom of Information Policy V2 has been reviewed and remains unchanged.

7.2 The Grant Giving Policy V0.3 has been adopted and approved – Proposed Cllr Wellerd, Seconded Cllr Wild

7.3 Dates for Parish Council Meetings for 2026/27, First Thursday every 2 months agreed

8. District Councillor/County Councillor report.

8.1 District Report – A full council meeting was held last Wednesday evening to approve the council tax increase of 2.9%, the increase was approved.

Crediton and Tiverton leisure centres were going to install lifts, to help disabled people and people who are not as able-bodied as once they were, get in and out of the pool safely. They are also looking to change its tennis courts to padel courts.

A business rates drop-in day at Phoenix House was held in February; to reassure businesses they could talk to our finance people and understand what their own business rates were likely to look like as a result of the increases. It was quite successful and quite a number of people did come and all those who did were able to go away reassured about how much it was actually going to cost them.

8.2 County Report – See report below.

9. Newsletter

9.1 A proposal was made to produce the parish newsletter electronically from June 2027 issue onwards, it was decided to let people know through the newsletter and Facebook and see what feedback comes back.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Next meeting – 07th May 2026

Clr Steve Keable

March 2026

Devon County Councillors Report - Creedy, Taw & Mid Exe:

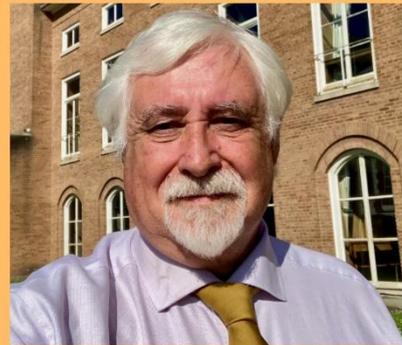
Bickleigh • Brushford • Cadbury • Cadeleigh • Chawleigh • Cheriton Fitzpaine • Coldridge • Cruwys
Morchard • Down St. Mary • Eggesford • Kennerleigh • Lapford • Morchard Bishop • Newton St. Cyres •
Nymet Rowland • Poughill • Puddington • Sandford • Shobrooke • Silverton • Stockleigh English •
Stockleigh Pomeroy • Thelbridge • Thorverton • Upton Hellions • Washford Pyne • Wembworthy •
Woolfardisworthy • Zeal Monachorum

Steve.keable@devon.gov.uk

Mid Devon Councillors Report - Taw Vale:

Chawleigh • Lapford • Nymet Rowland • Wembworthy

Skeable@middevon.gov.uk



Welcome to the March Newsletter - The big issue this month is to explain about our Council Tax ...

The 2026-27 budget is the first opportunity the new County Administration elected last May has had to shape and determine the priorities for the next 3-years, in the first multi-year settlement in a long time.

Prioritising roads, children and SEND services in our £839million budget

Stay informed about local decisions, community initiatives, and opportunities to have your say

Council Tax takes the strain

Including the 2% allowance Government made some years ago for Adult Care, Council tax will be up by the maximum permitted 4.99%. Government continues to reduce grant and puts pressure on local councils to make up the difference or cut services, rather than to fund from central taxes.

4.99% amounts to £1.73 a week increase on a Band D property and less for Bands A-C property where most people live. To balance income against expenditure DCC has also to deliver just under £39m of savings or find alternative income.

Council Tax was never designed to fund something as large and complex as adult social care or children's services. We disappointed that Devon's 'settlement' announced by Government in mid-February failed to recognise rurality by restoring the £10m removed in 2025.

Devon is large, dispersed, aging and rural. Delivering services here costs more. Distances are greater, workforce markets thinner and economies of scale are hard to achieve. While these rural cost drivers are not recognised by Government in national funding, we will continue to press that case firmly and consistently.

From April, the County will spend £839.2 million on day-to-day services next year: up 4.1% than in 2025-26. Councillors also agreed a £770.6 million capital investment programme covering the five years from 2026/27 to 2030/31.

This money will be used for major projects such as road repairs, new school places, support for children with special educational needs, and improvements to council buildings across Devon.

Roads and transport

Spending on highways maintenance will rise to £32.4 million in 2026/27.

- £4m additional revenue funding for drainage, gully clearance, ditching, vegetation management and preventative works.

£15m additional capital from April for targeted investment in preventative maintenance, resurfacing, patching and serviceability.

- A further £10m matched-funding opportunity for parish & town councils is to be developed.

£0.5m to strengthen highways inspection, quality assurance, engagement & communications.

Additionally, over the next five years, £546.1 million in total will be invested in highways. This includes an extra £55 million over five years for preventative maintenance.

Libraries

The misleading stories of libraries closing in recent months are not true. Two separate things have been happening 1) consultation about the running of libraries and 2) setting the budget for April.

The County Council before last May had set a course of budget reduction for the library service beyond 2025-26. It is this that has been reversed with additional £425k to support delivery, in addition:

- An additional £225k to restore the book replacement fund to £0.5m
- £1m reserve for Libraries and Rural Hubs to implement the transformation and community-led improvement through the consultation where 22,000 people have responded to the consultation.

Devon Budget Decisions

Children and families

The Children and families budget will see the largest increase in funding across the council. Spending will rise to £268 million in 2026/27, an increase of £19.1 million. This reflects growing pressure on children's social care, early help for families, and support for children who cannot live at home.

- £76.5 million will be invested over five years in children's homes, school expansions and specialist education provision.
- Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities remains a key priority. Over the next five years, £25.8 million will be spent on new and expanded specialist schools to create more places for children who need extra support.

Adult social care

Adult social care continues to be the council's biggest area of spending. The budget for adult social care will rise to £395.9 million in 2026/27, an increase of £9.9 million, or 2.6 per cent. This helps cover rising costs, including higher wages for care staff.

- £51.6 million investment over five years to help adults live independently, including adaptations to homes and investment in care facilities and equipment.

The budget was supported by all political parties with 52 voting in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

"This is a budget built on fiscal responsibility."
Councillor James Buczkowski, Devon County Council's Cabinet Member for Finance

SEND

The Government's announcement to fund much of the SEND deficit support is welcomed. This is not new money but to clear the tab that has accumulated over the years of national policy expansion, and without funding it. This tab deficit was being picked up through Devon County finance. This cash impact is significant as it strengthens the DCC balance sheet and materially improves our treasury position – higher cash balance improves liquidity, reduces exposure to short-term borrowing and allows more efficient capital financing decisions.

