

DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 14th April 2026 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr A. Clark, Mr M. Austin, Mr D. Cox, Mrs D. Cridland, Mr W. Jones, Mr S. Keable and Mr A. Martin [Clerk]

[2026/4/1] Apologies: Mr A. Baker, Mrs J Bennett, Mr A. White, Mrs. N. Letch.

[2] There were no disclosures of interest

[3] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 10th March which had been circulated were approved and signed.

[4] **Public Question Time:** There were no members of the public present.

[5] **Public Conveniences:** Mrs Cridland had not been able to contact the lady who cleans at the Waie Inn.

Action Point: Mrs Cridland and Mr Austin will try to contact her in person or by leaving a message.

Mrs Angela Ivans had expressed an interest in setting up a dog washing service in one of the unused rooms. She had met Representatives of MDDC and the Parish Council to discuss her plans.

The Parish Council were not convinced that her plan was viable. This would need signage and advertising. Cleanliness and security would be problems. A business plan needed to be produced.

Action Point: Mrs Cridland to reply to Mrs Ivans and suggest she contacted Steve Densham at MDDC.

There was still no sign for the bus stop and the drains were blocked with leaves.

Action Point: Mr Clark to chase up the request for a bus sign.

[6] **Village Green:** The grass had recently been cut. The new contract had been signed. There was a small increase in the fee.

Signed

Date

[7] Bus Shelter: The restoration had been done. Mr Austin was trying to find a replacement ridge tile. The notice board was set into the render but needed to be replaced.

The hole in the car park had been filled with hardcore by someone. The car park did need landscaping. A notice of ownership was needed.

Action Point: Mr Jones was to contact a professional contractor. Mr Austin was to investigate signage.

[8] **Transport:** The rail service was now up and running again.

The condition of the roads was still shocking. There was a backlog of maintenance and the roads were being fixed badly. Mr Keable reported on a new product with extra adhesion. It was pointed out that there was no jurisdiction over the work done by utility companies.

[9] **Finance:**

Current Account Balance as at 27/2/2026£23,698.27

RECEIPTS

Sharland Farm£2,120.83

PAYMENTS MADE

WJP Software£343.20

Rainclear.....£30.76

Current Account Balance as at 1/4/2026£25,445.14

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 27/2/2026 £12,053.54

Interest:

March.....£9.31

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 1/4/2026£12,062.85

RECEIPTS FOR APRIL

MDDC Precept£4,849.52

Signed

Date

PAYMENTS MADE IN APRIL

D,C and K Camp£1,630.00

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:

A.V Martin [Clerk’s Salary]£500.00

The Council agreed to increase the clerk’s salary to £600.00

If a new chair were appointed, a new banking signature would be required

Comment [M1]:

[10] **Planning:** Erection of detached garage with storage area above; Quarry Lane House Coplestone EX17 5LE Ref. No: 26/00457/HOUSE . There were no comments yet.

[11] **Emergency Planning:** Everything was in place for the emergency plan except for arranging for keys to the Village Hall. The Hall would be needed as a place of refuge in an emergency. Mrs Tonkin was the main contact.

[12] **Defibrillators:** The defibrillators had been registered.

Action Point: Clerk to check that the details of the registration were correct.

[13] **First Aid:** The first aid course had gone well. Official thanks should be sent to Mrs Bennett.

Action Point: Clerk to write thank you letter.

[14] **E-mail services:** The new email addresses were now live. There was a problem with Mrs Cridland’s email.

[15] **Concerns raised by Councillors:** Mr Keable reported on the new local plan which involved finding 6000 new housing sites. The areas around railway stations were a priority.

[16] There were no members of the public to comment.

[17] **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 12TH May [This would be the AGM]

Future dates for 2026:
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Signed

Date

Tuesday 14th July, Tuesday 8th September, Tuesday 13th October, Tuesday 10th November and Tuesday 8th December.



Signed

Date

