

## DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 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]

In attendance: Mrs T. Pluck, Mrs D. Appleyard, Mrs. S Corfield, Mr P. Low and Mrs M. Low

[2026/5/1] 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 14<sup>th</sup> April which had been circulated were approved and signed.

[4] **Public Question Time:** Mrs Pluck questioned the use of insecticide and weed-killer around the fruit trees. It was illegal to spray in a public area unless the spray had been approved by DCC. She reported that five dogs had been taken ill and a dead hedgehog had been found.

Action Point: Clerk to write to the volunteer and check if the spray had been approved.

[5] **Public Conveniences:** Mrs Cridland had been in contact with Rhonda. She was happy to clean the toilets at £13.50 an hour. Two other quotes would be needed.

Mrs Ivans had proposed to use the spare room for a dog-washing service. This had been passed to Steve Densham.

Ashley Anderson had proposed setting up a static bike and a treadmill. These would be accessible via a keypad. There was a need for a full business plan.

Action Point: Steve Densham needed to be asked to reply by July about the Community Asset Transfer.

The wall had not yet been repaired and the lay-by needed to be resurfaced and a bus stop installed.

[6] **Village Green:** Mr Leach had signed the new contract at a rate increased by £5.00 per cut. There was a need to check on cars parking on the green.

Signed .....

Date .....

[7] Bus Shelter: The restoration had now been completed apart from the replacement of the notice board. Mr Austin was circulating a few examples.

Mr Jones reported on plans for the resurfacing of the car park. The hedge needed to be cut back. Stone would be needed to level the surface of the car park. Further quotes were necessary.

A sign was needed of "Park at your own risk" .

[8] **Transport:** The rail service was not entirely reliable. There had been cancellations on Sundays when the buses were not running.

Action Point: Mr Clark to contact the railway.

[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 1/4/2026 .....£12,062.85

Interest:

April.....£8.43

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 1/5/2026.....£12,071.28

#### RECEIPTS FOR APRIL

Precept .....£4,730.00

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Signed .....

Date .....

PAYMENTS MADE IN APRIL & MAY

D,C and K Camp .....£1,630.00  
M Leach [Grasscutting].....£220.00

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[10] **Planning:** Listed Building Consent for the reconstruction and remedial works to storm damaged eastern end of linhay including rebuilding of north wall. Buildings at NGR 275900 103091 Chaffcombe Manor Copplestone Ref No: 26/00579/LBC. Presumably this work will be done according to the standard.

Comment [M1]:

Non-Material Amendment for 22/00161/FULL to allow enlargement of garage/store to accommodate refuse and recycling storage. Kayes Barn, Copplestone EX17 5LE Ref No 26/00565/NMA. No objection

Listed Building Consent for the installation of shower room in ground floor utility room, The Old Post Office Down St Mary EX17 6DU Ref No: 26/00544/LBC. No objection.

[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.

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

Action Point: Mr Austin to arrange cleaning.

[13] Current concerns raised by councillors. There was a discussion about dog fouling on the green. This was a major concern for public health.

Action Point: Clerk to write to the owner warning of possible future action.

Mr Keable reported on future work to upgrade the A377 near Crediton. The roundabout near Tesco was to be rebuilt.

The local plan would soon be put out for consultation.

[14] **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 14th July

Future dates for 2026:

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

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Signed .....

Date .....