

DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Mr A. Clark, Mr M. Austin, Mrs J Bennett, Mr W. Jones and Mr A. Martin [Clerk]

[2026/5/1] Apologies: Mr A. Baker, Mr D. Cox, Mrs D. Cridland, Mr A. White, Mrs. N. Letch and Mr S. Keable.

[2] There were no disclosures of interest

[3] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 12th May which had been circulated were approved and signed.

[4] **Public Question Time:** None

[5] **Public Conveniences:** Mrs Cridland and Mr Clark had met Sir Mel Stride and discussed business rates. Steve Densham had said it was time for the council to register an interest in taking over the conveniences. The internet site was not working. Mr Austin had been in contact with the company that had earlier cleaned the signs.

[6] **Village Green:** The grass had been cut again. The area in front of the bus shelter had also been cut. Mr Jones had put down some new topsoil over the area where the trench had been dug.

[7] **Bus Shelter:** The shelter was now looking good. The new notice board was expected to be delivered on 10th August. A grant of £930 had been received. Future jobs included replacing the dead plants. The car park surface needed to be replaced.

[8] **Transport:** There had been no progress in getting a bus-stop sign at Morchard Road. The wall there still needed repair. Local roads still had potholes. Some repairs were planned for the A377.

There had been a series of issues on the railway line. It was agreed to pay a subscription of £15 per year to the North Devon Rail Group. There would be a workshop on the long-term infrastructure.

[9] **Finance:**

Current Account Balance as at 2/6/2026£27,588.90

Signed

Date

RECEIPTS

DCC [Grant].....£930.00
A.V. Martin [Income tax].....£120.00

PAYMENTS MADE

Community First [Insurance].....£237.34
M. Leach [Grasscutting]£230.00

Current Account Balance as at 1/7/2026£28,171.56

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

Interest:

May.....£8.15

June£9.00

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 1/7/2026.....£12,088.43

[10] **Planning:** None

[11]**Emergency Planning:** No further information.

[12]**Defibrillators:** Kiosks needed cleaning.

[13]**E-mail and Website:** Quotes had been received. The website had to migrate by 2028.
Mrs Bennett was having problems with her e-mails.

[14]**Reports from Councillors:**

Mrs Bennett asked if the bridle path was banned to 4-wheel motorcycles.

There was a discussion about the risk of bonfires.

[15] **Correspondence:** None

[16]Potential Vacancies: Mr Baker had not attended since December because of his injuries.
Mr Clark was soon moving to Okehampton. The vacancies should be advertised.

[17] Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8th September. Future dates for 2026:
Tuesday 13th October, Tuesday 10th November and Tuesday 8th December.

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Signed

Date