WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

These minutes will be approved at the Parish Council meeting due to be held on 18th November and might be subject to slight amendment

The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th September 2026 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr W Wood (Chair), M Balment. J Boundy and J Mock.
In attendance: District Cllr C Adcock and one member of the public.

16/09/26. To receive apologies. Apologies were received from County Cllr S Lodge and District Cllr M Stratton.

17/09/26. Disclosure of interest in item on the agenda. No disclosures.
Legislation has changed and councillors no longer need to put their address on their Register of Interests Form and have their address on websites. MDDC has changed the form and councillors were asked to complete a copy of the new form.

18/09/26. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2026 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chair.

19/09/26. Matters arising from the minutes, not already covered by the agenda. No matters arising.

20/09/26. Public questions. No questions.

21/09/26. Footpaths:
a) P3 report. Three pieces of work are needed to repair a stile and gate posts. A contractor will be asked to give a quote.
b) Any other footpaths matters. Cllr Balment noted the condition of the Exe Valley Way and once again questioned why the section of this footpath which passes through Washfield isn't included in the P3 scheme.
Maize has been grown across Footpaths 1 and 3 but this has now been cut. This seems to be happening every year and the farmer needs to be reminded not to block footpaths with a growing crop.

22/09/26. Planning
a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting. No applications received.

b) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC.
26/00792/Full Replacement of septic tank with a package treatment plant and associated works. Location: Land at NGR 293051 115948 West of Courtenay Cottages, Washfield. Decision: conditional approval.

26/00836/OUT Removal of condition (j) of planning permission 86/02139/OUT

(agricultural occupancy restriction) to enable unrestricted occupation of dwelling Location: The Hayes, Washfield. Conditional approval.

c) To report on the new National Planning Policy Framework. A 130 page document about the new National Planning Policy Framework is available and there is a lot of information to take in. The intention is to make it easier to get planning permission, especially for house building. The Government has increased the housing quota for planning authorities. There appears to be a change to the security of the settlement boundary. Local Plans now have to be written and completed in thirty months.

d) Any other planning matters. MDDC are carrying out a Housing and Economic Needs Assessment.

23/09/26. Highways

a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed. Some sections of the road at Worth, Swinesbridge and Badcott Hill have been marked for repair. Dominic Scotting, Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) will be asked what is planned. Councillors discussed the priority roads for repair with Melanie Mckenna, the former NHO, but have not received an update.

It was reported that it is now more involved to make reports of highways defects on the DCC website.

Councillors agreed that road closures arranged by South West Water are a joke. Signage for diversions are very poor and they couldn't understand why they didn't have to meet a safety criteria.

b) Update on Twenty is Plenty signing. It was agreed to purchase two aluminium 'Twenty is Plenty' signs and erect them. It is hoped that if one is erected on the approach to the village it will slow people down as they approach the Village Hall.

c) To discuss arrangements for a public meeting to discuss joining the DCC Road Warden scheme and recruiting volunteers. There are some possible volunteers and they will be approached more officially. The topic for the Annual Parish Meeting could be elections and the Road Warden Scheme.

d) Any other highways matters. Cllr Balment reported that there is a crack on the structural support of the bridge which connects both sides of St Andrew's Street in Tiverton.

24/09/26. Reports

a) County Cllr. A written report was circulated by email prior to the meeting.

b) District Cllr. A written report was circulated by email prior to the meeting. Cllr Adcock reported that the new Mid Devon Housing homes at School Close, Bampton are nearly completed and will be let soon. Local councillors and residents were able to see the homes and feedback was very good.

Recycling and residual waste figures are very good. Free kitchen caddies for waste food are now available.

c) Local Government Reorganisation following the Government's decision to pause its plans for Devon and carry out a wider review. District Council elections will now go ahead in May 2027.

25/09/26. Finance:

a) To approve the national pay award for the Clerk, to be backdated to 1st April 2026. Councillors approved the pay award for the Clerk.

b) To approve any payments. It was resolved to pay the Clerk's salary (Payment ref: 2627/06) and PAYE (Payment ref: 2627/07).

Bank fees of £7.00 were paid at the end of July and August. Bank fees of £7.00 are due on 30/09/26 and 31.10.26.

c) To report the new bank signatory has been approved. Cllr Boundy has been approved as a signatory by Unity Trust Bank.

d) To report any receipts and the bank balances. The Current Account balance is £1347.08. Payments waiting to be approved since the last meeting total £520.60. The Instant Access balance is £5970.58.

e) Bank reconciliation for 31.08.26. Cllr Wood checked the bank reconciliation against the bank statements and signed the reconciliation.

f) To report on budget v actual for 01.04.26 – 31.08.26. The report was noted.

26/09/26. To continue to discuss the replacement of the parish website following notice that MDDC will cease providing this in 2028. A member of the Village Hall Committee has offered to build a new website for the village and this will be explored.

27/09/26. Update on co-option of three councillors. No update as there has not been any interest.

28/09/26. Chair's Announcements and Correspondence. The Chair reported that the Washfield Social Club committee have asked permission to put their display of knitted poppies on the fence of the Village Green and this was agreed.

29/09/26. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 18th November 2026.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed: Date:
Chair