1 **WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 29th July 2026 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr's W Wood (Chair), M Balment, J Boundy and J Mock.
In attendance: County Cllr S Lodge, District Cllr's C Adcock and M Stratton, two members of the public and the clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

01/07/26. Election of Officers

a) Chair. Cllr Wood was elected as Chair and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form. Proposed by Cllr Balment and seconded by Cllr Boundy.
b) Vice-chair. No nominations.

02/07/26. To receive apologies. No apologies. Cllr Webber has resigned since the last meeting. He was thanked for his work during his time as a councillor.

03/07/26. Disclosure of interest in item on the agenda. None.

04/07/26. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2026 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.

05/07/26. Matters arising from the minutes (not already covered by the agenda). A concrete pad to stand the picnic table on still needs to be laid on the Village Green. One of the members of the public offered to help Cllr Balment to lay this.

06/07/26. Democratic Period. It was agreed to add this item to the agenda as it had been missed off in error. The members of the public said they had attended the meeting to hear about traffic calming and footpaths.

06/07/26. Footpaths:

a) To agree the P3 Footpath Warden for the parish. It was agreed to accept Mrs Taylor-Ross's offer to be the P3 Footpath Warden for Washfield.
b) Update on footpath matters in the parish. There have been no significant changes since March. The WhatsApp Group is working well and people are checking the paths. On Footpath 6 where the path crosses into the field below Smiths it is overgrown and the ditches and stiles are difficult. This was approved for improvement several months ago but nothing done yet. Stuart Howell, DCC Public Rights of Way Warden, approved this for improvement but nothing has been done yet. This needs to be followed up.

07/07/26. Planning

a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting.
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. Comment: no objections.

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.

b) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC.
25/01205/Full Erection of replacement dwelling following demolition of agricultural building using class Q fallback position (23/01940/PNCOU). Location: Land and Building at NGR 294171 118499 (West Of Stoodleigh Drive & West Emmerford Cross). Decision: conditional approval.

26/00234/Full Retention of reinstated and altered field access. Location: Land at NGR 292488 118336 Adj Wildwood House Stoodleigh. Decision: conditional approval.

26/00638/NMA Proposed non-material amendment. Proposal: Non-Material Amendment to house 2 for the installation of 18 solar panels on northeast roof, replace horizontal cladding with vertical sawn timber cladding at first floor level and garage elevations, replace brickwork on southeast and northwest elevations with vertical sawn timber cladding at first floor level and neutral render at ground floor level, install inner posts for balcony. Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 291941 116618 Winbow Farm, Washfield. Decision: permission granted.

25/00672/FULL Construction of an agricultural slurry store. Location: Land at NGR 292136 117125 Ennerleigh Farm, Washfield. Decision: conditional approval.

c) To note the start of a new local plan for Mid Devon (Plan Mid Devon). MDDC has started to prepare a new local plan and this will have to be done in a thirty month timeframe. Their Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) identifies land with potential for housing, economic, and renewable energy development. Councillors were concerned about further development in the Tiverton area as the water treatment plant at Aller, near Tiverton, is at capacity now and has been struggling to cope in the recent very hot weather.

d) Any other planning matters. None.

08/07/26. Highways

a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed. Councillors commented on the poor quality patching on the road to Parkhouse Water where the Dragon patcher had been used.

b) To discuss the possibility of a speed limit for the village (with DCC expecting the cost to be paid by the Parish Council) or other methods of slowing traffic. Cllr Lodge and Cllr Dan Rogers, DCC Cabinet Member for Highways, visited Washfield and one of the issues looked at was creating a speed limit. At present there is no 30mph speed limit through the village. Before this could be done a full assessment would need to be carried out. DCC are not prepared to pay to bring one in. It would be for the Parish Council to pay and that would likely cost between £10,000 and £15,000 which would mean a large increase to the precept and the Parish Council's share of the council tax. Twenty is Plenty signs can be placed on private land and could be an option, Seddon's Estate Agents have provided them in some other parishes. Vehicles are speeding around the corner where the entrance to the Village Hall and carpark is and there is concern there will be an accident.

c) To discuss Washfield Parish council signing up for the Road Warden Scheme. Cllr Lodge is encouraging parishes in his ward to sign up for the DCC

Road Warden scheme and all parishes except Washfield have done so. This scheme is a formal agreement between DCC and local councils and community groups that enables communities to deliver approved minor works on or around the public highway. He is planning a meeting for all Road Warden volunteers as there is a shared network in places and they could help each other. DCC pay for up to three volunteers to undertake Chapter 8 Signing, Lighting and Guarding training and once training has been completed parishes can get fifty tubs of Instarmac to fill in potholes that don't meet DCC safety standards. Cllr Lodge would like to undertake the training and would be prepared to help if Washfield Parish Council decided to sign up for the scheme and included him as one of the three volunteers to receive the DCC funded Chapter 8 training. It was suggested that a public meeting could be held to try and get volunteers. This could be held in early September.

The members of the public left the meeting.

d) Any other highways matters. Cllr Boundy questioned whether MDDC still send out the road sweeper lorry to Washfield. They have done this in the past. The district councillors will check.

09/07/26. Reports

a) County Cllr. A written report was circulated by email prior to the meeting. Cllr Lodge reported that very few people were happy with the Governments proposal for Local Government Reorganisation in Devon with Plymouth and Torbay's boundaries as unitary councils being expanded, Exeter becoming a unitary council and the vast expanse of the rest of Devon becoming a fourth unitary council to be named Devon Coast and Countryside. This will cause massive issues, particularly for highways and adult social care. DCC are paving the way for a judicial review.

c) District Cllr. A written report was circulated by email prior to the meeting. Cllr Adcock reported that Clare and Shuttern Ward has very good recycling rates. An upgrade to the service is planned. The new MDDC housing development at School Close is nearly finished and will soon be handed over. An open day is planned for Bampton residents and councillors. Services that MDDC provide should be rolled on under the new authority following LGR.

10/07/26. Finance:

a) To approve any payments. It was resolved to make the following payments:

Devon Association of Local Councils	£157.60	Annual affiliation fee	2627/01
Washfield Memorial Hall	£70.00	Room hire	2627/02
Jill Larcombe	£196.00	Refund for payment of Zurich Insurance	2627/03
Helen Chadwick	£50.00	Internal audit	2627/04
ICO	£47.00	Registration fee by Direct Debit	2627/05

c) To approve a new bank signatory. Cllr Boundy agreed to be a bank signatory and this was approved. The Clerk will make the application to add a signatory.

c) To report any receipts and the bank balances. The precept of £3,425 has been received since the last meeting**.** Bank interest of £18.57 was received on 31.03.26 and £16.73 on 30.06.26**.**
The Unity Trust Bank Current Account balance is £3,874.24 and Unity Trust Bank Instant Access balance - £3457.42.
d) Bank reconciliation for 30.06.26. This was checked and signed by Cllr Wood.
e) To note the renewal of the annual insurance cover for 2025-26 with Zurich. The Clerk reported that the annual insurance cover with Zurich had been renewed as this was the cheapest quote. As there is only one bank signatory the Clerk has paid this and will be reimbursed (Payment ref: 2627/03).
f) To receive the report from the Internal Auditor for 2025-26. The report had been circulated. The Internal Auditor noted that the Council needed to register with the Information Commissioner's Office and that will be done and it was agreed a direct Debit could be set up.
g) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2025-26. Approved.
h) To approve the Accounting Statement for 2025-26. Approved.
i) To agree the signing of the Certificate of Exemption for 2025-26. It was agreed to sign the Certificate of Exemption.

11/07/26. Update on co-option of three councillors. No applications have been received and the vacancies will be readvertised. A new notice will be put on the notice board.

12/07/26. To note the decision on Local Government Reorganisation and implications. This was discussed under item 09/07/26.

13/07/26. To note that from 1st April 2028 MDDC will no longer provide a website for parishes (MDDC will no longer exist from 01.04.26) and parish councils will need to make alternative arrangements. The Clerk explained that the Parish will need to look at having a new website. A member of Oakford Parish Council, who are in the same position, is finding out whether Parish Councils can continue to use Umbraco as the content management system and transfer the content across. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

14/07/26. Chair's Announcements and Correspondence. The Chair had no announcements. There was no correspondence to discuss.

15/07/26. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 16th September 2026.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed: Date:
Chair