

TALATON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF TALATON PARISH COUNCIL** held on **WEDNESDAY, 1st APRIL 2026** at **7.30pm**. The meeting was held at the **PARISH HALL, TALATON EX5 2RG**

PRESENT: - Cllrs G Hawkins (**Vice-Chair**), Cllrs K Walker, R Bos, D Hirt, A Peters, S Wood the Clerk (Mrs C McIntyre)

PUBLIC FIFTEEN MINUTE OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public present. However the report provided by DCC Cllr Cathy Connor (emailed to all councillors) was noted

26/04/01

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr P Lenehan (the Chair)

26/04/02

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF 4TH MARCH 2026 AND TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES BY THE VICE-CHAIR AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the meeting of 4th March be approved as a true and correct record. They were signed by the Vice -Chair

Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Bos

26/04/03

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were none

26/04/04

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED) TO AGREE ANY ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH AFTER THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were none

26/04/05

FINANCE: CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ITEMS I – III

i. Approval of accounts for the period 1st – 31st March 2026

NAME OF ACCOUNT	BALANCE
Community (Current)	£565.70
Business Premium (Reserve)	£10,012.67

ii. Approval of the April 2026 Payment Schedule

NUM BER	CHEQUE NUMBER/ BACS	PAYEE	DETAILS	COST	VAT	TOTAL
1	Bacs	HMRC	6 months Employers Nat Ins 25/26	18.42		18.42
2	Bacs	HMRC	Income Tax - £85 and Employers Nat Ins £1.21 March/April 26/27	£86.21		£86.21
3	Bacs	Employee	Salary March/April 26/27	£340.10		£340.10
4	Bacs	ATH Gardens & Landscapes	Repairing shed on the allotments	£175.00		£175.00

Initials.....

5	Bacs	ATH Gardens & Landscapes	Grass Cutting March	£165.00		£165.00
6	Bacs	SLCC	Clerk`s Annual Membership Fee	£116.00		£116.00
			TOTALS	£882.31	£0.00	£882.31

iii. Transfer of funds to be agreed (if any) - £1000

iv. The Clerk advised that the audit documentation had now been received from PKF Littlejohn LLP

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Items i-iii
Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconded by Cllr Wood

26/04/06

CORRESPONDENCE: (if not listed under this item, it will be dealt with under other relevant specific agenda items)

a. Items of Correspondence

EDDC – details of current live consultations/surveys

EDDC – details of the presentation of the LGR Briefing

EDDC – Invitation to Town and Parish Forum on 11 June from 6pm to 8pm. The session will provide the latest planning updates, offer guidance, and include an opportunity to ask questions about the planning process.

EDDC – Planning Decisions

EDDC – advising of the delivery of Community Safety Groups across East Devon

DCC – details of the Exeter Gravel Race on 29th March

DCC – explanation re road name re proposed road closure order 23-25th June – (Road to Harris Farm)

DCC - ED Polding Highways Officer -thanked the Chair for positive feedback (re re-surfacing works on road from Fairmile, past Escot into the village)

Tanya (Parish Hall) – advising that the stage curtains are now working

Claire Wright - Communications Officer to Richard Foord MP - advising about illegal sewage spills 2025 and Dementia Support

The items of correspondence were noted

b. Items of late Correspondence

There was none

26/04/07

TELEPHONE BOX - CONSIDERATION OF QUOTE FROM NATIONAL GRID OF DISCONNECTING THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY £1345.91 PLUS VAT

There was much discussion. Concern was expressed as to the rising energy costs which were unlikely to decrease in the foreseeable future. It was suggested that if the disconnection was progressed then after a few years it would be cost neutral. The Clerk advised that only the National Grid could carry out the work as it was the Local Distribution Operator for the area. Hence there was only the one quote obtained. The Clerk advised that the cost would have to be taken from reserves if the Council decided to proceed. After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote.

Proposed by Cllr Wood and seconder by Cllr Walker. Cllr Hirt abstained

26/04/08

LASHBROOK AND NEWTOWN NOTICEBOARDS UPDATE

The wooden noticeboard at Newtown had been taken down (in view of its condition) and placed under the main noticeboard. The Vice-Chair suggested that Men`s Shed be contacted again about making replacement boards on their premises and then the Council to arrange to collect and erect them which should comply with the Shed`s insurance requirements. The Council **AGREED** to this course of action. No quotes had been obtained from contractors although the Clerk mentioned that she could source quotes from joiners/handy persons (if Men`s Sheds were still unable to carry out the work) and then investigate if the costs could be met from DCC`s Locality Fund.

Initials.....

26/04/09

PARISH MAINTENANCE: ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION AND UPDATE ON ITEMS REPORTED AND TO AGREE ANY FINANCIAL PROVISION (IF APPLICABLE)

- i. The Vice-Chair and Cllr Bos would carry out an inspection of the Moor (village green) to record the condition of it and to assess if any works were required (in accordance with the Council's Village Green Policy). They would agree a date and time between them to carry out the inspection
- ii. ED Polding Highway Officer re Rosemary Lane in response to a parishioners complaint about the recent works carried out by DCC advised that:- *The holes that have been filled were the safety defects (marked in white), which were the ones deemed most dangerous on the risk assessment. The other areas marked out in yellow are for serviceability patching at my discretion, so they are not dangerous however they would improve the overall condition of the lane. These will be done at a later date by a different team. All patching is currently on hold whilst we deal with all the safety defects that resulted from the storms, so the patches are all still live and awaiting completion. Don't worry about the faded markings, photos, detailed measurements, and exact locations have all been recorded and given to our contractor`.*
- iii. The defective public path sign at Newtown (the wording has disappeared) had been reported to DCC who had confirmed that the sign would be assessed by 3rd April
- iv. The drains were still blocked at the side of the newly surfaced road (past Escot on the way to the village) which if they weren't cleared would likely undermine the pristine road surface when there was extensive rainfall. The Clerk to report to DCC
- v. Potholes were noted at the following locations:- on the road to Larkbeare; on the road to Rydon; outside the Talaton Inn; outside Stevens Cottage; between the Grange and the cross roads. The Clerk to report to DCC

26/04/10

PLANNING MATTERS

i. Planning application 26/0387/VAR

Applicant: Aura Power Developments
Property: Land East Of Rutton Farm Rull Lane, Whimble EX5 2NX
Proposal: Variations of specific conditions contained in Planning Consent 22/ 0783/ MFUL

PC's Decision – It was **RESOLVED** that i.a site meeting was not necessary and ii. That the comments that the Council had submitted previously to EDDC, remain
Proposed by Cllr Walker and seconder by Cllr Hirt

ii. To advise of a prior notification 26/00574L which was too late for inclusion on the agenda and which planning application had not been circulated to councillors-

Applicant: P Skinner
Property: Barns at Springfield Farm, Talaton. Larkbeare. EX5 2RX
Proposal: Notification for prior approval of change of use of agricultural buildings to 4 no. dwelling houses and associated operational development under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q(a) and (b) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015

Following the meeting it was **AGREED** that the Clerk email the planning information to councillors for them to formulate comments (as per the Council's Delegation Policy) which comments the Clerk would collate into a final version for approval, which could be submitted to EDDC. A site meeting was not considered necessary in view of this being a Prior Approval Notification

26/04/11

TO REPORT ON ANY DELEGATED DECISIONS (INCLUDING PLANNING)

Planning application 2/0209/FUL

Applicant: Mr and Mrs R & C Kirby
Property: Talewater Hill Farm, Talewater Talaton EX5 2RR
Proposal: Erection of replacement dwelling following demolition of farm building using Class Q permission 24/2518/PDQ as fallback position

Initials.....

A site meeting had taken place and the Council's delegated comments submitted to EDDC were:-
The Parish Council is fully supportive of the application as the proposed dwelling will be in keeping and sympathetic to the landscape and in addition will provide a home for a family member engaged in the day to day operations of the farm .

26/04/12

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 22ND APRIL 2026

The Clerk was advised that the catering arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting would be made through the Community Shop. The Vice-Chair would arrange the teas/coffees

26/04/13

HORTON SOLAR FARM FUND UPDATE

The Clerk had been updated by Chloe Hood Head of Communications & Engagement at Aura Power. She advised of the following:-

Aura Power is preparing to commence construction works for Horton Solar Farm, located between Whimble and Talaton. Construction activities will gradually increase over the spring and summer months. Works will commence in early May on the solar site entrances to facilitate construction vehicle access on the road from Whimble to Talaton. To ensure the safety of both the public and our site team, a temporary road closure will likely be required during the construction of the entranceways. We will provide you and local residents with the exact details as soon as they are confirmed. Full construction is expected to begin in early June 2026. We are committed to minimising disruption during this period and will work collaboratively with the local community to achieve this. A Construction Management Plan has been confirmed with Devon Highways. We will be hosting a pre-construction, public meeting at the end of April to talk through our construction programme, introduce our project team and answer any questions. We will notify local residents by letter and will of course confirm details with the Parish Council once the date is confirmed. Once operational, Horton Solar Farm will generate enough clean electricity to power thousands of homes. Projects like this are an important part of strengthening the UK's energy security, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and supporting the transition to a more affordable and renewable energy system.

We are also offering a community benefit fund of £20,000 per year, index-linked for the solar farm's 40-year lifetime, to support local educational, social, and environmental initiatives. We have partnered with Grantscape to help administer the fund, but how the funds are spent will be decided by local people via a Local Advisory Panel through a series of grants. We will be looking for volunteers interested in joining the panel and will share more information at our upcoming pre-construction public meeting`.

Communications had also been received from Barry Thrussell Vice-Chair Of Clyst Hydon PC who was keen to have a meeting with all the parish councils who would benefit from the Fund to ensure all their interests were protected, once further information had been received from Aura Power

26/04/14

ALLOTMENTS UPDATE AND TO MAKE DECISIONS AS APPROPRIATE

a The land owner of the allotments advised that he was still experiencing issues with the Land Registry in getting the allotment land registered

b. Site meeting of the allotments had taken place and it appeared that rabbits were getting into the allotments under the gates. Cllr Peters had very kindly placed pieces of wood at the bottom of the gates to block up the entry/exit which appeared to have resolved the issue. Cllr Peters was thanked for his hard work

c. An allotment holder had thanked the Council for all the improvements at the allotments

d. An allotment holder had advised that she was unable to progress the taking on of two additional half plots due to an injury. It was **AGREED** that the Council contractor should simply cover the two plots with black plastic and not bother with the clearing and strimming as originally planned. The Clerk would advertise the vacant plots in the Calendar again.

26/04/15

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – TO CONSIDER ANY EXISTING POLICIES THAT REQUIRE REVIEW

There were none to be reviewed this month

Initials.....

26/04/16

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY (TO INCLUDE DEFIBS) AND REMINDER OF NEXT DROP-IN MEETING) OR FOR DISCUSSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

The Chair had expressed concern (by email) as to the security of the defibs as they were now advertised (on the noticeboards and on the Parish website). They had not been advertised before. There was much discussion but all councillors agreed that they should be advertised as it was important that they were made visible to the community. In addition they considered the Parish to be a low crime area

The defibs had both been checked and were found to be in good order. The Vice-Chairman advised that the pads would need replacing in September/October

The next `Drop-In` would be 25th April

26/04/17

MATTERS OF URGENCY TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE VICE-CHAIR'S DISCRETION

There was none

26/04/18

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6th May 2026

26/04/19

CLOSE OF MEETING

20.16

SIGNATURE OF THE VICE-CHAIR	
DATE OF SIGNATURE	

Initials.....

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Initials.....