

IDEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 9th April 2026

Present:	Cllr T Hill – Chair	Cllr A Carter-Woodwark - vice chair	Cllr D Fox
	Cllr H Bellamy	Cllr C Hill	Cllr J Gardner
	Cllr M Batting	TDC Peart	WW - Mr. Aaronson
	WW Mr. Morby	5 members of the public	Mrs Clarke - Clerk

Item(a)

Discussion and Decisions (b)

01/04/26 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Gearon, H Frank-Pitt, Cllr Dempster.

02/04/26 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2026 were agreed and signed.

03/04/26 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: The Chair noted he was a trustee of the Millenium Green

04/04/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (15 Minutes Allowed) The boundary stone James French currently has it with the Chairman's permission. The boundary stone is covered in a later section.

05/04/26 REPORTS:

05.01 Chairman of Ideford Parish Council – Cllr. Hill. The last year has been another busy year for the parish council and as usual planning has been a main feature. We have continued to support the village amenities in the last year mainly financially by supporting the millennium green and village hall insurance. Potholes have obviously been a big feature this year alongside footpaths and bridleways but progress appears to be slow at times however it's ongoing. Work is still planned this year on sorting out some of the byways to correct the unstable surfaces and poor drainage.

We also have major damage caused to the boundary stone on the common and progress to rectify this has been slow but hopefully it will be completed soon. Planning has been a big part of our discussions as usual but hopefully it does seem to be becoming a little quicker but some issues still remain and we are trying to focus on keeping biodiversity an important consideration in any decisions. We are still seeing the occasional retrospective application and a few planning appeals but nothing vastly different.

Biodiversity and sustainability are key areas we are encouraging and the Sustainable Ideford group along with the Wildlife Wardens are a big asset to the community and we thank them for all the work they do. We hope we can continue to support them particularly working with our new biodiversity policy. Our district and county councilors Ron, Keeley and of course welcoming back Tony have all been very supportive to the parish and we thank them for all they have done and we also thank all the parish councilors for all the hard work they do. Thanks also go to our parish clerk Anna who's been doing another sterling job this year with us, changing the website and keeping up with many changes including the new accessibility requirements which can be challenging and we hope we can keep her on board for many years to come. I'm sure planning will remain to keep us busy and we aim to encourage biodiversity alongside any application and we would like to continue to support all amenities, societies, charities and groups working in the village.

05.02 County Councilor Dempster- no report

05.03 District Councilors Cllr Gearon - No report

District Councillor Peart updated the Council on developments following the flooding in Pottery Cottages, Kingsteignton.

05.04 Devon & Cornwall Constabulary Beat Officer PCSO Bunce - No report

05.05 The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church The Church is open 7 days a week for everyone. There are two services per month, Evening Worship and Holy Communion, with a consistent average attendance of about ten. The number of worshipers increase significantly at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. In the absence of clergy availability we have a lay led service on Christmas morning, Remembrance Sunday and sometimes Mothering Sunday. The Church is a Grade II listed building and thanks to Teignbridge District Council the Churchyard continues to be well looked after. They cut sympathetically the areas roped off for wild flower growth. The Church Tower and Clock repairs have been on the PCC Agenda during 2025 and these repairs will take place in 2026. Regular Church cleaning takes place monthly. We also have

an external maintenance company who check the gutters and roof on an annual basis and carry out urgent maintenance jobs.

There is an excellent level of support within the village for maintaining the Church with more than 30 volunteers giving their time and talents throughout the year and for which the PCC are extremely grateful and express their heartfelt thanks. These include: opening and closing the Church daily, providing flowers and decorations, bell ringing, winding the clock, playing the organ, Verger duties at services, weddings and funerals, cleaning, maintaining the inside fabric of the church, ie. changing light bulbs or brass cleaning. We are also extremely grateful for the support of Sustainable Ideford and the Ideford Wildlife Wardens. They continue to help with the 'greening' of the Churchyard as per the guidelines of Caring for God's Acre. Planting bulbs, hedgerow plants, watering in the very dry spell in the summer of 2025 and strimming in the autumn. Thank you.

The Parish Newsletter is edited, compiled and distributed by a wonderful band of volunteers which helps keep the village informed of village events and organisations. We would also like to thank our Treasurer, Verger and Fabric Officer, who are non PCC members for all their hard work throughout the year. Thank you also to our Parish Giving Scheme supporters (you know who you are) and Ideford Church Easy Fundraising supporters - we've raised a whopping £1000 through relatively small donations from the Retailers, of anything between 5p to £20! So thanks to all those who have signed up to Easy Fundraising!

05.06 Ideford Village Hall Trust - Last year was both challenging and encouraging! The Trustees and Friends of the Hall have worked extremely hard to maintain and improve this facility which has served us all as a community hub for 50 years, an Anniversary celebrated with much joy and laughter. However, we had a leaking window in the kitchen and an oil tank that was showing ominous signs of wear! It is with community support through fund raising events, grants and donations that these challenges were met. A replacement tank was donated very generously by a Parishoner and professionally inspected and installed. We received £500 from the Vale of Haldon Lodge, £600 from our Devon County Councillor and a further £250 from our Teignbridge Councillor. Fund raising was up considerably, by 64%! For example, the May Quiz raised £580, June Open Gardens £768, October Quiz £508 and Winter Fayre £485. Also, £887 was received re Vintage Fayre monies that had been held back. While this is fantastic news, we need to keep improvement in mind, toilet facilities will be improved, security around the oil tank is being discussed as is the stability of the railings at the front of the hall. We changed banks during the year from Lloyds to the Co-Operative, to avoid newly introduced bank charges. Our present balance is £7083.05 which includes £129.03 cash. The hall costs over £4,000 to run each year so a healthy contingency is essential. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their continuing yearly financial support of £500 towards our insurance costs of over £900. Thank you again everyone for all your help and support, it means a great deal to the Trustees and Friends of the Hall. Our AGM is on May 6th, everyone is welcome to come, ask questions and share ideas. Thank You.

05.07 Ideford Millennium Green The Green has had another successful year, many thanks to our small committee and helpers for all of your support. New Build: The new storage unit is slowly reaching completion, this has been slower than we would have liked but finance has been a huge challenge and the weather equally so. The timber joists have been installed last year by a team of joiners, who were paid from our funding available at that time and the roofing sheets have been bought and are ready to be put on, but we have been waiting for the green to dry out, to enable the trailer, with the roof, to be brought onto the green without damaging the grass. We are aware that there is concern about the speed of the build, but I would like to remind the village that the majority of what we have achieved has been down to very kind donations of time, and materials. Huge thanks goes to many many people, but especially Anthony French and Simon Putt of MRP contractors, and Robert Coombes. Once the roof is in place, the roller door will be fitted, which has also been purchased. We still need to purchase the cladding to finish the outside of the build, and buy some more concrete to finish the front of the building. All of the donated time, materials and resources have saved the village 1000's of pounds. As an idea, building estimates ranged from £25000 to £30000, when we originally got estimates and costs have only been going up since then. So far we have spent £6770.52

Finances We do have over £2500 left in the bank account, but still need to pay for the mower repair / service, which is over £300 and there is regular expenditure including a monthly electric bill and the remaining will go towards the outside cladding. The Green Our new hedge is thriving, many thanks to Robin for helping with this and the committee and Liz Lucas for helping to water this over the long dry summer. I would like to say a huge thank you to Robert Coombes for mowing the green this year. The green is looking lovely, also thanks to Tom and Anthony for general maintenance. The hedges around the Green have also been laid, and managed by Anthony and Robin.

Fundraising We had a great 25th Birthday party last year, raising £589 pounds and we held a race night last month in the Village Hall which raised about £8-900, many thanks go to Mike Batting for organising. We were also very grateful to receive £887 from the vintage fayre last year.

As a gentle reminder all of the upkeep of the green is done by volunteers in the village. No one gets paid, our expenses consist of fuel (although a lot is donated), Mower upkeep, electricity and the ROSPA report. We know that a lot of villagers take a keen interest in the Green, it would be great if people would like to help and join the Millennium Green Committee, as many hands make light work. We are desperately looking for new committee members to ensure we can continue to function accordingly.

05.07 Parish Paths Partnership Report by Ideford Parish Path Partnerships (P3) Officer Over the past year (2025) there have been only a few minor issues where footpaths have needed cutting back and a couple of trees have needed removing. Steve Gardner, Devon County Council has been extremely helpful and prompt in dealing with these.

Bridleways -- 1. Watery Lane BP25 400 m A tree was removed from the bottom of this lane in January. I am going to request that a new replacement gate post is put in at the top of the lane as the gate post is very loose making it quite difficult to open/shut the gate without minor injury to hands. 2. Well Covert BP21 1710 m This has needed some cutting back and remains very muddy in winter. 3. Ideford Common BP19/29/28 2070m These are maintained by Devon County Council and remain in fairly good condition.

Footpaths: 1. Back Lane FP20 270m (Rixafer Road to Tower Lane) All good and landowner keeps in excellent condition 2. Tower Lane to Rixafer Road FP3 80m Been kept fairly clear. Landowner on one side has been regularly maintaining and I have also been clearing some brambles etc with assistance of neighbour. 3. Sentry Lane FP18 310 m In good condition 4. Park Lane FP32 280m (Olchard back lane to A380) Is kept in good condition by landowner. Suzanne Hill

05.08 Ideford Bell ringers Report During the year we have continued to meet on Thursday evenings but have struggled at times to have enough people. If it was not for the continued support from Mark & Jenny, there would have been virtually no ringing at Ideford during the year. However, in October we did get 6 ringers together and entered a team in a competition at Tedburn St. Mary and we won the 'Novice' shield which is on display at the back of the Church. Despite that success, we often struggle to get enough people to ring, even for special occasions such as Christmas & Easter so we really do need more people to join us if this most traditional English village activity is to continue.

If anyone would like to try their hand at ringing, just come along on a Thursday evening at 7.30 and you will find a very warm welcome. No pressure to pull the rope, you are welcome to just come and watch and drink tea as a start!! Our Peal of Bells continues to be popular with ringers from other Churches, and we often host groups of visiting ringers who come not only from other parts of Devon, but also from further afield. David Aylmore. Tower Captain.

05.09 Ideford Short Mat Bowling Club In the past year the club has successfully run as the previous year. Social club nights with tea and cakes and entry again in the Teignbridge league involving a wide area of away games as far as Christow. Although not quite as successful as last year we managed not to come bottom of the table. The annual dinner was enjoyed at the Passage House in the summer. Membership has remained the same but we hope encourage new members by having a 'taster' session in the summer. Jill McCord.

05.10 Sustainable Ideford -Jim Gardner highlighted a productive year for Sustainable Ideford, despite the group's membership numbers remaining static. The committee has made significant strides in fulfilling the parish biodiversity plan, most notably through the "Open Gardens" event. Supported by the Devon Wildlife Trust, this initiative featured around 15 wildlife-friendly gardens and was very well received by the community. Other key environmental milestones include the adoption of a formal pesticide declaration, and ongoing fauna data collection.

The group has also focused on local aesthetics and ecology through new planting projects at the village oak tree and Millennium Green. Looking ahead, the council is investigating ways to reduce light pollution and energy waste by adjusting village lighting schedules. Additionally, plans are underway to share information regarding the rewilding of St. Mary's churchyard. To address the broader climate crisis, members intend to research regional climate response events to determine how a solution-focused version could be tailored specifically for a community of Ideford's size.

05.11 Wildlife Wardens The Wildlife Wardens have continued to work for wildlife in the Parish, through Sustainable Ideford, the Parish Council Biodiversity plan and as individuals. We have cared for the wildflower areas in the churchyard and kept the new hedges there and on the Millennium Green watered during the dry summer. In June, we again took part in the Devon Bat Survey. Twelve different species were recorded. Also in June, we held a moth-trapping and

identification session. Those who attended were amazed by the variety of moths present (over 40 species) and by the striking appearance of some of them. We plan to make this a regular event. The data gathered on moths and bats will feed into the Parish Biodiversity Database, which we are working on at the moment.

When it is completed, residents will be able to log interesting sightings directly on the Parish website and to see which species other people have observed, and when.

We supported the Village Hall committee in organising the Open Gardens event with wildlife gardening a major theme. We also monitor planning applications and have advised the PC on several applications insofar as they affect wildlife and we continue to check water quality in the stream at Muddy Bottom. Happily, no signs of pollution have been detected. Finally, we are part of a wider network of Wildlife Wardens across Teignbridge and have taken part in many surveys and training events, often in association with Chudleigh Wild.

05.12 Pop Up Cafe -The Pop- up Café is held on the last Friday of each month, except for December, when it is held earlier in the month to avoid Christmas and New Year. It continues to be very well supported, and, during the year, we were able to donate £1,158.53 to HITS. As our September Pop up Café fell on the day of the Macmillan Big Coffee Morning, we decided to send our donations for that day to Macmillan. We advertised this beforehand and thanks to people's generosity were able to send £212 to support Macmillan.

It isn't just Ideford residents who support the café, we have visitors from other villages, people who are passing through and see the signs, and we usually see Gladys Stevens' daughters, who take the opportunity to visit their mother's grave, and then meet up for coffee and lunch in the hall. In June, Vanessa and I were both away – we would like to thank Carol and Karyn for stepping in and running the café for us.

Thanks also to Liz Lucas who came along most months and had a table selling her jams and chutneys in aid of the church. During the winter months, Liz also makes delicious flat breads to accompany Vanessa's homemade soup. Thanks also to Saul Bunce, our PCSO, who comes along, when he's able, for anyone who wants to raise any issues with him. We would also like to thank everyone who help in other ways – setting up the hall, clearing away and washing up etc. It has been a very successful year, and we love to see the hall full of people (and dogs), all enjoying the company and refreshments – it's always a lovely atmosphere. Vanessa Morby and Janet Aylmore

05.13 Defibrillator We continue to have a defib available and this has been in place since April 2016. It was supplied by the Heartstar Foundation and funded by the National Lottery Commission. The defib is checked on a weekly basis by volunteers from the parish for whom instructions were given before they began training. At the moment we have five volunteers and we really need a few more people to step forward to help on this task. David Fox

06/04/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Discussions around various issues at bridleway/path 25 in Olchard to Muddy Bottoms and solutions expected soon.

07/04/26 PARISH MATTERS:

06.01 To receive any updates on roadworks, highways, parking issues and potholes parish matters.The Highways officer was unable to attend again. A recent water leak near Luton cross was repaired and access was provided over Easter. This highlighted the state of the roads in the parish in general which need improving, particularly as a road closure into the village in July, is expected for a water main repair and this will shift traffic onto other roads such as Rixafer road, which is in a bad state. A key proposal is to formally request that a council representative attend the next parish council meeting to explain plans for road repairs and maintenance.

There's been slow progress with the replacement boundary stone and benches on the common. Forestry England has approved the granite from Trevor Davey and engraving by James French, we expect further progress by the next meeting.

06.02 Dogs and Dog Control. Dogs and Dog Control. The discussion focused on ongoing concerns about dogs and control measures across the village, particularly on the Millennium Green. Previous incidents, complaints, and insurance advice led to the decision to install signage requiring dogs to be kept on leads, partly to reduce liability for the council and trustees. Debate about the wording used on the signs took place and consideration of new wording for the signs was agreed. Unfortunately the signs that had been put up were removed without permission. It was agreed to check with the insurers on changed wording and place an article in the parish news to explain the reasoning for this action.

08/04/26 PLANNING:

08.01 New Planning Applications: 26/00408/LBC Partial re-instatement of original outbuilding Underhays

Olchard It was also noted this is a listed building. The council felt the application was straightforward and had no objections. The structure is largely existing, minimally visible from the road, and not expected to negatively impact the area.

There was a point raised about potential wildlife disturbance specifically checking for nesting birds before work begins, but this was not seen as a major concern. Conclusion: the council is generally supportive of the application, with a note to consider wildlife checks as a precaution.

08.02 The following Planning Appeal decisions were noted: 24/00065/ENFA Decision. Appeal dismissed 20/00316/ENF Little Haven, Higher Sandygate. Appeal dismissed

09/04/26 CONCERNS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS TO COUNCILORS: none

10/04/26 CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE:

10.01 Balance of accounts £13,484.25 and the monthly bank reconciliation for March was approved.

10.02 Invoices for approval, included DALC, Village Hall, PAYE, HMRC, DEFIB and SI. A quick discussion about invoices less than £100 pounds will not need approval for SI. Over this amount transparency requirements mean they have to be approved by all of the council prior to payment.

10.03 Administrative and correspondence update put back to May for time keeping purposes

11/04/26 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISHIONERS MEETING: 8th April 2027

12/04/26 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF IDEFORD PARISH COUNCIL: AGM Thursday 14th May 2026 at 7.30pm

13/04/26 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT AGENDA: None

14/04/26 MEETING CLOSED AT: Cllr. T. Hill - Chairman

Signed.....

Date:.....