

IDEFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 11th June 2026

Present: Cllr A Carter-Woodwork - vice chair Cllr J. Gardner Cllr C Hill
Cllr M. Batting DCC Dempster TDC Peart
WW - Mr. Aaronson WW Mr. Morby
Mrs Clarke - Clerk No members of the public

Item(a) Discussion and Decisions (b)

01/06/25 Welcome and Apologies for absence were received from Helen Frank-Pitt, Cllr. Bellamy, Cllr. Fox, Cllr. T. Hill and Cllr Gearon

02/06/26 The minutes of the previous meetings held in April (Annual Parish Meeting) and May (Annual General Meeting) 2026 were approved and signed.

03/06/26 There were no declarations of interest

04/06/26 There was no Public Participation

05/06/26 REPORTS:

05.01 County Councillor Dempster provided an update on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), with widespread delays are anticipated. If delayed the councils will remain in situ longer, as elections would be postponed by a full year. Under the LGR, parish councils will face increased operational responsibilities.

05.02 District Councillor no report from TDC Peart, no report from Cllr. Gearon

05.03 Neighbourhood Beat Officer PCSO Bunce One offence was recorded and reported during May. Four deer carcasses were on the side of A380.

06/06/25 PARISH MATTERS:

06.01 Updates on roadworks, highways, parking issues and potholes. The council discussed the necessity of arranging for the new highways representative, Helen Frank-Pitt, to attend a meeting and/or site visit. The highways department have painted new white lines at the end of Butts Lane, which was criticised as the potholes should be mended first.

06.02 Biodiversity Policy update/amend

The wildlife wardens adding a new progress column. Outstanding items include a best practice information leaflet for the built landscape and direct engagement initiatives with local farmers. Cllr. Gardner requested other members of the council take shared ownership of these actions to spread the workload.

Cllr Batting indicated that landowners face significant uncertainty due to upcoming government updates, with the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) scheme. The scheme rolls out for small farms in July and larger farms in October, it has a limited budget and no guarantee of funding. Cllr. Batting Will provide a summary of this legislation from a landowner's perspective with a view to incorporate it into the policy. Cllr. Batting will contact a professional land agents to arrange a public information evening for the whole village to explain developing landscape subsidies and tree-planting incentives. Key local and neighbouring farmers were identified to ensure their inclusion in future communications.

06.03 Policy Review - Publication Scheme

The policy review based on feedback from Cllr. C. Hill will be amended. The council reviewed the inventory, to include one bus shelter, the historical village pound, and a public seat located at Larkham. Planning application reviews should be added under the "Functions and Services" section of the document, as it represents a core service the council provides to the community.

07/06/25 PLANNING:

07.01 No new planning applications

07.02 Planning Decisions: 25/00023/COND. The council noted the official planning decision where the appeal concerning Home Field against conditions 10 and 12 was allowed.

07.03 No Planning Enforcement

08/06/25 CONCERNS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS TO COUNCILLORS - Safety concerns were raised - structural deterioration of Butts Lane. The surface travelling up the hill toward the final property has decayed to the point where jagged tarmac is separated from the hedge lines by deep gaps. Residents are concerned that the track will be impassable in winter and emergency vehicles, will not be able this location or Rixafer Road. Markings on the road suggest highways will patch small sections whilst the rest of the lane disintegrates.

The council resolved to formally invite the new highways representative to an urgent daytime site visit to inspect the structural damage on both locations to push for a full resurfacing commitment.

09/06/25 CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCE:

09.01 Balance of accounts was provided and the council approved the bank reconciliation for May 2026

09.02 The council reviewed outstanding invoices and gave approval for PAYE, HMRC, village hall fees, dog bin maintenance fees, and the annual independent auditor's fees. The insurance policy, was reviewed, pricing was deemed favourable.

09.03 The clerk reported that Highline contacted Cllr T Hill regarding urgent tree pruning around active power lines. Documentation has been received regarding the updated Local Plan for 2020 to 2040, which officially supersedes the 2013 to 2033 planning framework.

The council held a preliminary discussion regarding a piece of Ideford woodland that Teignbridge Council may gift to the parish as part of its ongoing asset offloading. Cllr. Batting raised a point of caution, noting the land was subject to a 1947 Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). The plot is roughly half to three-quarters of an acre. If transferred without restrictive covenants, options for the site include: a community orchard, wildlife areas, or allotments, which could generate rental income to offset future maintenance costs. The council resolved to wait for formal legal and title developments from Teignbridge.

10/06/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 9th July 2026 at 7.30pm

11/06/25 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA : An update on sourcing a replacement commemorative plaque for the staff/damaged bench on Ideford Common (noting ground preparation and installation are delayed until late August to protect ground-nesting birds). A formal discussion to map out the definitive communication strategy and event planning with local farmers and land agents. A progress report and update from the Sustainable Ideford initiative following their upcoming group meeting in a fortnight.

12/06/25 The meeting closed at

Signed:

Dated: