

WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th September 2025 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr's W Wood (Chair), M Balment, R Webber and Mrs A Wych.

In attendance: District Cllr M Stratton, four members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

29/09/25 To elect:

a) Chair. Cllr W Wood was proposed by Cllr M Balment and seconded by Cllr R Webber. There were no other nominations. Cllr Wood was elected as Chair and signed the Acceptance of Office Form.

b) Vice-chair if necessary. This was deferred to the next meeting.

30/09/25. To receive apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr J Mock. Cllr J Boundy sent his apologies by email but these the email was not read until after the meeting. Apologies received from County Cllr S Lodge and District Cllr C Adcock,

31/09/25. Disclosure of interest in item on the agenda. Cllr Balment declared a personal interest in planning application 25/01161/NMA as he had been invited to quote for the work but hadn't done so. Cllr Webber declared a personal and pecuniary in planning application 25/00794/Full as he had carried out work at Buttermoor Farm.

32/09/25. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2025 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chair.

33/09/25. Matters arising from the minutes. None.

34/09/25. Public questions.

Councillors were asked whether they had signed up to the Council's most recent Code of Conduct. Councillors confirmed they had. The member of the public asked why they hadn't challenged a councillor when their behaviour had been, in the opinion of the member of the public, below expectations. Reference to a complaint to the MDDC Monitoring Officer is not included in these minutes as Code of Conduct complaints are confidential and should not have been brought up at the meeting (advice received from the Monitoring Officer). Complaints about the Clerk are not dealt with by the Monitoring Officer. The Parish Council is the Clerk's employer.

There were claims of errors in the draft minutes.

A member of the public gave an item of correspondence to councillors. The Clerk advised that as it had just been handed to councillors it could not be considered at the meeting. The acrimonious period was called to a halt by the Chair who expressed a wish for the two members of the public to use their skills and work with the Parish Council. Mediation was suggested and the Clerk will find out whether

MDDC could help with this.

It was reported that it is difficult to strim around the picnic table on the Village Green and grass is growing up through making it difficult to use. A concrete pad for the picnic table to sit on was requested. It wasn't felt necessary to fix the picnic table to the concrete pad. It was also reported that the wood is getting rotten on the steel framed benches. The member of the public offered to paint the bench once it has been repaired.

35/09/25. To consider a request for a concrete pad to be laid under the picnic bench on the village green. It was agreed to get a price to lay a concrete pad. The best place for the concrete pad to be laid will need to be decided. One of the recycled plastic benches at the Village Green has been offered for the Churchyard. The Village Hall Committee will be asked if the oak posts could be used to replace the wood on the bench. Any expenses such as paint can be reclaimed from the Parish Council.

36/09/25. Footpaths:

a) P3 Report. Cllr Wood is willing to collate the data for the annual forms that have to be completed and sent to DCC. Mr and Mrs Roberts offered to co-ordinate volunteers and follow up. People to be made aware through the website and Facebook that they can report problems on the footpath to the Parish Council or online at

https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/map/map_src/prow/

QR codes could be put on the signs to direct people to the DCC website as mentioned At the May meeting..

Major work is planned on Footpath 1 Long Lane to Haydon which is very wet.

There has been an issue with Hemlock.

A gatepost at Winbow is to be replaced.

b) Update on payment of P3 Grants. A total of £440.00 has been received from Devon County Council. The grants for 2024-25 and 2025-26.

c) Any other footpaths matters. No other footpath matters.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

37/09/25. Planning.

a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting. No applications received.

b) To note the comment made for 25/01070/House Erection of a garage/workshop. Location: Wildwood House, Stoodleigh. Comment: no objection.

c) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC.

25/00571/Full Change of use of land to tourism to include glamping accommodation comprising of 2 temporary cabins and temporary use of an existing yurt with associated parking. Location: Land at NGR 294771 114599 (Worth House) Washfield. Decision: conditional approval.

25/00794/FULL Erection of covered slurry storage building. Location: Land at NGR 291185 116648 (Buttermoor Farm) Washfield. Decision: conditional approval.

25/01161/NMA proposed non-material amendment. Proposal: Non-Material Amendment for 23/01876/FULL to allow minor adjustments to the external wall alignment and internal layout of House: 1; fenestration changes to House 1 and House 2; amendments to internal layout of House 2; installation of additional solar PV panels and an air source heat pump on House 2; changes to external materials and roof finishes for House 2; amendments of design of porch and balcony of dwelling 2; amendments to the domestic/farm workshop including retention of the existing corrugated metal roof and omission of the bat loft; replacement of the approved retaining wall with a landscaped bank; substitution of the approved 5,000L water tank with a 10,000L tank and alterations to wording of condition 4 to provide a revised bat mitigation strategy. Location: Land and buildings at at NGR 291941 116618 Winbow Farm, Washfield. Decision: permission granted.

c) For information only. 25/01229/PNG Prior Notification for the erection of an agricultural storage building. Location: Land at NGR 292122 116904 Ennerleigh Farm, published.

d) To note the Cheddar 2 reservoir project and consultation event on 20th September at Bampton. Noted.

e) Any other planning matters. None.

38/09/25. Highways

a) To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed. The condition of the road into Washfield from Washfield Lane has got worse. Melanie Mckenna, DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer, will be asked for an update on the schemes that she discussed with the Clerk and some Councillors in February 2025.

b) To note any update on the issues of the condition of the pavement from opposite the Village Hall to the path to the Church by The Weeches. No update. Cllr Lodge to be asked to chase up.

c) To discuss paying a contractor to carry out verge ploughing in the parish. It would cost £500 a day to hire a man and machine plus £500 for a road sweeper. Nothing has been done for at least 10 years. The Clerk will check whether there are Schemes that this would fit into.

d) To receive a request from a parishioner who would like to become a Road Warden under the DCC Road Warden Scheme to Road Warden Volunteer to support the basic maintenance of the road surface next to Hatherland Mill. The Council were supportive and the Clerk will follow this up with Melanie Mckenna.

e) Any other highways matters. None.

39/09/25. 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. The Cabinet considered a report from the Service Delivery and Continuous Improvement PDG in June on August 5th and mandated the collection of old and unusable pots and pans to become a permanent recycling fixture this Autumn. It is hoped that a scheme can be introduced for disposable nappies.

40/09/25. Finance:

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

Mrs J Larcombe - £104.47 Clerk's salary (Payment ref: 2526/09)

HM Revenue & Customs - £26.00 PAYE (Payment ref: 2526/10)

Bank fees of £6.00 were paid on 31/07/25 and 31/08/25. They are due again on 30/09/25.

b) To report any receipts and the bank balances.

Since the last meeting the P3 Grant of £440.00 has been received. This is for 2024-25 and 2025-26

Unity Trust Bank Current Account balance is £1881.36 (£953.36 of payments waiting for approval). Unity Trust Bank Instant Access balance - £3597.43.

c) Bank reconciliation for 31.08.25. To be checked by Cllr Mrs Wych.

d) To note actual v budget for April to September 2025. The report was noted. No points for concern.

41/09/25. To note any issues with water leaks. No further water leaks since the last meeting. The water pressure has been reduced at the crossroads and is now low.

42/09/25. To agree a Co-option Policy and arrangements for co-opting a councillor. It was agreed to adopt the Co-option Policy. There was no request for an election when the vacancy was advertised. The Parish Council can now co-opt someone.

43/09/25. Chair's Announcements and Correspondence. There has been no further update on broadband and the EV Charge Point.

44/09/25. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 19th November 2025.

Signed:
Chair

Date: