

# Christow Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs C Retallick, Bagtor Barton, Ilsington, Newton Abbot, TQ13 9RT.

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**Minutes of the meeting of Christow Parish Council held on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 at 7.30pm in the Bowden room, Teign Valley Community Hall, Christow.**

Present: Cllr G Archer Cllr B Green Cllr AJ Orme Cllr A Cook  
Cllr J Orme Cllr G Read Cllr R Slack

Also, present Carol Retallick (Clerk) and one member of the public

Cllr Archer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the Council meeting	ACTION						
<b>1) Apologies and acceptance for Absence</b>							
Received from Cllr Tucker, Cllr Swaine, Cllr Keeling							
<b>2) Declarations of Interest:</b> In accordance with the Code of Conduct.							
None declared							
<b>3) Public Discussion</b>							
A MOP noted that following a visit from to devon highways she was advised to ask this council to consider adding the haunch on Commons Hill to a list of matters to be repaired.							
<b>4) County, District Councillor's, DNPA Ranger/Representative, Forestry Commission officer, Police and Lengthsman - to receive reports.</b>							
<p><u>Cllr R Keeling DCC</u> – report I would like to introduce myself as your County Councillor, I have already attended County Hall for training and talking with the highly motivated staff on issued in our area and how we can solve them from potholes to adult social care and children services. I want to hear your views my contact details is <a href="mailto:Richard.Keeling@Devon.gov.uk">Richard.Keeling@Devon.gov.uk</a> Tel : 07958500783</p> <p>Following 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 County elections this report covers Devon County Council. While I look forward to working with all the different town/parish communities in my Chudleigh and Teign Valley County Division, it does mean that with so many parish council meetings happening most months at the same time, it will be physically impossible for me to attend all meeting. I shall endeavor to keep your parish council informed through regular written reports.</p> <p>It is an honour to be elected and it is my intention to serve everyone in our community and I shall keep to my election priorities of ‘children, adult services, potholes and communities’.</p> <p>Devon County Council - there is a new Liberal Democrat led administration formed at the first Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, where Cllr Julian Brazil (Kingsbridge) has become Leader of the Council and Cllr Paul Arnott (Seaton &amp; Colyton) as Deputy Leader. There is a Cabinet of 9 Councilors formed around the same themes as the previous Council. I have accepted a position on the Cabinet and have a responsibility for Adult Social Care. I will be going through induction training over the next two months. Green Party member Jacqi Hodgson has been given a role in the Liberal Democrat cabinet’s new Cabinet on Devon. County Council County Committee positions have been determined as the political groups become more organized. More information: <a href="https://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillors-info/">https://www.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillors-info/</a></p> <p>The political composition of the Council is as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Liberal Democrat: 27</td><td>Reform UK: 18</td></tr> <tr> <td>Conservative: 7</td><td>Green: 6</td></tr> <tr> <td>Independent: 2</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p><b>Potholes</b> - the most talked about issue and this will receive a great deal of attention. I have met with Ines Scillitoe (Neighbourhood Highway Officer • Neighbourhood Highway Teams) <a href="mailto:Ines.Scillitoe@devon.gov.uk">Ines.Scillitoe@devon.gov.uk</a> 01392388485 and we will have regular meetings as will the Clerk of your town/parish.</p>	Liberal Democrat: 27	Reform UK: 18	Conservative: 7	Green: 6	Independent: 2		.
Liberal Democrat: 27	Reform UK: 18						
Conservative: 7	Green: 6						
Independent: 2							

**Children's services** - after months of delay OFSTED publish their long awaited judgment on Children's Services in Devon <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50276862>. The 5-point grading of 4 x inadequate and 1 x requires improvement is not good!

**Twenty five schools in Devon were among the first in the country to offer free, daily breakfast clubs.**

All primary aged children in schools identified in the first phase of a government programme are able to access a free breakfast and at least 30 minutes of free childcare every day. One school in the area is Dunsford Community Academy which is new to the programme.

The free breakfast clubs are available for half an hour before the start of the school day. It's thought that they will support parents getting into work by enabling them to drop their children off half an hour earlier.

Schools in the first phase were chosen from across England, in locations where there aren't currently breakfast clubs.

All the schools will receive Government funding towards food and staffing costs.

**Night buses return to Devon and Cornwall**

Night buses will continue to be available in Newquay, North Devon and Torquay, plus on new routes in Plymouth and Exeter on Saturday nights until the end of the year. The services have been set up by Devon & Cornwall Police and funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) with support from Devon County Council.

**Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation** – 28th November is the deadline for submissions to Government. Devon and District Councils are pooling resources to work through joint consultants on 1:4:5. DCC has put forward 5 options: these will be considered by the new Council.

**Adult Social Care** – report was circulated to all councillors.

**PCSO Tina Jordon** reported that this report covers the parish of Christow which includes its road network. The Parish has the Police beat code of JC2E.

The Parish is served by the Neighbourhood Police team, working from both Ashburton Police station and Chudleigh Police office. The Parish forms part of the Teignbridge Coastal & Rural Policing sector.

The team is led by Police Inspector Sean Roper, Sergeant Ryan Cook Neighbourhood Team Leader, PC Tom Gage Neighbourhood Beat Manager and supported by PCSO Tina Jordan.

Although every effort has been made to produce accurately the following figures, there may be a slight discrepancy in the total shown.

For the period 29/04/2025 to 28/05/2025 in the Christow beat area there were 6 Incident Reports (logs) created of a varying nature that resulted in 8 Occurrence Reports being raised and matters being investigated under the following categories:  
Safeguarding and Concern for Welfare: 5      Theft of Motor Vehicle: 2  
Other-including Police Generated: 1

For the period 29/03/25 to 28/04/25 in the Christow beat area there were 3 incident Reports (Logs) created of a varying nature that resulted in 2 Occurrences Reports being raised and matters being investigated under the following categories:  
Safeguarding and Concern for Welfare: 1      Attempted Residential Burglary: 1

For the period 28/02/25 to 28/03/25 in the Christow beat area there were 11 incident Reports (Logs) created of a varying nature that resulted in 8 Occurrence Reports being raised and matters being investigated under the following categories:  
Safeguarding and Concern for Welfare: 4      Burglary Residential: 1  
Poaching: 1      Violence Less Serious: 1  
Other - including police Generated: 1

For the period 28/01/25 to 27/02/25 in the Christow beat area there were 6 incident Reports (Logs) created of a varying nature that resulted in 5 Occurrence Reports being raised and matters being investigated under the following categories:  
Violence Less Serious: 3      Safeguarding and Concern for Welfare: 1  
Other- including Police Generated: 1

I can confirm that officers from the team were in Christow on 27/05/25 making

enquiries regarding to the recent thefts and they also spoke to a number of the neighbours and residents about issues and have been made aware of the concerns in the community of which further work will be undertaken. We will continue to make enquiries and would be happy to discuss matters further following this isolated incident. We have asked a number of the residents to report anything suspicious, and this can be through Crimestoppers or Devon & Cornwall Police website direct as below:- <a href="#">Giving information   Crimestoppers</a> <a href="#">Something you've seen or heard   Devon &amp; Cornwall Police.</a>	
<b>5) Minutes</b> - to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6 <sup>th</sup> of May 2025.	
These were signed as a true record of that meeting.	
<b>6) Chairman Business</b>	
Nothing extra to report	
<b>7) Clerks Report</b> - Update on matters arising from the last meeting for information only	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to bid – TDC made the decision and sent the information through which has been circulated</li> <li>• Insurance renewed</li> <li>• Christow Show donation received of £291.50</li> <li>• DAAT have been informed of the events during the summer so far which affect the landing site.</li> <li>• Surface dressing Foxhole Hill early June</li> <li>• Reply and update re from shop</li> <li>• Leak on Commons Hill – update</li> <li>• Application submitted for DCC locality fund to help pay for the repair of the goal posts for the recreation field</li> <li>• CPC has been copied into a complaint made and noise from the stone cutting Yard.</li> <li>• The DALC clerk's social have been booked again this year, and I will be attended the one in Kingsteignton.</li> </ul>	
<b>8) Play Area – Update.</b>	
<p>Councillors cleared away the dangerous items from Laynes Field, following on from that the council have asked the community for help to improve the area. The meeting was set on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May only 1 person turned up. Since then, few people have expressed an interest to form an informal group that will report back to the full council meetings.</p> <p>It was agreed that initially a plan is needed before we can move forward with applying for grant funding</p>	
<b>8) Local Crime – Discussion.</b>	
The main item that come out of the police surgery is asking Alison Hernandez for a crime survey, the message was that ring doorbells are useful for building up information that could help solve a crime, which may lead into installing cameras to the entrance to the village.	<b>Clerks contact A Hernandez</b>
<b>9) Allotments and Flag Pole – report from councillors visit</b>	
<p>Flagpole – the union flag was raised for the VE day, and it was appreciated by the village. The pole has been damaged but Cllrs Cook and AJ Orme was able to fix it for the day. There are repairs needed, and a new flag AJ will order the parts. Clerk to buy a new flag</p> <p>Allotments – the plots have improved and look good – there is manure on the cemetery extension area. There was some broken glass on one of the plots which will need to be removed. Maybe CPC supply a small skip to remove the rubbish from the plots. Ask the allotmenters if they want this service. Discussed more and thought about man and van with certificated permission to clear it.</p> <p>Clerks write to AJ for a quote BG would help and plot holder will help as well. Ask on WhatsApp group if there is anyone else that has rubbish TA will send the initial message to gauge the interest. Depending on amount make a plan.</p> <p>Chase up Paul to cut the grass.</p>	<b>Clerk to purchase a new flag AJ order part.</b>

Cllrs suggested the track in needs some work TA spoke to a couple of allotmenters who are interested in the old shed.	
<b>10) Cemetery Gates and Memorial request confirmation – discussion and decision</b>	
A complaint has been received from a parishioner regarding weeds, the contractor is due to spray the weeds off. The chairman noted that the cemetery had been strimmed today. The gate latch was reported as being damaged, clerk will ask local contractor to visit the site assess the damage and quote to repair. The memorial request was approved	<b>Clerk to ask contractor to assess gate latch</b>
<b>12) Highways matters – top 3 issues in Christow</b>	
1. Aller Farm the road surface is very damaged 2. Commons Hill – haunching and improvements and reopen the buddle holes on the hill. 3. Stone gully below the church tree on left the pipe drainage pipe goes from a large pipe to a small pipe which need attention. 4. Potholes near the golf course getting worse on the Teign Valley road.	<b>Clerk to report to the highways officer</b>
<b>11) Recreation Field – Update</b>	
Picnic benches to be fitted at skate park and new signs have been received, the chairman will refit all the sign to new back board. Several councillors offered to help fit these items. The booking for next year from the Banter band have confirmed the fees and given details of where we can obtain a reference the clerk will follow that up.	<b>Cllrs fix bench and notice board. Clk seek reference</b>
<b>13) Planning</b>	
<u>Approval of Certificate of Lawfulness notification</u> a) 118/25 Erection of single storey rear extension to establish ‘fallback position’ Oaklands Wet Lane Christow	
<b>14) Finance</b>	
<b>Expenditure:</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> Clerk's salary for May  HP Instant Ink, May  New signs for Skate Park  J Jackson – Lengthsman work – April  J Jackson – Lengthsman work – May  SW Grounds Maintenance </div> <div> = £ 664.14  = £ 22.99  = £ 44.00  = £ 336.00  = £ 528.00  = £ 402.00 </div> </div> <b>Bank Reconciliation and Statement:</b> The Chairman has checked invoices and bank statement against the reconciliation statement. Reconciliation and bank statement circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr T Archer reported to the councillors that the ring-fenced money for the toilets has been reallocated and asked the meeting what it should be set aside for. The councillors suggested for improvements to the play park and round it up to £3000 and all in favour. Cllr Read proposed to accept the payments and details on the bank statements this was seconded by Cllr AJ Orme.	<b>Authorised and agreed</b>
<b>15) MEETINGS ATTENDED:</b> to receive reports from councillors who have attended meetings on behalf of this council or actions from the previous meetings	
Cllr Archer met with the allotmenters. Cllr AJ Orme hosted the play park meeting Clerk attended allotment management training.	
<b>The next Council meeting is Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025, at 7.30pm in the Bowden Room at TVCH.</b>	

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.09 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Position.....