

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, 4th November 2025 at 7.30pm in the Bowden room, Teign Valley Community Hall, Christow.

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

Also, present Cllr A Swaine, Carol Retallick (Clerk) and 0 member of the public

Cllr Archer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the Council meeting	ACTION
1) Apologies and acceptance for Absence	
Received from Cllr Keeling,	
2) Declarations of Interest: In accordance with the Code of Conduct.	
None declared	
3) Public Discussion	
None present	
4) County, District Councillor's, DNPA Ranger/Representative, Forestry Commission officer, Police and Lengthsman - to receive reports.	
<p><u>Report from TDC Cllr A Swaine</u> At full council 23 October, there were details of the Sherbourne house project which will deliver 23 new social housing units on a brownfield site in Newton Abbot, to passive house+ standards. A good result. I do think that more council housing not only provides housing but also provides a baseline quality that all landlords can be measured against. It is hard to justify unfit properties and sky-high rents if the market also contains good quality offerings at reasonable rents.</p> <p>However, the meeting was dominated by a motion from the one reform councillor "Safeguarding Local Communities from Unconsulted Migrant Placements". I found the language extremely misleading, discriminatory and dangerous. A lot of people contacted me with their concerns about the motion, and I thank them. Their support really helps. I opposed the motion which was lost by 34 to 1 with 2 abstentions. Our group brought a counter motion "Celebrating the Contribution of Overseas Born and Asylum-Seeking Residents" which was won.</p> <p>Nationally there are cost of living, housing and climate crises. We need real solutions, but some just blame migrants or human rights. Migrants are people who move. Asylum seekers, fleeing for their lives are a tiny part of immigration, but Brexit has meant more small boats risking lives. I think we must target the criminal gangs that profit and the political actions that people are fleeing. Migrants don't overload our systems, migrants support them.</p> <p>Violence against women and girls is a huge problem, but is not primarily from migrants, asylum seekers or trans people, it is usually in the home and is from - abusers. Scapegoating vulnerable groups, does harm to those groups but it also does harm to women and girls by undermining positive action to prevent abuse.</p> <p>Teignbridge does excellent work under Rebecca Hewitt and the Teignbridge community safety partnership. Becca is now a finalist for an award for her work Combating Violence Against women and Girls delivering policies based on reality that target abusers.</p> <p>Bringing people together is hard, tolerance is crucial, and we can help each other. Making things worse for other people, does not make them better for us.</p> <p>I was very disappointed to get a letter from Mel Stride this week saying that "a future Conservative Government will leave the ECHR and repeal the Human Rights Act on immigration-related matters." He argues human rights have been weaponised and concludes we must therefore all lose those rights. I disagree most strongly with that</p>	

<p>position, and I believe rights such as freedom from torture, a fair trial, no punishment without law, are fundamental and should apply to all humans. I will continue to protect our rights and will work for everyone in our community. Details of the recent council meeting are here: https://democracy.teignbridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx... and if you would like to see my contributions they are here : https://teignbridge.public-i.tv/.../start_time/2215000 and : https://teignbridge.public-i.tv/.../start_time/3910000. Report from Cllr Keeling has been received and circulated to all the councillors Report from Police – Tina Jordan For the period 01/10/2025 to 31/10/2025 in the Christow beat area there were 5 Incident Reports (logs) created of a varying nature and 3 Occurrence Reports being raised as a result all of which fell under the category of public safety and Concern for welfare. The Neighbourhood Team continues to provide a visible presence in the community offering advice and reassurance in the form of our “Talk with Your Local Police Team” drop-ins. Further drop-ins have been scheduled for November at The Community Shop Bus and will be in the evening this time around. Please can I also put in a request to The PC for their consideration and permission to hold the following “Surgeries” at The Bus Stop: Dec 16th 1600-1700, Jan 14th 1600-1700 and Feb 19th 1600-1700 - Cllrs approved that request.</p>	
5) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th of October 2025	
These were signed as a true record of that meeting	
6) Chairmans Business – Information only	
<p>The bench will be delivered tomorrow. Inspected the car park and noted that concrete barrier at the pedestrian gate is missing that is causing some flooding in the field. Discussed making a ramp to stop the water however it may cause a trip hazard. Suggested that other councillors also monitor this area.</p>	
7) Clerks Report - Update on matters arising from the last meeting for information only	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reply from DNPA regarding the Golf Club decision confirmed that the decision made by Members was relevant to the most recent planning application received. They are currently negotiating the S106 to secure the BNG on the site and have not yet issued the formal decision notice. • Digital land line switch over Free training event - advert on website • Devon Health and Wellbeing Board and we have drafted the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy – consultation deadline 4th December. Cllr Reed has made comments about this. • National Park Forum will take place on Thursday 13 November 2025. It will take place in the main Meeting Room here at Parke, Bovey Tracey TQ13 9JQ and will start at 2.00pm; tea and coffee will be available from 1.45pm. • Devon Countryside Access Forum - applications invited details forwarded and deadline for application is 30th November • The TDC draft charter that DALC has helped create will now be going to the Executive on 2nd December. • Libraries Unlimited - Annual Report 2024-25 already forwarded to councillors for information • Public diversion consultation - Footpath 4 - Bridford • Precept letter received and finance committee meeting on 17th November to plan the precept request for the next financial year. 	
8) Community shop – Matters arising and rent	
<p>The community shop has requested the rent and insurance to be invoiced. A local contractor has reviewed the drains the problem has now been fixed. The video and invoice for the works have not been provided for the council to see.</p>	Clerk to send Invoice.
9) Recreation Field	
a) Fence repair – 2 quotes received and it was agreed to accept the cheaper quote vote taken 7 for and 1 abstention	a) Cheaper quote

b) Field hiring Policy – suggested a booking calendar on the website. Link to forms and policy add the amendments and re circulate for approval c) Request for metal detecting – the councillors had a full discussion. A vote was taken with 4 votes against and 2 in favour and 2 abstained - Refusal	accepted b) recirculate policy c) Refused request
10) 20's Plenty – update from councillors	
A few of the stickers have been displayed, still some available in the shop, nothing more to report.	
11) Allotment – review and update	
Some plots given up and new tenants have been notified, the rent increase has been paid. Cllr Tucker reported that some tenants had report a water leak at the field. The chair has been down to check and did not find a problem with the tap.	
12) Planning	
a) 0344/25 Removal of oil boiler and tank; replace with air source heat pump plus external plant store at Barne End, Village Road, Christow, Exeter, EX6 7LY. No objection. <u>Grant of Planning Permission</u> • 0303/25 Removal of porch and installation of a conservatory at the rear of property at The Mine Cottage, Frank Mills House, Christow, Exeter, EX6 7NT	
13) Finance	
The councillors discussed the car park needing to be top surface dressed and AJ will seek a quote. Expenditure: Expenditure: Clerk's salary for October = £ 664.14 HP Instant Ink, October = £ 6.49 New Union Jack Flag = £ 23.32 DCW Polymers Falmouth bench = £ 465.60 AJ Orme Fixing cemetery bench = £ 120.00 SW Grounds Maintenance = £ 390.00 J Jackson– Lengthsman Invoice no. = £ 564.00 Bank Charges for November = £ 8.25 Bank Reconciliation and Statement: 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 B Green proposed to accept the payments and details on the bank statements this was seconded by Cllr R Slack.	Authorised and agreed
14) MEETINGS ATTENDED: to receive reports from councillors who have attended meetings on behave of this council or actions from the previous meetings	
None.	
The next Council meeting is Tuesday 2nd December 2025, at 7.30pm in the Bowden Room at TVCH.	

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.43pm

Signed..... Date.....

Position.....