

# 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> March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Bowden room, Teign Valley Community Hall, Christow.**

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

Also, present Cllr A Swaine TDC Cllr, Carol Retallick (Clerk) and 1 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 R Keeling, Cllr J Orme, Cllr Slack	
<b>2) Public Discussion</b> – To allow any questions, reports by members of the public on any matters relating to the agenda of this meeting.	
MOP who works with Wellmoor wanted to speak about the importance of community space within the village and asked the council to consider creating an area within the recreation field. She acknowledges the field has benches, but they are not set up for people to gather. Cllr Archer noted the community shop has recently taken over a section of the bus shelter to use as a sitting area. The meeting suggested seeking opinions from the community for support for this idea maybe via a survey based in the shop. The MOP was asked to forward pictures to the council of other areas so they can see the vision she has.	
<b>3) Declarations of Interest:</b> In accordance with the Code of Conduct.	
None declared	
<b>4) County, District Councillor's, DNPA Ranger/Representative, Forestry Commission officer, Police and Lengthsman - to receive reports.</b>	
<p><u>Report from Cllr R Keeling</u> – circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.</p> <p><u>Report from Cllr Andy Swain, February 2026</u> - This week saw Teignbridge pass the budget for the next year.</p> <p><a href="https://news.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-approves-budget-for-20262027/">https://news.teignbridge.gov.uk/council-approves-budget-for-20262027/</a></p> <p>For years we have talked about the shortfall in future years for the Teignbridge finances, caused by decades of austerity policy and eye-watering cuts to the revenue councils used to get from central government though revenue support grant, new homes bonus and other streams which once delivered much of the council income alongside the modest share of council tax. Most of our council tax goes to Devon County council. Those cuts were delivered very suddenly and there has been much uncertainty in replacement revenue from government which meant previous budgets had to cover that risk.</p> <p>The situation has changed significantly this year in various ways.</p> <p>The local government review means that TDC Finances will be merged with neighbouring councils, most of whom have much higher levels of debt than Teignbridge. A priority now is to safeguard assets for the community for example looking for new homes for services such as public toilets and Teignmouth Lido, which will likely be seen as non-statutory losses by the new unitary.</p> <p>We are starting to see real savings from the program of changes we put in place to close the budget gaps. Improvements in online systems mean more interactions can be automated, reducing costs and creating capacity on manual systems for residents unable to work online. Other savings have included reducing office space, with more mobile working practices.</p> <p>The Climate change measures to decarbonise Forde House and the leisure centres, and electrifying the vehicle fleet where possible, are paying back now and improving the revenue budget, so the shortfall covered by earmarked reserves is only 1 million, compared to several million in previous years.</p>	

<p>The budget includes a 2.99% increase in council tax. (an extra £6.05 for Band D)</p> <p>Non statutory services that we are still protecting include:  100% council tax support for those who need it most.  Support for local voluntary and community organisations such as Citizens Advice, with core grants rising by 4% for the next three years.  The councillors’ community fund will continue at £1,000, helping small local projects and groups across the district.  Continuing investment in supporting improvements to essential local infrastructure.  Continuing to invest in affordable housing, town centre regeneration, environmental improvements and reducing carbon emissions.  reducing the use and cost of temporary accommodation by increasing the supply of council-owned homes.  An increase in the approved borrowing to fund employment sites in the area. If suitable proposals come forward. In the past this feature has been underused, but there are now more projects in the wings which are likely to come forward. Another opportunity to fix good things in place before dissolving into the unitary.  I am pleased to see so many of the non-statutory benefits provided by Teignbridge, being protected despite the central government funding cuts. The improved clarity on funding is welcome, and I am pleased we will continue the work on decarbonising and delivering council housing.  Update – the decision regarding the Teignmouth Lido closure has been called back in for reconsideration, there are members of the public keen to keep the facility open. A community group came forward and offered to run the facility this year.  <u>Report from PCSO T Jordan</u> –For the period 01/02/2026 to 28/02/2026 in the Christow beat area there was 2 Incident Reports (logs) created and 3 Occurrence Reports being raised as a result under the following categories:  Concern For welfare: 1  Police Management: 2  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. A further drop-in has been scheduled for March, May and June at The Community Shop Bus.</p>	
<b>5) Minutes - to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2026.</b>	
<p>These were signed as a true record of that meeting.</p>	
<b>6) Chairmans Business – Information only</b>	
<p>The hinges on the iron gate at TVCH have broken, the hall committee do not need the gate, and it could be removed. After a discussion it was agreed to leave it in place and get the hinges repaired.  The wheelie bin at the play park was so full it was too heavy to move Cllr Archer will take bin bags and empty it into smaller bags ready for disposal.  The salt order has been delivered  The allotment field has been cleared and new fence and taps installed - the site is looking clear and tidy.  The contractor has been cutting the hedges in the parish and Cllr Archer asked about cutting back the hedge at the lower part of Layne Field and clearing the debris away. Cllr Archer informed the meeting that this would cost the council £480 +VAT This matter has been discussed many times before with all in favour that this should be undertaken as soon as possible. That being the case the councillors approved the work to be carried out as essential maintenance.</p>	
<b>7) Clerks Report - Update on matters arising from the last meeting for information only</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queries from last months – Cllr Slack to advise on new grit bin, and Cllr AJ Orme to provide a list current grit bins and their listed numbers.</li> <li>• Road Salt has been ordered and received.</li> <li>• Notification of Teign Tennis Trust AGM - 15 April 2026</li> <li>• CCLA – to transfer money into a savings account the minimum deposit MUST be £25,000. However, once this has been received within a new account any</li> </ul>	

amount can be instantly withdrawn. At the present time we have £15,000+ in the Lloyds saving so we would need to use £10k from the current account to open the account. – all were in favour for this to go ahead	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devon Communities together request to use the car parks was approved.</li> </ul>	
<b>8) Councillors' visit to Cemetery, Allotment and Recreation field – arrange a date</b>	
The councillors agreed to arrange this visit in April, and they will liaise via email to arrange a date.	<b>Arrange for April</b>
<b>9) Assertion 10 – IT policy – to review and adopt.</b>	
The councillors agreed to adopt the IT Policy which had been previously circulated.	<b>Approved</b>
<b>10) LGR Update and Next Steps for Town/Parish Councils – Consider the proposals and comment</b>	
No comments will be submitted.	
<b>11) Property to be Advertised on Devon Home Choice in Stafford Close – for information</b>	
The housing association will make the final decision which has not been announced yet, Christow PC we will receive more information once a decision has been finalised.	
<b>12) Planning:</b>	
<b>Grant of Planning Consent</b>	
0382/25 – Erection of temporary rural worker dwelling and access track from existing farmyard (part retrospective) at Reed Farm, Christow	
<b>13) FINANCE</b>	
<b>Expenditure:</b> Clerk's salary for February = £ 664.14 HP Instant Ink, February = £ 6.49 Vision ICT.gov.uk domain renewal = £ 78.00 Vision ICT web hosting, support, emails and Data backup = £ 641.22 Clerks Annual Expenses = £ 525.75 SW Grounds Maintenance = £ 144.00 AT Weaving Hedge cutting = £ 726.00 J Jackson – Lenghtsman = £ 504.00 AJ Orme – Allotment improvements = £ 3444.00 AJ Orme – Cemetery Improvements = £ 2965.54 Bank Charges = £ 6.25	
<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 Read proposed to accept the payments and details on the bank statements this was seconded by Cllr Green.	
<b>14) MEETINGS ATTENDED:</b> to receive reports from councillors who have attended meetings on behave of this council or actions from the previous meetings	
Cllr Read attended the heath and well-being alliance meeting. The meeting discussed joining up different project with other communities he asked them to share more details. They are concentrating suicide awareness for lone workers farmers etc. Cllr Read will circulate the information he has received from the meeting. Cllr Green agreed that if there were grant funding to help with such schemes the council should look to support as it is very appropriate for this community.	
<b>The next Council meeting is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm in the Bowden Room at TVCH.</b>	

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.50pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Position.....