Christow Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Christow Parish Council held on Tuesday, 1st September 2026 at 7.30pm in the Bowden room, Teign Valley Community Hall, Christow.
Present: Cllr Archer Cllr B Green Cllr G Read
Also, present Carol Retallick (Clerk), Cllr A Swaine TDC and 0 members of the public
Cllr Archer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the Council meeting	ACTION
1) Apologies and acceptance for Absence	
Received from Cllrs Cook, AJ Orme, J Orme, R Slack, H Tucker	
2) Declaration of Interest: In accordance with the code of conduct	
None.	
3) Public Discussion – To allow any questions, reports by members of the public on any matters relating to the agenda of this meeting.	
None declared	
4) County, District Councillor's, DNPA Ranger/Representative, Forestry Commission officer, Police and Lengthsman - to receive reports.	
Report from Cllr R Keeling – this has already been circulated to all prior to the meeting. A Swaine TDC Members received an update regarding funding available for play area improvements. It was reported that CIL match funding is available, together with a £3 million Section 106 fund specifically for play areas. A named officer will be requested to provide further information on the funding and eligibility. Teignbridge District Council (TDC) is also undertaking a consultation regarding play parks. Members were advised that the law relating to the planning process has changed and affects the way planning applications are determined. Parish and Town Councils are no longer able to call an application directly to committee. However, a request can be made to the Chair and Senior Planning Officer for an application to be considered by the planning committee. An update was provided on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), which was announced on 16 July. Four unitary authorities are proposed, with Christow Parish Council (CPC) being included within the proposed Devon Coast and Country unitary authority area. Concerns have been expressed about the size of the proposed area and the proposal has not been well received in some quarters. The decision has been made, although a judicial review has been requested. A number of matters will need to be considered, including the arrangements for waste disposal. reported that CIL match funding also a 3 million fund from Sec106 specific to play areas, he will get a named officer to ask. Also, consultation on play parks from TDC Law changed on planning to the way councils determine application and PC and TC not able call into committee – can ask chair and senior planning officer for it to go to the committee	.

LGR announced on 16th July 4 unitarities, and CPC are going in into Devon Coast and Country. It's not been well received as this is such a large area. The decision has been made now but a judicial review has been requested. There are many questions to be considered such as waste disposal. Report from PCSO T Jordan – For the period 01/08/2026 to 25/08/2026 in the Christow beat area there was 6 Incident Reports (logs) created and 3 Occurrence Reports being raised as a result under the following categories: Theft: 1 ASB: 1 Public Safety & Concern for Welfare: 1 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 14th October and 9th December 2026 1400-1500hrs at The Community Shop Bus Stop.	
5) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th of July 2026	
These were signed as a true record of that meeting.	
6) Chairmans Business – Information only	
The Chairman reported on a visit to Cheriton Bishop, where 20 mph speed limits are in place within the village. It was suggested that a similar approach could potentially be achievable in rural villages. Cllr Read has publicised the possibility within the community and is seeking community support. There has been a mixed response to the "20's Plenty"	
7) Clerks Report - Update on matters arising from the last meeting for information only	
• An update was provided regarding the housing development at Stafford Close. • Several road closures have been announced. Details have been published on the Council website. • A grit bin has been ordered and the damaged bin has been reported. • The external audit system will become digital from next year. Each parish council has been given access to a portal for submitting financial information. Christow Parish Council has been registered on the portal. • The defibrillator from the Artichoke was used. New pads have been purchased and fitted. • A People's Emergency Briefing will take place at TVCH on 19 September at 8.00 pm for anyone wishing to attend. • TDC is running a free Code of Conduct training event on 9 September from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm. The Clerk offered to share the link with councillors who are interested in attending.	
8) 3 Parish meeting – discussion and decision	
Dunsford and Bridford Parish Councils have enquired about organising a three-parish meeting in October or November. It is Christow's turn to host the meeting. Members discussed the benefits of meeting with the neighbouring parish councils and suggested **Wednesday 14 October at 7.30 pm until 9.00 pm**. **Action:** The Clerks will be asked to suggest topics for discussion, including play areas and allotments. Doddi will also be invited.	**Clk to book Bowden rm. Invite Doddi PC**
9) Asset Transfer – update	
The proposed development at Stafford Close was discussed. As the development has now been stopped, the Parish Council considered the future ownership of the land. CPC suggested that the Christow Community Land Trust (CCLT) could take on ownership of the field, subject to the Parish Council having the zipline area returned. CCLT has plans for the field to be used as a community garden/community space	**Clerk contact CE.**
10) Beech Tree at the Allotment Field and road closure– update	
The quotation for removal of the beech tree is just under **£1,000**. A quotation of **£944.40** has also been received for the necessary road closure. The fallen branch has been removed. The proposed road closure is scheduled for **9 September** to enable the tree to be removed. Once the tree has been removed, the contractor has been asked to cut the timber into manageable sizes so that it can be sold as logs.	**Cllr Archer will make investigations how to move the wood once the tree is down.**

The approximate value of the wood is **£50 per cubic metre**. It was agreed that the wood should be removed from the field as soon as possible. Councillors will discuss how this can be arranged.	
11) Play Area – update	
Cllr Swaine has circulated details of CIL match funding available through TDC for play area improvements. It was noted that the current funding opportunity is too late for Christow, but there will be another opportunity in the new year. The Council will also investigate the Section 106 funding available specifically for play areas and the current TDC play park	**Add to next agenda.**
12) Road Warden Scheme grit bins and tarmac– visits and refills	
The Highways Officer has confirmed that an order has been placed for a new grit bin. The broken grit bin has also been reported, and it is hoped that it will be replaced. Volunteers will contact the Clerk when and where they are going out to carry out pothole repairs.	
13) Phone box on Dry Lane and purchase defibrillator – update, discussion and decision	
The agreements relating to the phone box have been received and the **£1 purchase payment** has been made. The phone box has been freshly painted, presumably by BT. The British Heart Foundation (BHF) is still offering grants towards new defibrillator units. The First Responder keeps records of the checks carried out on each defibrillator and has registered the units on the relevant system. He receives an email notification when a unit is removed for use. It was noted that insurance requirements state that the defibrillator should be locked. However, ambulance services and the BHF strongly advise that defibrillators should not be locked, as people retrieving them may be in a state of shock and a locked cabinet can add to their stress.	**Add to next agenda Quotes/information will be obtained from the BHF and Mike Besley and brought to the next meeting**
14) Recreation Field – bookings update	
A booking is taking place on Saturday, and the gate needs to be opened by **12.30 pm**. A couple of additional football matches have been booked since the previous meeting. These bookings were approved.	**Cllr Archer to action**
15) Planning:	
None	
16) FINANCE	
Expenditure: Clerk's salary for July and August (2x618.19) = £1236.38 HP Instant Ink, July & August (6.49+13.49) = £ 19.98 Christow Show stall = £ 10.00 TDC Garden Waste Subscription = £ 65.00 GreenTrees – Tree inspection = £ 90.00 Steroplast – Defibrillator Pads = £ 77.94 J Jackson Farm – Inv 1073-£624+ Inv 1078-£204 = £ 828.00 Bank Charges for Aug & Sept 2x£3.25 = £ 8.50 **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 G Read proposed to accept the payments and details on the bank statements this was seconded by Cllr B Green. **a. Appoint internal auditor** – decision - Hania Lee from Kingsteignton – proposed Cllr Read and Cllr Green seconded all in favour **b. Arrange finance meeting** – set a date – add to next months meeting	**Payments approved.**
17) Correspondence received	
Dartmoor Devil 25th October 2026 – add to website	
18) MEETINGS ATTENDED: to receive reports from councillors who have attended meetings on behave of this council or actions from the previous meetings	
Welmoor Meeting Cllr Read reported attending the Welmoor meeting. A proposal was discussed to hold events at the pub in Moretonhampstead to encourage vulnerable people to attend and participate in discussions on different topics.	

Cllr Read will provide a further update once dates and topics have been arranged. **Reservoir Water Levels** Cllr Read also reported that he has submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding water levels at reservoirs within the local area	
The next Council meeting is Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 7.30pm in the Bowden Room at TVCH.	

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.40pm

Signed…… Date…….

Position…….