

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 – 7.00pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.

Present: Cllr P. Greer (Chair), S. Hughes, S. Legg, F. Eames and I. Keam (quorate).

Also Present: Cllr Duncan Mackinder, East Devon District Council, Yarty Ward.

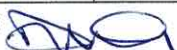
In Attendance: Danielle Gilpin (Clerk)

There was 1 member of the public present

7.00pm	The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions.
	<p>Public Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) No Police report received.ii) No P3 (footpath) report received.iii) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Cllr. Cathy Connor, Devon County Council, Whimble and Blackdown division, not in attendance and no report received in advance.b) Cllr. D Mackinder, East Devon District Council, Yarty Ward reported the following: Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). East Devon along with all Devon councils have submitted our suggestions to central government. All district council submitted essentially the same suggestion, the cities (Plymouth, Torbay and Exeter) had alternate plans as Plymouth and Torbay wished to retain unitary status and Exeter wished to become unitary. The county council submitted a different suggestion again to have a single unitary council covering all of Devon. We await the government's decision later this year. On current timescales there would be elections to the replacement councils in May 2027 which would run in parallel to existing councils until May 2028. Central government is changing a number of aspects of local government funding, and some funds such as UK Shared Prosperity Fund (which has been used in East Devon to fund a number of important projects) are being withdrawn. The new Fairer Funding Review is being used to reorganise local government funding and it appears it will result in reduction of funds to districts such as East Devon, however final details are not yet known. EDDC is close to finalizing the budget for 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 and in order to keep to a minimum both council tax rises and service reductions, we plan to utilise financial reserves (central government expects us to do this). Should LGR be delayed this approach will provide less help for years beyond the next two With the ending of the current contract with Suez to collect refuse in East Devon, EDDC are setting up a LATCO (local authority

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	<p>trading company) to run the refuse collection, as we believe this will be more efficient and provide model which could be adopted more widely following LGR. At present, EDDC is 6th nationally for the rate of recycling (59.55%) and top for sending least refuse to land fill. We hope to improve recycling rate to 62% this year and we thank residents for their efforts to separate refuse to the different bins provided. Correctly sorted refuse increases the value of the recycled materials collected with helps reduce the overall costs of refused collection to residents and businesses. I should note that a recent story on Devon Live, stated residents will be faced with up to four separate bins in future. EDDC is already compliant with the new recycling scheme and there will therefore be no changes for residents in East Devon</p> <p>iv) There was 1 member of the public present.</p> <p>Member of the public advised that they were present for the budget & precept agenda point, and requested permission to ask questions when this is discussed as it's challenging to ask questions without knowing the details first. Agreed that the Chair would invite them to speak at this time.</p> <p>The Chair closed Public Forum session at 7.05pm.</p>
7.10pm	Meeting Commences
25/095 i)	To note members of the Parish Council in attendance: As listed above.
25/095 ii)	To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1)) Apologies received from Cllr Reeve.
25/095 iii)	To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence: Cllr Keam had advised that he would be late arriving and sent apologies in advance.
25/096	Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct: There were no declarations of interest at this time. Noted that this did not preclude declarations of interest being made at any point in the meeting that they became apparent.
25/097	To consider any matters listed on this agenda that Councillors consider should be dealt with as confidential business as per the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960: None advised.
25/098	To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 10th December 2025: Proposed by Cllr. Greer, seconded by Cllr. Hughes and approved by all.

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Planning matters to be considered:

a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication:

25/2456/FUL – retrospective consent for raising one chimney stack. Proposed works include: erection of a single storey extension with 1no wood burning stove; installation of French drains with associate works; removal of redundant oil tank and brick building beneath.

All in support so resolved to support the application.

25/2457/LBC – retrospective consent for raising one chimney stack and replacement of two wood burning stoves and lining of flues. Proposed works include: erection of a single storey extension with 1no wood burning stove and new opening in snug wall for access, over-boarding of flagstones with engineered wood in dining room, oak screen to finish the internal partition in cross passage. Installation of French doors with associated works, removal of redundant oil tank and brick building beneath, new opening in garden wall.

Listed building application that mirrors application No 25/2456/FUL so no comment made.

a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members:

None advised.

b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA:

None advised.

c) Tree Matters:

TPO No 25/0064/TPO

Location is inaccurate so abstained from commenting. Ash tree is located in the Coach House not Old Vicarage.

d) Appeals lodged / in progress:

None advised.

e) Planning correspondence received:

None advised.

f) Ward planning applications to be considered at EDDC:

None advised.

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25/100	<p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) To note approval by the Chair of the Council's Payments for December 2025:</p> <p>Resolved that Council payments for December 2025 (£1,786.37) to be approved.</p> <p>b) To receive and note RFO report for December 2025:</p> <p>DG reported on December 2025.</p> <p>c) Questions to the RFO on accounts / financial reports:</p> <p>None.</p> <p>d) To note items of expenditure authorised under Chair/Clerk delegated authority: (Financial Regulations May 20215.4.1 and Delegation Appendix).</p> <p>DG purchased a new flag for the War Memorial.</p> <p>e) To consider the budget setting for 2026/27 and set the precept in accordance with the budget.</p> <p>Precept and budget reviewed. Proposed by Cllr Greer, seconded by Cllr Eames and approved by all. Precept increase of 3.79%.</p>
	<p>Chardstock Parish Council Business to be considered:</p>
25/101	<p>"Matters of Council consideration may include public participation if so invited by Chair"</p> <p>a) To consider parish maintenance, highways and footpath (P3) matters:</p> <p>None advised.</p> <p>b) To consider any matters pertaining to tree planting projects/initiatives in the parish (Hon. Tree Warden, Michael Davis, to provide notes for the Councillors, previously circulated):</p> <p>None received.</p> <p>c) To consider matters pertaining to ecology and climate action in the parish:</p> <p>No brief provided by Chardstock Ecology Group. However, they did issue their newsletter.</p> <p>Advised that there will be a talk in February on Farway Marsh.</p> <p>Advised that the River Axe is still rated as poor in relation to the ecological status.</p> <p>d) To consider ongoing work on the Emergency Planning for parishes:</p> <p>No change since previous meeting.</p>

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	<p>e) To consider information relating to The George Inn:</p> <p>None advised.</p> <p>f) To discuss Chardstock Play Park including additional access:</p> <p>New quote has been received that is considerably cheaper than and covers more than previous quote. 1 further quote is required before the grant can be approved and work can start. Work must be completed by mid-March. Marestail will be removed and buried.</p> <p>Village Hall are aware of the additional access requirements and this will be discussed at their next meeting for approval.</p> <p>Playpark inspection scheduled for March 2026. Resolved for DG to meet with the inspector during this inspection at a cost of £50.</p> <p>g) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the January 2026 edition:</p> <p>Resolved that the following be submitted for the next edition of the community newsletter:</p> <p>Advise the parishioners of the agreed precept.</p> <p>Cllr. Mackinder advised the following: That where the impact of council tax changes resulted in some households experiencing financial hardship, East Devon is able in some circumstances to provide help in the form of council tax rebates. Residents should consult https://eastdevon.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/financial-support-and-advice/help-with-household-bills/. If residents have problems with this or do not feel confident to approach council directly, Cllr. Mackinder is happy to do what he can to help.</p>
25/102	<p>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for noting only:</p> <p>Cllr. Hughes has found a lengthsman and will contact DG to sort out the formal process.</p> <p>Broom Lane needs reporting to Highways due to it's current condition.</p>
25/103	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7.00pm.</p>
25/104	<p>"It is proposed by the Chair that, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Local Government Act 1972, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. Members to agree upon matters to be discussed in confidential session, as per agenda item 25/097 above."</p>

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	RESOLVED to exclude the public (and press) due to the confidential nature of the next agenda items.
25/104	Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business: None advised.
	With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.25pm

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Signed:  _____ Date: 11th February 2026 (Chair)

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