

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2026 – 7.00pm; meeting held in Chardstock Community Hall.

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

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

In Attendance: Danielle Gilpin (Clerk)

There were 4 members 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, Whimple 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: Still awaiting the Government's decision on the LGR so there is not much to report. Regarding the reported incident at the last meeting, a number of actions and reports are in place.iv) There were 4 members of the public present. New resident would like to raise a concern regarding the lack of public transport of any kind in the village. They appreciate that the population doesn't warrant a daily bus but the lane into Tytherleigh is not safe to walk. It is believed that the last bus service in Chardstock was back in 2002. For those who don't drive, the current cost of a return taxi to Axminster is £36. They are throwing ideas around, doing research into potential options and wondering if the Parish Council is able to support. Thinking of a minibus once a week to support isolated people. The demographics have changed since 2002 with how much the village has grown, and the age of the residents. It's also about the social element for isolated residents. Confirmed that the Parish Council would not be able to support financially. Cllr MacKinder advised that Dial A Ride is still available but you need a membership and then you can call them for trips. They also put out on trips. Confirmed that they are looking into a self-funded minibus as a starting point.

Initial: 


	<p>Cllr Legg asked if it could be combined with Membury and Cllr Reeve suggested adding All Saints too. Advised to contact their Parish Councils to ask. Advised that transport stopped previously due to lack of use and finances. Lack of drivers also created issues and the ones they had were often taken advantage of.</p> <p>Asked if the Parish Council would be happy for them to persue. Confirmed that they were and that they would also put the details of Dial a Ride in the newsletter and contact the other Parish Council clerks to understand if they would be interested in collaborating.</p> <p>It is felt that the Government is trying to discourage elderly people from driving, which is why Dial a Ride was introduced, to stop people from feeling isolated. For a scheme to work here, a certain level of commitment will be needed from the residents. EDDC do have a small number of volunteer drivers but these are restricted.</p> <p>Resident confirmed that she will be researching into options. Cllr Reeve confirmed that the scheme is called Axe Valley Ring & Ride.</p> <p>Member of the public, Steve, introduced himself as our new lengthsman.</p> <p>4 members of the public left the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair closed Public Forum session at 7.16pm.</p>
7.17pm	Meeting Commences
25/106 i)	To note members of the Parish Council in attendance: As listed above.
25/117 ii)	To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1)) Apologies received from Cllr Eames.
25/117 iii)	To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence: No apologies received.
25/118	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.
25/119	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: Follow up from incident reported at last month's meeting.

Initial: 

25/120	<p>To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council held on 14th January 2026:</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr. Hughes, seconded by Cllr. Legg and approved by all.</p>
25/121	<p>Planning matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication:</p> <p>None received.</p> <p>a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members:</p> <p>26/0473/FUL – Alteration and extension to dwelling at Village Cottage, Chardstock.</p> <p>All in support.</p> <p>b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA:</p> <p>None advised.</p> <p>c) Tree Matters:</p> <p>TPO No 25/0064/TPO</p> <p>DG has sent a further email to advise that the location is incorrect and received a response requesting contact number. This has been issued but no phone call has been received.</p> <p>d) Appeals lodged / in progress:</p> <p>None advised.</p> <p>e) Planning correspondence received:</p> <p>None advised.</p> <p>f) Ward planning applications to be considered at EDDC:</p> <p>None advised.</p>
25/122	<p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) To note approval by the Chair of the Council's Payments for February 2026:</p> <p>Resolved that Council payments for February 2026 (£1,422.62) to be approved.</p> <p>b) To receive and note RFO report for February 2026:</p>

Initial: 

	<p>DG reported on February 2026 and advised that we are out of contract with BT. Approval given to initiate new contract which will save the Parish Council money. Village Hall to be chased for payment.</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>None.</p>
	<p>Chardstock Parish Council Business to be considered:</p>
<p>25/123</p>	<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>Contact Freida about work for lengthsman on the footpaths and bridleways. DG to contact lengthsman to paint the gate at the War Memorial and fix the gate to the play park.</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 ongoing work on the Emergency Planning for parishes including Community Emergency Hubs:</p> <p>Cllr Keam attended Devon Communities Together meeting which was focused on each local community having their own Community Emergency Hub. This is a place where communities can come together in an emergency. Chardstock Village Hall is the ideal location. Cllr Greer confirmed that she is happy for Culverfield to also be considered. The Community Emergency Hub is a box of instructions that we can apply for. Cllr Keam has confirmed that he will apply on the Parish Council’s behalf once he has received the link. The box contains a booklet on what to do in an emergency including which statutory bodies should be contacted. Requires some work to establish and coordinate. Need to look into how we identify elderly people and vulnerable people that may require additional assistance whilst ensuring that we adhere to GDPR. This box will compliment the emergency plan. We will need to establish a body to manage including defined roles and responsibilities, which need to be determined. Location needs to be determined and engagement with the local community is needed. Cllr Keam to apply for the box and if successful, we will engage with the Village Hall Trustees. Will need to provide a list of contractors including electricians, plumbers, etc.</p> <p>d) To discuss Chardstock Play Park:</p> <p>Cllr Keam provided the following update on the new community garden which is linked to the new play park:</p>

Initial: 

The planters have soil in them so that they are heavier and less likely to be stolen. The living roof will face towards the hall so that it can be seen. The new space/entrance will be met by the project funding. Asking for another gate at the other end to keep it sealed and take you straight into the park. In the process of getting a quote. Wondered if the Parish Council would consider paying for it. Confirmed that we need prices to review before agreeing. The fencing has been reinstated including swapping out the bent section. Creeping thyme is being considered for the bank. Need to get a quote for seed and plants. This needs to be after the installation of the play park as this is also being installed on the bank. There is a saving of around £3,000 as the original quote covered seeding which isn't now being completed. We have been donated a red dogwood as a sensory plant for the planters (or potentially on the bank) – Cllr Keam to investigate best location. It is a robust plant that we can cut into a bush but will continue to give the garden colour in the winter months. We need to compile a list of plants that we would like to publish in the newsletter so that parishioners can donate plants or contribute towards these plants. 7 planters have been installed. So far, CADS, Cricket Club, Chardstock Primary School, Chardstock Parish Council and Chardstock Eco Group are sponsoring 1 each. The Gardening Club are considering sponsoring 1. Chardstock Bowls Club and the Parochial Church have also been asked. 1 member of the eco group has a drone and will take footage of the community garden free of charge. The film will be shown at an Eco Group evening. There will be an event to officially open. The contractors, Chardstock Parish Council, Blackdown Hills National Landscapes Project Team, Cllr MacKinder and MP Forde to be invited to this event. We need to find someone to open the event – Joel Fry, local actor, to be asked. Cllr Reeve to contact. Local landscaping businesses to be contacted to ask if they will donate any plants in return for advertising.

Playpark company were requested to requote play park equipment and installation. There has been a slight change to price and around 5-7 weeks to complete. They will need to complete a site visit. The bank will need to stabilise before the work can be started.

Need to understand how the recycling will work at the playpark.

e) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the April 2026 edition:

Information regarding the Axe Valley Ring & Ride to be published.

Update on the playpark.

Remind parishioners that all are welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings to raise issues and suggestions for improvement. No invite is required.

f) To consider Assertion 10 and any implications for the Parish Council:

DG needs to check that Chardstock Parish Council own the website domain. IT policy to be formally reviewed and adopted at the AGM. DG to review any Gmail use implications.

Initial: 

	<p>g) To consider the cleaning of the war memorial</p> <p>Cllr Keam to attempt to clean the war memorial after checking the legal requirements and ensuring the method is safe.</p>
25/124	<p>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for noting only:</p> <p>None.</p>
25/125	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 7.00pm.</p>
25/126	<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 25/108 above."</p> <p>RESOLVED to exclude the public (and press) due to the confidential nature of the next agenda items.</p>
25/127	<p>Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business:</p> <p>None advised.</p>
	<p>With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.25pm</p>

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Signed:  _____

Date: 11th March 2026

(Chair)

Initial: 