

CHARDSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th February 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 10 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: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Awaiting for the Government’s response to the LGR. There is some planning work going on with other districts in preparation of the decision. They may decide to divest more resources like trimming hedges, clearing gulleys which may mean that this has to be resourced locally.</p> iv) There were 10 members of the public present. <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Members of the public were there to raise concerns regarding activities at a yard in Chardstock. No further details will be documented in these minutes.</p> <p>The Chair closed Public Forum session at 7.41pm.</p>
7.42pm	Meeting Commences
25/106 i)	To note members of the Parish Council in attendance: As listed above.
25/106 ii)	To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1)) Apologies received from Cllr Eames.
25/106 iii)	To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence: No apologies received.

Initial: 

25/107	<p>Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct:</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest at this time.</p> <p>Noted that this did not preclude declarations of interest being made at any point in the meeting that they became apparent.</p>
25/108	<p>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:</p> <p>None advised.</p>
25/109	<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. Greer and approved by all.</p>
25/110	<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>None advised.</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 an email to advise that the location is incorrect but no response 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>

Initial:

25/111	<p>Financial Matters to be considered:</p> <p>a) To note approval by the Chair of the Council's Payments for January 2026: Resolved that Council payments for January 2026 (£5,766.26) to be approved.</p> <p>b) To receive and note RFO report for January 2026: DG reported on January 2026.</p> <p>c) Questions to the RFO on accounts / financial reports: None.</p> <p>d) To note items of expenditure authorised under Chair/Clerk delegated authority: (Financial Regulations May 20215.4.1 and Delegation Appendix). None.</p>
	<p>Chardstock Parish Council Business to be considered:</p>
25/112	<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: Lengthsman has been appointed. DG to email and invite him to attend next meeting.</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): None received.</p> <p>c) To consider matters pertaining to ecology and climate action in the parish: No brief provided by Chardstock Ecology Group. However, they did issue their newsletter. Advised that the talk in February on Farway Marsh was well attended. Confirmed that they have a new website www.chardstockecogroup.org.uk.</p> <p>d) To consider ongoing work on the Emergency Planning for parishes: Membury Parish Council have finalised their plan and will be forwarding to Cllr. Keam for review and adapting for Chardstock Parish Council.</p> <p>e) To consider information relating to The George Inn: None advised.</p>

Initial: 

	<p>f) To discuss Chardstock Play Park including additional access:</p> <p>RFO needs to sign the grant acceptance form for Blackdown Hills. The work on the garden is due to start along with the work on the banks when the weather approves. Quote from alternative supplier to be forwarded to DG. DG to investigate into bins for the area. Looking into a wildflower bank potentially including snowdrops, daffodil, creeping thyme. Options to be explored. To look at having an Open Day.</p> <p>g) To consider submission of articles to Parish Newsletter for the January 2026 edition:</p> <p>Previous edition submission was not submitted. Therefore, 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> <p>Confirm the appointment of the Lengthsman and the scope of his work.</p> <p>Advise that the play park will be closed at the beginning of March whilst the work is undertaken for health and safety reasons.</p> <p>Remind parishioners that all are welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings to raise issues. No invite is required.</p> <p>h) To consider Assertion 10 and any implications for the Parish Council:</p> <p>DG updated the Parish Council and an IT policy is required. DG to draft for next meeting.</p>
25/113	<p>Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for noting only:</p> <p>None.</p>
25/114	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next Meeting of Chardstock Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.00pm.</p>
25/115	<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>

Initial:

	RESOLVED to exclude the public (and press) due to the confidential nature of the next agenda items.
25/116	Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business: None advised.
	With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.22pm

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

Initial: 