

BUCKERELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th March 2026 at
Doug's Shed Splatt Hayes

Those Present

John Slater – Chair (JS)
Nicola Janus-Harris (NJ)
Jane Halse (JH)
Jo Knight (JK)
Geoff Wright (GW)
Andy Curnow (AC)
Ian Tucker - Clerk (IT)

There were 4 members of the public present.

1. Apologies

Cllr Alasdair Bruce EDDC (AB)

2. Agreeing the Minutes of the Meeting Held 14th January 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2026 were agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Matters arising (not on agenda)

There were no matters arising.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Public questions

A resident asked about emergency 5-day road closures initiated by statutory undertakers which happened without warning and could delay access to the village by emergency vehicles. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact our Devon County councillor to ask him to ascertain whether information was shared with the emergency services when these road closures took place.

IT

The meeting felt that the village WhatsApp group was very helpful when road problems occur.

6. Finance and Governance

Balance at bank £2141.74 (Current) and £3803.70 (Savings) at 1st March 2026

a) Payments approved -

Venue hire £30

- b) The fact that EDDC had acknowledged the precept request (£5525) was noted.
- c) The Clerk left the meeting while his pay scale was discussed. The meeting agreed that it should increase to spine point 11 on the Local Government pay scale (£14.59ph).

7. Councillor Richard Jefferies – Report

No report received.

8. Councillor Alasdair Bruce – Report

The report from Cllr. Bruce had been circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting and will now be shared on the Parish Council website. **IT**

9. Local Government Reorganisation

John reported on a meeting hosted by Honiton Town Council in January to discuss Local Government Reorganisation. As consultations are continuing it was felt that this meeting added little of substance. The final plan from government in terms of the shape of local government in Devon is awaited.

10.Planning

Enforcement action is on-going but held up by staff absence in the planning department at EDDC. **AB**

11. Roads Report

a) Flooding at the sewage works – South West Water did not turn up for a planned meeting with councillors at the site. There is an issue with a collapsed drain under the works entrance, caused by SWW heavy vehicles. This is preventing any overflow water from Vine Water being swiftly dispersed and backing up in the adjoining woodland and field. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to SWW to highlight the **IT**

problem (and copy in the landowner of the field which floods and the NHO).

b) Hill at Avenhayes – South West Water have found that the water flowing down the hill is mains water (not a spring). It is a private supply to a property in Orchards and SWW will now need to resolve the issue.

The Neighbourhood Highways Officer has viewed the site and put the damaged roadway on the list for repair in the summer.

c) Field drain on road into Weston – The drain which was cleared by the Parish Council last year is blocked once again. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the NHO to contact the landowner to resolve the blockage. IT

d) Devon County Council EV charging initiative – It was agreed to respond to DCC to maintain our interest and to re-assess demand for such a facility as the project rolls out. IT

e) Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter of complaint to Devon County Council about the state of the Hembury Fort Road at the Awliscombe end and copy in Richard and Awliscombe and Weston Parish Council for information. IT

12. Trees, Footpaths, Hedgerows and Drains

There was discussion about contracting out some ditch work and it was agreed to defer this until September. It will be added to the agenda for the Parish Council meeting in that month. IT

13. Matters for next meeting

- a) The next meeting will be the annual meeting of the Council at which the Annual Governance and Accountability Returns will be approved.
- b) Election of Officers
- c) Charitable donations

13. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be **Tuesday 19th May** at 7pm. ((Please note change of day).