

Bridestowe Parish Council

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(draft) Bridestowe Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting held – Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.30 pm The Ark, Bridestowe

In attendance: Clerk, Parish Cllrs Young (Vice Chair), Thirtle, Burder, Hodgson, Bickle, Pritchard (Chair), Borough Cllr Mott, members of the public (2)

1. Election of Chairman.

The Vice Chair opened the meeting by asking for nominees for Chairman. Cllr Burder proposed Cllr Pritchard, and this was seconded by Cllr Hodgson. There were no other nominees. All Cllrs voted in support of the nomination and Cllr Pritchard duly accepted the role.

2. Apologies.

None.

3. Possible Declarations of interest.

None.

4. Public Open Question Time.

Members of the public wished to participate in item 7.

***** The Chairman brought forward item 7 to allow public participation. *****

7. River Maintenance.

Members of the public voiced concerns regarding the build up of debris in the river, under the bridge, upstream and downstream. Concerns over the spread and potential flood issues were shared. Advice from Cllr Mott was given and the Clerk was asked to contact Highways in the first instance to establish responsibility and action that can be taken.

5. Approval of minutes of meetings held January 7, 2026.

Cllr Thirtle proposed the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Young and agreed by all. The chairman signed a copy.

6. Matters arising.

None.

8. Cemetery regulations.

The Working Party reported that an electronic plan of the cemetery had been created and shows 67 available plots plus 15 reserved plots. They also confirmed that 125 plots were occupied, 12 of the plots shown on the original plan are unusable for varying reasons such as tree growth and 20 of the original plots do not exist. The Cllrs are now considering how best to use the space available and will create a plan of the orchard as part of the next steps. Cllr Pritchard reported that they had reviewed cemetery regulations of other local parishes to gather information including burial fees and restrictions to aid the group in updating the Bridestowe cemetery regulations. She also proposed that a record keeping policy was created and this will be circulated to all Councillors for review in due course along with proposed regulations. The Clerk confirmed she had completed part 1 of 2 of the cemetery regulations training courses provided by ICCM. The Clerk will meet with the working party group to share knowledge and help with the next steps.

9. DCC P3 Footpath Scheme update.

The Clerk circulated the survey forms and information to Councillors ahead of the meeting. Councillors agreed to each try and survey some of the footpaths and send the completed forms to the Clerk to collate and submit by the end of March. Councillors discussed requiring copies of big maps and if they cannot be located the Clerk will request new copies.

10. Planning.

10.1 0009/26/HHO 2 Southball CottageBridestoweEX20 4EN – Councillors agreed to support the application as they consider that the proposed single storey extension represents a positive enhancement to the property and will improve the appearance of the area as viewed from the street. The design is proportionate and sympathetic to the existing building, contributing positively to the overall streetscape. Furthermore, the Council is satisfied that the development will cause no adverse impact on neighbouring properties in terms of amenity, privacy, or light. Comment proposed by Cllr Thirtle, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed by all Cllrs.

10.2 3764/25/FUL Land At Sx 501 897Bridestowe - The Parish Council neither supports nor objects to the proposal but wishes to raise the following concerns for consideration. Members are concerned that the proposed fencing may restrict the movement of wildlife, particularly in a rural setting where connectivity between habitats is important. The Council would ask that consideration be given to wildlife-friendly alternatives or mitigation measures to ensure continued permeability for local fauna. In addition, the Parish Council has reservations regarding the proposed 6ft galvanised fencing. Its height and industrial appearance are considered unsightly and not in keeping with the character and rural nature of the surrounding area. A more sympathetic design and material would be preferable and more appropriate to the setting. Comment proposed by Cllr Thirtle, seconded by Cllr Burder and agreed by all Cllrs.

11. Accounts for payment:

11.1 Arran Edgson – tree care - £350.00

Current account statement balance on, January 26, 2026, £15117.60 Cashbook circulated to all Cllrs.

Cllrs agreed to pay all accounts stated above. Proposed by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Thirtle and agreed by all.

12. Correspondence: Mostly circulated to councillors.

12.1 Newsletters – acknowledged.

12.2 Thermal Imaging Camera Scheme – Cllrs agreed that the deadline for the scheme was too short notice given the action required but that there may be interest in future scheme. The Clerk will submit an expression of interest.

12.3 Modbury Parish Council letter to SHDC Development Management Committee – Cllr Mott explained the content of the email and confirmed that the Bridestowe Neighbourhood Plan is protected for now as it does not restrict numbers and offers development plots. She also confirmed that the NPCC is being consulted on again now.

12.4 Temporary Traffic Notice – acknowledged.

12.5 Email from Leander Developments Ltd – Cllrs acknowledged the email and agreed they would need to remind Leander about the funding contribution once 25% of properties were occupied.

12.6 Cllr Young raised correspondence from the hall requesting the annual contribution to the website hosting fees. Cllrs agreed in principle to support this, and the Clerk will add it to the accounts on the next agenda.

13. Date of next meeting.

The next full council meeting was agreed for Wednesday 22nd April 2026.

**** Part II Meeting** (Closed to public and press)**

14. Enforcement.

Cllrs acknowledged the closure of the enforcement case. Following concerns raised over the condition of the road the Clerk was asked to report this to Highways.

15. Close

The meeting was closed at 8.57pm.