



# AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK:  
ANDY COMERFORD  
EYRE COURT HOTEL  
2 QUEENS STREET  
EX12 2NY  
Tel no: 07895 910543

**A meeting of Axmouth Parish Council was held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 6.30pm in Axmouth Village Hall.**

**Those present:**

Cllr Daniel, Cllr Drown, Cllr Condron, Cllr McBride, Cllr Preston, Cllr Lucas, Cllr Harvey and Cllr Westerman (arrived 7pm).

**In attendance:**

Andy Comerford (Clerk), Mr S Prosser.

The Clerk declared the meeting to be quorate.

**1. Co-option of council member:**

Mr S Prosser was proposed by Cllr Daniel and seconded by Cllr Condron. All in favour.  
Cllr Daniel welcomed Cllr Prosser to the Parish Council.

**2. To receive and acknowledge apologies:**

Cllr Zisman (prior commitment).

**3. Declaration of Interests:** In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at East Devon District Council within 28 days of the change.

None received.

**4. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025 to be approved:** Approved with correction to 15. Bus Stop, change Bolt to Bond.

**5. To agree items to be discussed after the public, including the press, have been excluded:** None.

**6. Public Forum:**

a) District Councillor report.

Cllr Westerman reported that the new town in East Devon was going to be called Marlcombe and was situated between Exeter airport and Farringdon. It was planned to build 3000 new

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homes including 500 homes funded by the council.

The Police have asked that any sort of crime should be reported to them even though it may appear that no action is taken the statistics are important to indicate clusters of crime and the most efficient use of officers.

Seaton Wetlands had reported a successful summer, probably helped by their appearance on Country File.

All councils should have received a survey request probably to help with Devolution. The deadline for completion was the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1925.

De carbonisation grants are available to business and community groups for up to £30,000.

- b) County Councillor report. None given.
- c) Members of the public. None given.

## 7. Highway matters:

- a) Traffic signage through the village.  
Cllr Hayward discussing with Highways.
- b) Stepps Lane Subsidence.  
In hand with Highways/SW Water. No action taken as yet. The surface is still deteriorating and a new area of subsidence is appearing. **Action:** Clerk to contact Highways again, Cllr Condron will supply additional photos. Cllr Drown considered that the increase in heavy agricultural vehicles was contributing significantly to the deterioration and if asking Bindon Estate to limit the traffic may help. Cllr Daniel added that he thought there was an historic arrangement concerning agricultural vehicle going through the village and it may be worth asking Ken if he was aware of any such arrangement. Cllr Drown agreed to approach Ken. It was generally felt that this was further evidence that the roads around the village were not suitable for heavy vehicles. **Action:** Clerk to ask for an update from Cllr Hayward.
- c) Chain Link Posts.  
So far no repairs have been carried out. Cllr Drown asked if they were actually required given that a number of Devon towns and villages have unprotected streams running alongside roads. Cllr Daniel thought that there were mixed feelings about the chain link fencing. It was generally agreed that they were not a necessary safety feature although recently somebody had fallen into the brook. It was agreed that Highways should be made aware of the incident to leverage repairs.
- d) Road Closure. (circulated).  
The clerk suggested that he open a Facebook account on behalf of the council enabling the posting of public notices on Axmouth together. This was agreed.
- e) VAS report.  
Cllr McBride reported the results from the recent 6 week period of VAS installation. Over a period of 34 days it recorded 96500 vehicles going through the village and this only records traffic in one direction and the schools would have been closed for this period. This equates to an average of 2775 vehicles per day. There was only 13 logs speeds over the limit, all between 5 and 6 am which could well be the same vehicle. The highest speed recorded was 35mph. Cllr



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Condron recalled that it had reached 110,000 vehicle 2 years ago. The average speed was 18.17 mph. This was probably effected as vehicles had to pass through the pinch point caused by the cars parked on the roadside. It had been concluded previously that there was not a speeding issue through the village but the council would continue to use the VAS system to collect data on the extremely high vehicle traffic. Cllr Daniel asked if records were kept of the data. The clerk will start a spread sheet to record the information and look back through old minutes as they had been reported in the past.

f) Street Lighting.

Cllr McBride said that he had reported faulty street lighting in Axmouth in January. No action had been taken to date so he had e-mailed a complaint to the street lighting team. A reply stated that it had been reported some time ago that the faulty lights were unrepairable and because they were mounted on private property permission had to be sought from the property owners and local councillors. Permissions had now been received and instructions had been issued to the works team who now have 12 weeks to complete the repairs. This instruction had been issued last August. Nothing had been done to date. Cllr McBride agreed to send the clerk a copy of the e-mail and he would pursue the matter with the Street Lighting Team.

## 8. Review of Internal Control and GDPR procedures:

a) Grant Awards Policy. (circulated)

The clerk reported that the letter heading needed to be updated. There was continual referral to APC and although it may be obvious to some, this should be changed to Axmouth Parish Council for clarity. Payment by cheque would be removed as payments were now made by transfer. All changes were agreed.

b) Privacy Notice. (circulated).

The clerk reported that he didn't feel the existing policy was up to date, was much less detailed than others he had looked at and regulations referred to were not current. It was agreed that the clerk would look for an up to date policy template.

## 9. Financial matters.

a) To approve the financial statements to the end August 2025. Approved.

b) To approve the following payments:

- i) Village Hall. £78.75. agreed by e-mail.
- ii) Scalwell Lane Nursery. £750. Approved.
- iii) Blaze. £295.20. agreed by e-mail.
- iv) Blaze. £ 29.52. agreed by e-mail.
- v) A J Gallacher, Insurance. £842.49. approved.
- vi) Trevett Garden Maintenance. £37.50



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## 10 Planning.

No applications.

## 11. Graveyard:

Cllr Daniel gave a quick update on the graveyard issue for the benefit of the new councillors. There was some discussion concerning the issue of access and a suggestion of this being from Coldwell Lane. It was concluded that the landowner would not be agreeable to losing this area of his property. Cllr Drown asked what would happen to the earmarked funding for the graveyard if it proved impossible to proceed. As this fund had been a donation only for the graveyard it could not be used for another project without the agreement of the donor. It was agreed that, having had a meeting with the PCC it was now up to them to continue the process. There was some discussion concerning the options available to re use some of the existing graves and whether that had been explored by the PCC. **Action:** The clerk will contact the PCC and see if there is any progress.

## 12. Footpath update:

There had been no update from Cllr Zisman who was going to make contact with the new landowner.

It was agreed that all the footpath clearing that had been required had been completed. Footpath 5 had been recently reported as being in need of attention and was waiting for the work to be carried out.

## 13. Dog Bin:

The clerk reported that he had had a number of contacts with Mr S Mclure who was monitoring the bin and thought, having had any additional emptying per week added to the programme, that it was being used properly and there were no problems at the present. He added that he didn't consider any further action was required but that he would keep monitoring it.

## 14. Grit Bin:

The clerk reported that he had been in contact with Highways having asked for a new bin to be fitted earlier in the year. The clerk was informed that, on examination, it was found that the bin at the bottom of steps lane hadn't been refilled since 2017 and therefore there was no need for additional bins. They were happy to move the bin from the bottom of Steps lane to a position at the top of the lane but the sandbags that were stored in it would have to be removed. It was agreed that the clerk should notify Highways to move the bin accordingly.



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## 15. Bus Stop.

Cllr Condron reported that he had approached Mr S Bond but he was now unable to carry out the work. Callum ? and Graham? were looking at the bus stop and would report back on what needed to be done and a cost for undertaking the work.

## 16. Reports.

- a) Parish Councillor reports: None
- b) Clerks report: None

## 17. To accept any relevant correspondence:

The Clerk reported he had received a communication from Street Scene who wanted to know what sand bags were required to top up stocks for the coming winter. Cllr Daniel agreed to do a count and let the clerk know.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 6.30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Signed     *N. Daniel*     Date 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025

Meeting closed 7.40pm.