



# 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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 6.30pm in Axmouth Village Hall.**

**Those present:**

Cllr Daniel, Cllr Drown, Cllr Condrón, Cllr McBride, Cllr Preston, Cllr Lucas, Cllr Harvey and Cllr Prosser.

**In attendance:**

Andy Comerford (Clerk), Cllr Hayward, Cllr Westerman and Mr G. Loveridge.

The Clerk declared the meeting to be quorate.

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

Cllr Zisman (prior commitment).

- 2. 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.

- 3. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 to be approved:** Approved

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

**5. Public Forum:**

- a) District Councillor report. Cllr Westerman reported on the varying proposals being submitted for the restructure of the County. All the District Councils were in support of the 145 proposal.

“The 145 proposal for Devon County Council involves the reorganization of local government into a single unitary authority that would replace Devon County Council and the existing eight district councils. This proposal aims to provide continuity in critical services such as children's safeguarding and adult social care, while ensuring that existing authorities like Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council remain intact. The new authority would be supported by 16 Neighbourhood Area Committees, which will empower communities to have a stronger voice in decision-making. The proposal is subject to government approval, with a final decision expected by the end of 2026, and the new authority will take on its powers and responsibilities on April 1, 2028.”



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All proposals need to be submitted for consideration by the Government before 28<sup>th</sup> November 25. There will then be a consultation period, and the decision should be announced during March/April 25 for implementation after local elections in May 27 to go live in April 28.

Cllr Drown asked what was reason for the re-organisation. and was it just about saving money.

Cllr Westerman responded that she would have to ask the Government but was mainly to do with economies of scale and development of a more local Mayoral system.

Cllr Westerman reported that there was a new fund available for the volunteer sector which may well be of interest to the Village Hall Committee.

- b) County Councillor report. Cllr Hayward thanked the village for its forbearance whilst the road works were undertaken. He further reported that he had been in a meeting with all departments involved with Highways to consider the general dissatisfaction with the road conditions. The outcome was that at any time in Devon there were 1500 sets of ongoing road works and the information need to be distributed to all Councils as often notifications were not given.
- Cllr Hayward further reported that he had been investigating the best way to bring a priority system for Axmouth into consideration. Funding is a main issue but Highways were now saying that parishes could have works undertaken if they were happy to fund the cost. Although it could be considered as unfair if rich parishes could pay for projects that poor parishes couldn't afford. An approximate figure of £16,000 to £17,000 would be the cost of prioritising traffic through Axmouth. However, even if the funding could be raised there were still challenges to the scheme because the system would start on a bend and the signage would have to be illuminated. Under new thinking it was agreed that the answer should not just be negative but a solution should be found that would make it work for all parties. It remains a work in progress.
- Cllr Hayward asked the members should consider whether an enhanced speed limit should be considered along with weight limitation and double yellow lines. Cllr Hayward summed up saying that firstly he had to find the way and means of Highways to consider the project, then find the funding and finally resolving the minutia to bring the project to instigation.
- Cllr Hayward further elaborated on the process of devolution and its aim to reduce costs. Much more work would be pushed down to the Parish Councils. Cllr Daniel asked what level of additional work would be placed on to Parish Councils. Cllr Hayward said that additional responsibilities would be added to the precept highlighting that the precept for Chard had more than doubled. Playparks, emptying dog bins, grass verges and footpaths and all local facilities will become the responsibility of the Parish Council. It is likely that less people will put their names forward for parish councillors because of the increased responsibility. The unitary authority will only remain responsible for children's social care, adult social care and highways. There is also uncertainty on what format the parish councils will exist in and the powers they will hold. There was discussion about the effect of devolution, the possible disruption it is and will cause in the future once the Secretary of State has announce the format it will operate as. Cllr Hayward said that he was hoping to organise an Axminster group of all Chairs, clerks and councillors to work together on implementing and working within the new format and collectively looking at saving on services that will need to be maintained by the councils.



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- c) Members of the public. None given.

## 6. Highway matters:

- a) Traffic signage through the village.  
See Cllr Hayward report.
- b) Steps Lane Subsidence.  
Report from Highways concludes that they have assessed Steps lane and it does not reach the criteria for action at this time. SWW had been asked to inspect the lane but they reported that the damage was not their responsibility.
- c) Chain Link Posts.  
Highways reported that the posts had been inspected by a subcontractor. The subcontractor had inspected all the posts, not just the damaged ones, and it was envisaged the work would be put in hand shortly. Cllr Drown asked if the possibility of putting grills over the brook was still being considered. Cllr Daniel thought that more research should be done as to the placement of grills, and highways should continue with repair and replacement of the old posts. Researching the possibility of grills, including residents points of view, should be looked at a future date.
- d) The clerk reported that he had received communication from Mr Rick Simmonds of Steps Close Cottage, who was concerned about the root damage to his property from the Sessile Oak growing in front of the playground entrance. The clerk has requested the Tree Protection Officer to advise on the best action. The clerk also spoke with EDDC to ascertain if they were responsible for the tree to which they replied it was not. It was agreed that the clerk would make an enquiry with LRO to establish ownership.)

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

- a) Privacy Notice. (circulated). Cllr Harvey thought that point 5, "Sharing your personal data" was misleading and that data could be shared with anybody in the Parish and consent as only needed if the information was to go outside of the Parish. It was agreed that this should be re written. Clerk to edit accordingly and circulate to all councillors for their agreement.

## 8. Financial matters.

- a) To approve the financial statements to the end October 2025. Approved.
- b) To approve the following payments:
- i) Blaze hosting. £865.71. Agreed
  - ii) Parish online. £36.00. Agreed
  - iii) Wreath for Remembrance day £20.00. agreed



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## 9. Planning.

- i. Village Hall request. No objections, agreed by email.
- ii. 25/2289/PDR. Bindon Manor Estate. Coombe Orchard (circulated). There was discussion concerning lack of clarity of its intended use and effects on increases to local traffic which the approach roads were not suitable for. It was agreed that Councillors would give this application more consideration and responses be sent to the clerk by. Clerk will advise on reply date.

## 10. Graveyard:

No further progress. Waiting for agreement on point of entry and possible value.

## 11. Footpath update:

Remove from the agenda.

## 12. Grit Bin:

Grit bin has been situated in the wrong location. Clerk to inform Highways.

## 13. Bus Stop.

Cllr Condron reported that, although he had a quotation to carry out the repairs to the bus stop the company were no longer able to do the work. Having been informed that the work would cost between £2,500 and £3,000 Cllr Condron had received a quote from a new company that had valued the proposed works at £10,500. As a comparison Cllr Condron had found a company that would supply a ready assembled brand new bus stop for £11,400 plus some on minimum on site costs. Cllr Condron has informed the new contactor that because of the disparity in the quotations the Council would not be placing the work at the moment. Cllr Condron will approach Mr Bond and explain the difficulties the Council is in and ask him to reconsider his decision to undertake the work and give him the opportunity to re-visit the quotation. Cllr Daniel felt that some temporary repair work should be carried out in the short term to the ridge. This was agreed.

## 14. Street Lighting.

After pressure from Cllr McBride and the clerk the lighting work has been carried out apart from one light opposite The Ship.



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## 15. Reports

a) Parish Councillor reports:

Cllr Harvey reported hedging encroaching on the pavement by the last house on the right hand side on the corner as you go towards Seaton. Cllr Danial will contact the landowner. Cllr McBride reported that he had taken possession of the VAS camera but the batteries could not be charged. Cllr McBride wasn't sure who should get it repaired and how the cost should be shared with the three Parishes. The cost of 2 batteries is £172. Cllr Hayward suggested that the 3 Parishes decide who is going to purchase the replacements. That Parish can then apply to Cllr Haywards Locality fund for reimbursement. Cllr McBride to follow up with the other 2 Parishes.

Cllr Danial wished to express the Councils thanks to Julien for the splendid job he did cleaning the war memorial. Clerk to write a letter of thanks.

Cllr Danial agreed to arrange the annual council Christmas social gathering and would circulate a proposed date.

No further reports.

b) Clerks report:

The clerk reported that he considered that after 5 to 6 years the council laptop was due for replacement. It was agreed that a new computer would be purchased. Cllr Lucas would advise the clerk of a couple of suitable options with a budget of £400.

## 16. To accept any relevant correspondence: None received.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 6.30pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ N Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 21/01/2026 \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting closed 7.45pm.