



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 21st January 2026 at 6.30pm in Axmouth Village Hall.

Those present:

Cllr Daniel, Cllr Drown, Cllr Condrón, Cllr McBride, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Lucas.

In attendance:

Andy Comerford (Clerk), Cllr Westerman.

The Clerk declared the meeting to be quorate.

1. To receive and acknowledge apologies:

2. Cllr Zisman (prior commitment). Cllr Preston (prior commitment) Cllr Prosser (prior commitment) Cllr Hayward (attending another meeting).

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 19th November 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 that the government was intending to relay its decision on the local government reorganisation on the 27th May 26. The EDDC are currently reviewing its assets as to which should be retained and which should be handed over to the Town and Parish Councils. Cllr Daniel asked if a list of assets would be produced and which assets may be handed down. There was some discussion about the assets and who would be responsible for them.

Cllr Westerman reported that she had been contacted by a member of the public with concerns over the closed footpath by Axmouth Harbour. Cllr Daniel replied that the closure was due to a small cliff fall but had been closed for some time. Cllr Daniel thought that half a day with a small digger would clear the obstruction. Members of the public were walking along the path again, ignoring the fence and cliff fall as it had been like it for too long. As an EDDC asset the council

[Email:-clerk@axmouth.eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@axmouth.eastdevon.gov.uk)



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should get it cleared as soon as possible. Cllr Westerman said she would put in request to have it cleared the next day.

- b) There was no County Councillor report. Cllr Condrón did comment on a facebook posting from Cllr Hayward concerning the inability to repair potholes when there were no funds to cover the repairs. There was a general discussion about the poor state of Devons roads and how poorly they compared to surrounding counties.
- c) Members of the public. None given.

6. Highway matters:

- a) Traffic signage through the village. No further progress.
- b) Chain Link Posts.
Cllr Daniel reported that he had removed 6 of the damaged posts and tied back the loose chains. The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Highways and had had a report back which included the contactors quotation for effecting the repairs. The quotation was reviewed by councillors and there was some discussion over the methods and cost. The clerk further reported that he had today received communication to say the work was to be carried out 16th to 18th of February with an appropriate road closure put in place.
- c) Oak tree by Stepps Cross Cottage. The clerk reported that after advice received by Mr Simmonds from the TPO it had been agreed that the tree could be removed as it was not covered by a preservation order and ownership could not be identified. The TPO had suggested the planting of a replacement tree in another area. This had been considered by the council in the past and a suitable location could not be agreed it will be looked at again as there was an area further up the fence line of the playground field that may be suitable. Cllr Drown suggested a May tree. Cllr Drown will investigate which tree would be best.

7. Financial matters.

- a) To approve the financial statements to the end December 2025. Approved.
- b) To approve the budget and Precept request for 2026-27: (circulated).
The Clerk presented the proposed budget for the precept for 26/27. There was discussion over some of the budget lines. Cllr Condrón suggested that if the budget headings, particularly the maintenance lines, were given broader titles the budget would become more flexible and better able to meet demands. The Clerk agreed to amalgamate the maintenance budgets and re-circulate the revised budget format along with the explanation notes for the budget. The budget total for the precept would not be affected by the amalgamation. It was agreed that a Precept request for £12959.46 would be submitted.

8. Planning. None receive.



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9. **Playground update:** (minutes circulated)

Cllr Condron reported that the next ROSPA survey of the playground was scheduled for March 26. It was hoped that the in inspector could be met on site to discuss some of the issues and to identify one of the points raised in the last 2 reports.

The Committee had agreed to utilise the remaining balance of the maintenance budget to purchase metal collars to be inserted in the ground for the wooden support legs for the swings to preserve the timber and improve their life expectancy.

There is a new sing to be fitted. Mr Hunt has the timber which will shortly be sent for signwriting.

There has been some discussion with Mrs Sweetland about the possibility of the Playground Committee taking on a stall at the Village Show to raise funds and awareness that the committee is looking at introducing further play equipment to the park. This would need to be confirmed by the Show committee at their April meeting.

The Playground Committee were also planning to plant some wildflower areas in the park to further enhance its appeal and appearance.

Cllr Preston said that originally the suggestion was to add a sunken trampoline the the equipment but this had been recently rejected after reports were received fro Seaton Town Council concerning the increased maintenance issue they have with their trampoline. Cllr Preston has been in contact with a couple of equipment suppliers to research other options. Climbing walls/frames seemed a popular suggestion. The intention was to replace one of the rockers to open up a bigger area to be used for the new equipment.

10. **Village Hall proposal:** (circulated)

Cllr Drown explained that the Village Hall Committee had increased the hall hire fees to £10 per hour and wanted to simplify the invoicing process. The Committee were proposing a charge of £75 per quarter, £300 per annum for the regular monthly meeting bookings and occasional additional meetings. Currently this was invoiced quarterly in arrears and this would be changed to quarterly or annually in advance depending the on The Parish Councils preference. It was agreed that the Village Hall invoice for hire will be accepted as an annual invoice paid in advance on presentation of an invoice to the Clerk. Cllr Drown will report the decision back to the Hall Committee for their implementation commencing from the 1st Apri 26.

Cllr Drown further reported that the Hall details as shown on the Council website were not up to date and asked if they could be given soe attention. It was agreed that the Hall Committee should provide the text as they would like to see it and the Clerk would edit as required.

Cllr Drown said that the Hall were going ahead with fitting Solar panels to the reduce but there was about £6000 wort of structural work to be done first and, as a major asset on the village, could the Council consider putting some funding from reserves to support this.



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Cllr Daniel responded that if some details and costs of the proposed work could be presented to the Council it could be given consideration. Cllr Westerman suggested that EDDC should be approached as they had some grant availability and Cllr Daniel suggested the Parish Council could match fund with EDDC.

11. Graveyard:

Cllr Drown had not been able to make any progress having not had an appropriate opportunity to discuss further with the landowner. Cllr Drown did feel that alternative plans for the entry to the graveyard need to be developed. It was generally agreed that the alternatives that were focused on the existing graveyard were not in the control of the Parish Council and should be pursued by the PCC. Cllr Condrón suggested that we needed to get some response from the PCC on what they were happy to do and if they were happy with the proposals so far. It was agreed that the landowners' views on the route to the graveyard and a valuation of the land were still required and the PCC should be asked their opinions on what alternatives may be viable. Cllrs Daniel and Drown agreed to meet with Mrs Harding (Church Warden) in the near future.

12 Footpath:

No further progress, awaiting feedback from Cllr Zisman.
Cllr Daniel said he had been talking with Mr K Northcott about new paths being considered for Seaton Wetlands linking in with Colyford. Mr Northcott was interested in Axmouth's proposals and how they could add weight to Seaton's and vice versa. Cllr Daniel has given a copy of the Axmouth proposal to Mr Northcott.

13. Grit Bin:

Having been sited in the wrong place it will be moved after this winter.

14 Bus Stop.

Cllr Condrón reported that he had received a quotation from Rawlings Renovations from Uplyme and have carried out for Uplyme Parish Council. It was a detailed quotation of £6800 exc VAT to refurbish and re-roof the bus stop. Mr S Bond has confirmed that he is unable to carry out the work. After at least 18 months of trying to get quotations and costings resulting in one quotation in excess of £10000 and £13000 to purchase (uninstalled) a new one a decision needed to be made on the Rawlings quotation. Cllr Condrón agreed to circulate the quotation and information on the company to all Councillors so an informed decision could be made. Once a decision had been made the clerk would propose how the cost could be met from existing budgets. It was agreed that, subject to Terms and conditions being agreed with Rawlings Renovations they would be offered the contract. Cllr Condrón to agree Terms and Conditions for the Parish Council.



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15 Reports

a) Parish Councillor reports:

Cllr Harvey asked if there was an agreement with Tesco's to control the HGV traffic through Axmouth as he had noticed an increased number of Tesco vehicles. The clerk responded that there was no binding agreement but Tesco's local management had said they would try to avoid it if possible. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the local Tesco's manager and ask for his support as before.

Cllr McBride reported that, despite the recent work on Church Street by the lighting team but the light on no. 7 was still not working and this had been one of the issues raised in his correspondence with the lighting team over a year ago. Having made contact again Cllr McBride was informed that the bracket on no. 7 was faulty, and they could not get permission to replace the bracket. It was unclear why there was no permission to replace the bracket and who was responsible for issuing that permission, the householder or EDDC. Cllr McBride said that he had received an invoice for a share of the new VAR batteries. Cllr Hayward had suggested that he could fund this from a Locality budget. The Clerk agreed to contact Cllr Hayward to see if this was still the case.

Cllr McBride also brought attention to the on going consultation about Seaton Library which was the only library serving Axmouth. There was consideration being given to reducing its opening hours by over 50% from 33 hours to 15. Cllr Condron suggested that if he could be given the link to on line site where objections could be raised he would submit a posting to Axmouth Together to draw attention to of the community to it.

b) Clerks report: No report.

16 To accept any relevant correspondence: None received.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 6.30pm on Wednesday 18th February 2026

Signed *N. Daniel* Date 18/02/2026

Meeting closed 8.10pm.