



AXMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK:
ANDY COMERFORD
EYRE COURT HOTEL
2 QUEENS STREET
EX12 2NY
Tel no: 07973313376

Axmouth Parish Council – Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20 May 2026

Axmouth Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Nigel Daniel (Chair), James Condrón, Jane Drown, Kate Preston, Will Lucas, Steve Harvey, Steve Prosser

In attendance: Andy Comerford (Clerk), Cllr Paul Hayward (EDDC)

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

- **Chairman:** Cllr Nigel Daniel, proposed by Cllr Condrón, seconded by Cllr Drown. Agreed.
- **Vice-Chairman:** Cllr James Condrón, proposed by Cllr Daniel, seconded by Cllr Lucas. Agreed.
- **Internal Auditor:** Cllr Steve Harvey appointed.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr McBride. Cllr Daniel reported the resignation of Mr Paul Zisman. Meeting confirmed quorate.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of 15 April 2026 approved and signed.

5. Confidential Items

None.

6. Public Forum

None.



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7. Highway Matters

a) Traffic control signage

Cllr Hayward continued exploring options for a priority system. Highways advised that compliant signage would require two illuminated signs approaching from Seaton. He will continue seeking a workable solution, noting that a give-way system would improve traffic flow. Highways also asked for views on double yellow lines near the Harbour and Ship Inns. The Council felt they were unnecessary and that parked cars provided natural traffic calming. Chapel Street was already congested.

b) Stepps Lane pothole

The pothole has been infilled, reportedly by EDDC, but appears temporary. Cllr Condron still considers it hazardous.

c) Brookside posts

Now resolved and removed from the agenda.

d) Chapel/Church Street

Road resurfaced; markings to be reinstated once the surface settles.

8. Meeting Dates

Council will continue meeting on the **third Wednesday of each month**, excluding August and December. Agreed.

9. Outside Body Representation

- **Footpath Warden:** Cllr Daniel
- **Playground Committee:** Cllrs Condron and Preston (Cllr Drown stepped down)
- **Village Hall Representative:** Cllr Drown
- **Emergency Planning:** Cllr Daniel

10. Financial Matters

All circulated documents approved:

- Financial statements to 30 April 2026
- Subscriptions, direct debits and standing orders



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- Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025–26
- Income & expenditure accounts 1 Apr 2025–31 Mar 2026
- Notice of Public Rights

Payments Approved

- ROSPA – £109.20
- S Rawlins – £8,160.00
- Mr I Hunt – £172.54
- Lloyds Bank – £4.25
- K Trevett – £60.00
- A Comerford (stationery) – £47.50

11. Planning

Bindon Estate's architect contacted Cllr Daniel regarding repurposing "The Cream Barn". Cllrs Daniel and Condron met the new estate manager about heavy machinery using Stepps Lane. The manager acknowledged issues but noted the intense usage occurs only every 3–4 years. Contractors will be reminded to minimise disruption. The meeting was positive, with the Estate keen to work constructively with the village.

12. Graveyard

The Archdeacon visited and was sympathetic to overcrowding. Less-used areas may be reorganised to create additional burial space.

13. Reports

a) County Councillor

No report.

b) District Councillor

Cllr Hayward reported significant uncertainty around local government reorganisation.

- County Council AGM: 28 May
- Current EDDC term extended to 5 years; County Councillors to serve 3 years
- New unitary authority expected to be elected next May (subject to July decisions)
- Concerns raised about Devon's size and the move from 3 to 6 tiers of governance



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- Implementation costs estimated at £30–50m, requiring asset sales or service cuts EDDC will operate in a “lame duck” state for two years while still funding reorganisation.

c) Parish Councillors

- **Telephone box:** Cllr Harvey noted it is being used for dumping and needs repainting. A “Books Only” sign and renaming it “Axmouth Library” were suggested. Cllr Harvey to get quotes for repainting.
- **Village Clean-Up:** Cllr Condron reported an excellent turnout of 38 residents. Thanks were given to Cllr Preston for the poster and to the Ship Inn for providing lunch. Repairs were also carried out in the playground.
- **Playpark maintenance:** Following discussion with M.V. Trevett, the hourly rate was set at £18. Agreed.

14. Correspondence

None.

15. Date of Next Meeting

17 June 2026

Meeting closed: 7:51pm

Signed: *J. Condron* Date: 17/6/2026