

STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2026 – 7.30pm; meeting held in Stockland Victory Hall.

Present: Cllrs R. Switzer (Chair), J. Durrant, C. Bernhardt, B. Drew and R. Pearse (quorate).

Also present: Cllrs Levine and Brown

In Attendance: Danielle Gilpin (Clerk)

There was 1 member of the public present

7.32pm	The Chair welcomed all in attendance and outlined Fire Safety precautions.
	Public Forum i) No Police report received. ii) No P3 (footpath) report received. iii) Cllrs Levine & Brown provided an update on the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), confirming that EDDC will lose half of its area (31 parishes to the new Exeter Council) as of April 2027. As of March 2028, EDDC will cease to exist. The shadow unitary council will come into effect from May 2027. They explained that no district councillor elections will take place under the new arrangements. The new authority is expected to comprise 103 councillors, although where the council will be relocated has not yet been decided; despite Barnstaple being the largest town, no clear direction has been given. The new Unitary Council will be called “Coast & Country Council”. Questions have been raised about how council tax will be managed and how responsibilities will be divided, particularly given that the majority of Devon’s road network falls within the new Coast & Country Council’s remit. It was emphasised that the reorganisation is a central government decision, and many operational details remain unresolved. Concerns were noted regarding the future of the newly built Honiton offices and the allocation of equipment purchased by EDDC, especially where assets may fall within areas transferring to the new Exeter-based authority. The estimated cost of the reorganisation is now £79 million, with reference made to £50 million previously spent so far. It was also noted that Aylesbeare Parish Council currently holds the most comprehensive mapping information relating to the boundary changes.

Initial: 

	A question was raised regarding the status for the Neighbourhood Plan, and it was confirmed that the plan only lasts for 3 years, and that it is not worth creating a new plan until the unitary council is in place. iv) There was 1 member of the public present. The Chair closed the Public Forum session at 8.05pm.
8.05pm	Cllrs Levine and Brown left.
8.06pm	Meeting commences
26/028 i)	To note members of the Parish Council in attendance: As listed above.
26/028 ii)	To note and, if thought fit, to approve apologies for absence received: (LGA 1972 s.85(1)) Apologies received from Cllrs Derryman, Parris, Smith and Trott.
26/028 iii)	To note members not present and to receive any other apologies for absence: No communication from Cllr Bright.
26/029	Declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct: There were no declarations of interest at this time. Noted that this did not preclude declarations of interest being made at any point in the meeting that they became apparent.
26/030	To consider any matters listed on this agenda that Councillors consider should be dealt with as confidential business as per the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960: None.
26/031	To consider and, if thought fit, approve the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of Stockland Parish Council held on 23rd June 2026: Amend street name in 26/021 iii). To be signed in the August 2026 meeting once the amendment has been completed.
26/032	Planning matters to be considered: a) i) To consider planning applications received prior to agenda publication: 26/1284/FUL Single storey first and ground floor extensions, to include alterations to the roof. Quantock Stockland Honiton EX14 9DX Resolved to support this application.

Initial:

RS

	26/1398/FUL Replacement of existing slate roof covering Northampton Cottage Cotleigh Honiton EX14 9HR Resolved to support this application. 26/1399/LBC Replacement of existing slate roof covering Northampton Cottage Cotleigh Honiton EX14 9HR Resolved to support this application. a) ii) To consider planning applications received after agenda publication as per supplementary agenda circulated to all members: None advised. b) Determinations/Decisions advised by LPA: None advised. c) Tree Matters: None advised. d) Appeals lodged / in progress: None advised. e) Planning correspondence received: None advised. f) Ward planning applications to be considered at EDDC: None advised.
26/033	Financial Matters to be considered: a) To note approval by the Chair of the Council's Payments for June 2026: Resolved that Council payments for June 2026 (£2,285.34) to be approved. b) To receive and note RFO report for June 2026: Clerk reported June 2026. c) Questions to the RFO on accounts / financial reports: None. d) To note items of expenditure authorised under Chair/Clerk delegated authority: (Financial Regulations May 2021 5.4.1 and Delegation Appendix). None.

Initial:

RS

	e) To consider, and if agreed, approve the annual insurance renewal: Deferred to next month as renewal not yet received.
	Stockland Parish Council Business to be considered:
26/034	“Matters of Council consideration may include public participation if so invited by Chair” a) To consider parish maintenance, highways and footpath (P3) matters Parish Clerk to request an update on the parish footpaths from the P3 Footpath Wardens, particularly on the annual survey. Parish Clerk to understand P3 footpath grant timeline. Resolved to amend agenda to “potholes generally” from specific locations and focus on utilising the information from Cllr Connor along with the information from Cllr Trott. Parish Clerk to investigate into chapter 8 training. i) Cawleys Lane / Temple Bar Lane; continuation of this lane from Horseplot Cottage up to Shorehead (on the hill below the Hillcrest property) Nothing to report. ii) Ditch and drain between Church Cottage and Churchstyle; also stream drainage by churchyard gate Nothing to report. iii) Venns Cottage to Short Moor (referred to as Blue Ball Street on old maps) Nothing to report. b) Update on the coordination with South West Water and Devon County Council regarding diversion routes Nothing to report. c) To consider Stockland Victory Hall, car park and grounds; tree and shrub clearance by roadside edge of grounds, the proposed bird cherry tree, utilities building app and fencing options Cllr Switzer has pruned back the apple tree. 1 quotation has been received from a contractor regarding the replacement of the copper pipe underneath the Victory Hall car park. 2 further quotations to be sourced. Cllr Switzer to get details from Cllr Pearse for the 2 further potential contractors. Need to discuss the pros and cons of using local contractors vs a larger corporate company. Cllr Switzer to confirm if current quotation includes VAT. Local contractors would require a separate tarmac quotation due to the method they would use so this is required to compare the costs for this element of the project. Hiline have advised that the trees along the boundary line of Townsend Farm and the village playfield are touching the powerline and showing signs of being singed. They will be cutting back these trees significantly and will

Initial:

RS

	send further information regarding this. Work is planned to take place on 13th August. There are no TPO's in place for these trees. This work will result in access being restricted on the village side of the playfield for health and safety reasons. Parish clerk to advise the parishioners of this via the Stockland Tree. The bird cherry tree is doing well and is receiving around 60 litres of water every other day. 3 contractors to be contacted regarding the surfacing of the car park. Cllr Pearse confirmed that the chestnut fencing will be done in the next month. It is believed that only 22 metres will be needed instead of the quoted 27 metres. Cllr Drew to support with the boundary line. d) To update on Japanese Knotweed Parish Clerk confirmed that the report has been received from Southwest Knotweed confirming the treatment that took place on 21st July. Parish Clerk read out the emails received from David Ashford and a parishioner regarding a reported new area of knotweed growth. Parishioner confirmed that since reporting the new growth has been strimmed back, which is illegal and should be reported, however, no one is able to confirm who completed this. There is a concern that this patch will spread. Resolved for the Parish Clerk to get a quote off Southwest Knotweed for the management of this reported patch, and report back at the next meeting.
8.44pm	1 member of the public left
26/034 contd..	e) To update on the Charities Commission registration situation Parish Clerk confirmed that a further email has been sent regarding this. f) To update on the grit bins Resolved to order 2 grit bins with delivery to Cllr Durrant's property. g) To consider the parishes Emergency Plan No update this month. h) To discuss Stockland playpark Cllr Switzer to arrange for the gate to be fixed.
26/035	Turbaries update Emails read out from Gemma Sparks regarding the funding of the turbaries. Resolved to approve the submission of the Stewardship application.
26/036	Other matters considered as urgent by presiding Chair for noting only: None.
26/037	Items of future business for the next agenda

Initial: *RS*

	Gates being left open resulting in cattle and other livestock wandering.
26/038	Date of next meeting: The Turbaries Committee Meeting of Stockland Parish Council is scheduled for Tuesday 4th August 2026 at 7.30pm. The next full Committee Meeting of Stockland Parish Council is scheduled for Tuesday 25th August 2026 at 7.30pm.
26/039	"It is proposed by the Chair that, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Local Government Act 1972, the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. Members to agree upon matters to be discussed in confidential session, as per agenda item 26/030 above." RESOLVED to exclude the public (and press) due to the confidential nature of the next agenda items.
26/040	Matters for discussion under Part Two (Confidential) business: None advised.
	With no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.57pm

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2026 – 7.30pm; meeting held in Stockland Victory Hall.

Signed: Richard Smith

Date: 25th August 2026

(Chair)

Initial: RS