

Hemyock Parish Council
Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
held at Blackdown Healthy Living & Activity Centre, Hemyock at 7.30pm on 3 September 2025

Present

Councillors P Doble (Chair) Atkinson, Parish, District & County Councillor Clist, A Doble, Moon, Povah, Summers, Talbot and Ward together with Mrs S McGeever (Clerk).

Councillor Doble opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

An application for co-option had been received and circulated but, unfortunately, the candidate was unable to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

Councillor Clist as a member of Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council chooses not to participate in any planning application consultations.

Councillors P Doble and Ward were both members of Longmead Management Committee and Councillor P Doble was a Trustee of the BHLAC.

3. Public Participation

Members of the public raised the following points:

- Hedges at Valley View and Castle Cottage were resulting in poor visibility
- Gulleys at Longmead were blocked despite being inspected in April 2025
- Is the Parish Council able to support the installation of a new and permanent deterrent for speeding drivers along Cornhill? For example, at the very least, a flashing signal similar to the one already in place on Station Road. Various speed deterrents are commonplace in many smaller villages across our area. Why does the sizeable community of Hemyock not warrant further investment in speed deterrents?
- Please can the Council provide an update on any speed-related initiatives that are in progress other than the Community Speedwatch? I refer specifically to minuted items from the last few months, for example: "DCC 20 mph applications / speed limits. No update." (June 25)
- Whilst the Community Speedwatch Team's endeavours are certainly to be applauded, what actually happens because of their efforts?

Councillor Clist advised that he would be meeting with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer and would raise the matters whilst the Clerk would also follow up the points raised.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 6 August 2025

PROPOSAL: The council minutes of 6 August 2025 are approved as a true record of the meeting.

PROPOSER: Councillor Atkinson

SECONDER: Councillor A Doble

It was RESOLVED by those who had been present at the meeting that the minutes were a true record of the meeting, and they were duly initialled and signed by the Chair.

5. Chair's Announcements

The Chair had no announcements to make.

6. Finance

Councillor Summers, as the new Chair of the Finance Committee ran through the report prepared by the Clerk.

6.1 To agree income and expenditure and bank reconciliations:

INCOME (to 27 August 2025)

	August
Account ending 1298	
Account ending 1308	0.00
Account ending 1311	0.00
Account ending 1324	
Pizza van	20.00
Cemetery	620.00

EXPENDITURE – Invoices received 2025/26

Payments made in August 2025

31Aug2025	Service Charge		-8.70	
18Aug2025	B/P to: Defib supplies	SL2305220	-379.35	
08Aug2025	B/P to: Mark Upcott	LONGMEAD CUT 6	-300.00	
08Aug2025	B/P to: pennon water	1699492101	-27.23	
08Aug2025	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	WAGES JUL25	-921.60	
08Aug2025	B/P to: Chrissie Parker	HPC/0005	-120.67	
08Aug2025	B/P to: J Stevens Contract	INVOICE 0284	-330.00	
08Aug2025	B/P to: p doble	FETE	-33.30	
08Aug2025	B/P to: I & Y Pike	REIMBURSEMENT	-87.99	
08Aug2025	B/P to: hmrc cumbernauld	120PW00334133	-340.65	
08Aug2025	B/P to: s aldworth	2446	-414.80	
08Aug2025	B/P to: blackdown healthy	INVOICE 4066	-16.00	
08Aug2025	B/P to: I R Pike	CEMETERY GRASS	-606.10	
08Aug2025	B/P to: R Taylor	PARISH COUNCIL	-125.00	
08Aug2025	B/P to: e ingledew	P COUNCIL	-171.00	
08Aug2025	B/P to: n page	HEMYOCK COUNCIL	-136.00	
08Aug2025	B/P to: woodquist	HEMYOCK COUNCIL	-200.00	
08Aug2025	B/P to: pennon water servi	5017292201	-42.62	
08Aug2025	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	EXPENSES	-64.00	
08Aug2025	Direct Debit (VALDA ENERGY			
08Aug2025	LIMIT)	VALDAENERGY	-27.87	
04Aug2025	B/P to: Netball	GRANT HEMYOCK PC	-400.00	
04Aug2025	B/P to: Blackdown Fencing	FINAL PAYMENT	-2418.00	
01Aug2025	MDDC DIRECT DEBITS)	1251581	-53.00	-7223.88

Invoice from RBL to be presented at the meeting if received – not received.

Invoices to pay for August (approval at September meeting):

Rates:

Car Park	£636.23	1 x £53.23	11 x £53.00	Amount payable	£636.23
(Direct Debit)					

No	Amount	Payee	Reason
1.	60.00 256.00	I Pike	Cemetery maintenance Village maintenance
2.	126.00	E Ingledew	Public Convenience
3.	6.00	S McGeever	Giff Gaff subscription (August)
4.	1134.64	S McGeever	August wages
5.	433.79	HMRC	PAYE/NI
6.	22.50	S McGeever	Mileage (August)
7.	52.00	S McGeever	Expenses (July/August) correction
8.	DD 437.29	Husqvarna	Robot mowers
9.	DD 29.05	Valda	Electricity – public convenience
10.	143.59	C Parker	Inventory
11.	awaited	BHLAC	Meeting room
12.	102.00	Bunyan	Public convenience – blocked urinals
13.	1250.00	Tree Steps Ahead	Cemetery trees
14.	115.16	Spot On	Public convenience/village supplies
15.	27.55	L Povah	Public convenience keys
16.	650.00	Tree Steps Ahead	Longmead trees

It was noted that the invoice for the August meeting room had not been received.

The insurance renewal policy documents had been received and considered by the Finance Committee and they had recommended that it be accepted.

PROPOSAL: The insurance premium be added to the payments.

PROPOSER: Councillor P Doble

SECONDER: Councillor Talbot

DECISION: All in favour

PROPOSAL: The payments as listed above be paid including the insurance premium.

PROPOSER: Councillor Summers

SECONDER: Councillor Atkinson

DECISION: All in favour

Action: Clerk to set up payments

Bank Reconciliations

Bank account	Closing balance 31/07/2025	Monies in	Monies out	Closing balance 31/08/2025
Unity Trust Bank current 298	14617.92	0.00	7223.88	7394.04
Unity Trust Bank deposit	107698.83	640.00	0.00	108338.83
Unity Trust Bank GF	762.17			762.17
Unity Trust Bank P3	1319.91			1319.91

Details of all bank accounts:

HSBC Comm Acc	£317.72
HSBC Deposit	£98,574.34
United Trust Bank	£85,479.93
Unity Deposit	£108,338.83
Unity GF	£762.17
Unity P3	£1,319.91
Skipton Building Society	£91,385.54

Unity Current	£7,394.04
Nationwide Instant Access	£5,210.41
Nationwide 35 day	£85,235.21
Cambridge Building Society	£83,567.14
Total	£567,585.24

Note:

- a. Access to HSBC statements is in process
- b. United Trust Bank – interest to be added
- c. Other accounts – interest comes due at different points

The Clerk advised that due to the Finance Committee on 1 September 2025 she had not had time to prepare the bank reconciliation report (all accounts) prepared in Scribe for August 25. This would be circulated to Parish Councillors after the meeting and be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.

The Clerk had also not had time to prepare the five-month budget report which again would be circulated to Parish Councillors after the meeting.

6.2 To receive an update on the application for bank cards (Financial Regulations)

The application could take up to six months.

6.3 To receive an update on the change of key contact for Unity Trust Bank and changes for other bank accounts

The Clerk advised that the work continued to update all the accounts.

Councillor Summers advised that he had completed the security for HSBC.

Action: Councillor Summers/Clerk

6.4 To receive information on S106 monies

The Clerk advised that there was no update on S106 monies from an approved application but that with the potential for more applications to be received, it would be prudent to consider what S106 monies could be used for in the future for the provision of Open Space for the village.

Action: All

6.5 To receive information on the MUGA refurbishment from the Finance Committee

The Clerk had circulated the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 1 September 2025. The minutes can be found on the Parish Council website.

Councillor Summers advised that the Finance Committee had put together a list of proposals for providing a 2G surface for the existing MUGA. A great deal of research had been carried out and information circulated to Parish Councillors.

A review of the Longmead Management Committee accounts showed that £6000 came in as income and £6000 was expended on running the pavilion with the Parish Council picking up ground maintenance and repairs.

The cost would be in the region of £60,000 but it would ensure the future of the netball and football teams in the village.

Terms for the usage of Longmead had been agreed for the 2025-26 season but would need to be renegotiated for the 2026-27 season.

Councillor Clist thanked all involved for their efforts. He recognised that budgeting mistakes had been made in the past and that monies would need to be vired to achieve a new surface but believe it was essential to retain the facility for the village.

Whilst a porous asphalt surface was significantly cheaper it was not a multi-sport surface. He noted the 20-25 year guarantee but believed this time-scale would require patching to take place over the surfaces life expectancy. That said, he was in favour of the Parish Council funding a 2G surface.

Councillor Povah concurred with Councillor Clist and advised that he too was now in favour of a 2G surface but also recognised that it did require maintenance through the addition of sand and raking.

The Finance Committee brought the following proposals to this Parish Council meeting:

Proposal 4

That the Finance Committee look to use current reserves and funds to cover the cost of resurfacing.

Proposal 5

That the Skatepark Reserve of £30,000 be vired to resurface the MUGA.

Proposal 6

That the remaining £30,000 be taken from the current precept funds to resurface the MUGA.

Proposal 7

That MUGA contract be given to the company offering not only the best value for money.

Proposal 8

That the new MUGA surface be inspected by a specialist company on an annual basis at an approximate cost of £500.

Proposal 9

That the Parish Clerk should obtain quotes for providing the required facilities on the website and a budget set aside for this purpose.

Proposal 10

That a lock should be purchased to allow access to the MUGA for those making a booking.

Proposal 11

That the proposals go to the Parish Council for approval and that the Football and Netball clubs should be advised of the decision to resurface the MUGA with a 2G multi-sport surface.

PROPOSAL: That the proposals from the Finance Committee be accepted in full.

PROPOSER: Councillor Summers

SECONDER: Councillor Clist

DECISION: All in favour

The Parish Council felt it important that priority be given to clubs in the village.

6.6 To receive requests for grants

- Mid Devon Mobility

Grant application awaited.

- Repair Café

Grant application received, bank accounts awaited.

- Festival of Trees in Advent

The Parish Council considered the request to decorate or sponsor a Christmas Tree.

PROPOSAL: That the Parish Council decorate a tree for the festival.

PROPOSER: Councillor P Doble

SECONDER: Councillor Moon

DECISION: Councillor Clist abstained.

Councillor Atkinson volunteered to decorate the Parish Council tree.

7. Planning

7.1 To consider the following applications:-

25/01113/FULL

Proposal: Reinstatement of existing building to dwelling (Class C3) with associated alterations, landscaping and parking

Location: Land at NGR 312090 115702 Culm Davy Hemyock

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 312090 / 115702

Parish: Hemyock 26

25/01113/FULL | Reinstatement of existing building to dwelling (Class C3) with associated alterations, landscaping and parking | Land at NGR 312090 115702 Culm Davy Hemyock Devon

Following discussion, the following proposal was put forward:

PROPOSAL: The Parish Council is content with this application.

PROPOSER: Councillor Povah

SECONDER: Councillor Moon

DECISION: With the exception of Councillor Clist who did not participate in the discussion or vote, all members of the Parish Council were in favour.

7.2 To receive the following decision notices/appeal decisions:-

The following decision notice was noted:

25/00044/HOUSE – APPROVED – 30 May 2025

Proposal: Installation of 4 velux windows to facilitate loft conversion

Location: 3 Hartley Drive Hemyock Cullompton Devon

7.3 To receive information regarding enforcement issues:

ENF/23/00164/COU – 13 July 2023

Re: Conversion of barn to dwelling

Shuttleton Castle Hill Hemyock

ENF/23/00214/BRE – 30 August 2023

Re: Home office used as living accommodation

Ploversfield Culmstock Road Hemyock

The Clerk advised that no update had been received whilst Councillor Clist advised that some 600 enforcement cases were being dealt with, with the 200 large cases taking precedent.

8. Asset Management Reports

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report.

8.1 Longmead

Report from Finance Committee

The Finance Committee had discussed the financial arrangements for Longmead and, following a request from the Longmead Management Committee believed it was appropriate to take the Longmead finances back under Parish Council control. As reported in the Finance Committee minutes, the current constitution could not be adhered to. Therefore, the Finance Committee put forward the following recommendations to the Parish Council.

Proposal 1

That the finances of Longmead be brought in house.

Proposal 2

That the Longmead Management Committee become the Longmead Advisory Committee.

Proposal 3

That the Longmead Advisory Committee be furnished with Terms of Reference and the current Constitution become redundant.

It was noted that this would produce an increase in workload for the Parish Clerk.

PROPOSAL: That the Parish Council approve the Finance Committee's proposals

PROPOSER: Councillor Summers

SECONDER: Councillor Moon

DECISION: All in favour.

Robot mowers

It was understood that the robot mowers should be able to cut the football pitches and the surrounding areas and, at this time, there was no need to have the outer area re-cut. The combination of moles and dogs digging holes in area behind the boards, did make it difficult for the area to be mown. The app for the mower kept a log of difficulties incurred. The Clerk would speak to the hire company.

Mr Brooke would top the area again.

Action: Clerk

Trees

Councillor Ward advised that the works to the trees at Longmead had been carried out after 1 September 2025 and the invoice received.

Improvements at Longmead

Planning application for a Certificate of Lawfulness was ongoing and had not been prioritised.

The planned improvements were almost complete but the work to ensure that the building passed its electric test remained outstanding. It was understood the work would be done in the next two weeks.

Action: Clerk

Play Park

The Parish Council noted that the net could not be repaired and had to be replaced.

PROPOSAL: That the Parish Council purchase a new net and retain the old net for spares

PROPOSER: Councillor P Doble

SECONDER: Councillor Ward

DECISION: Two councillors abstained.

Moles

The moles were no longer active.

Containers

The containers had been cleaned out and the rat infested equipment had been put behind high fencing but required to be taken to the tip.

PROPOSAL: That the Parish Council approve a skip be hired to take away the waste now as quickly as possible. PPE should be worn when handling the waste.

PROPOSER: Councillor P Doble

SECONDER: Councillor A Doble

DECISION: Councillor Clist abstained

Action: Clerk

8.2 War memorial

Councillor Povah advised there was nothing to report following the completion of the works.

8.3 Cemetery

Fencing

Councillor A Doble advised that he had removed the two broken railings from the cemetery, plus put in four wooden pegs highlighting the drains that were visible.

Councillor A Doble would obtain quotes for re-painting the existing rails and forward them to the Clerk.

Hedging

Councillor Ward asked if the Parish Council wished to plant trees along the new fencing to match the existing fence.

PROPOSAL: That the Parish Council take Councillor Wards advice and purchase 6-10 yew trees to plant along the fence and to mark the drains. At a cost of approximately £11 per tree.

PROPOSER: Councillor P Doble

SECONDER: Councillor Talbot

DECISION: All in favour.

Drains

Information had been received from South West Water and there was a combined 150mm VC (clay) pipe that runs along the boundary of the cemetery and then to Butts Close.

Trees

The tree work has been completed and the invoice reviewed by Councillor Ward. (see Finance)

The area that was under the cut down tree needed to be scraped over as it is raised compared with the surrounding area. There were also brambles that needed to be cleared.

Spoil Tip

The spoil tip needed to be removed and the land could be scraped over at the same time and the whole area re-seeded so that it would be mown going forward.

The work would be carried out by the Parish Council's preferred contractor.

Bier House

A meeting of Parish Councillors was still required to decide works to be done.

Path to extension

This will be required during the course of the next 12 to 18 months at current burial rates.

Moving to online records

Councillor P Doble advised that work was ongoing.

8.4. Blackdown Healthy Living and Activities Centre

The trees on the riverbank were being attended to and the report on the state of the riverbank was still awaited.

8.5 The Parish Store

Councillor P Doble advised that he had nothing to report.

8.6 The Commons

Councillor Moon advised that a tree had come down across the road at night and a van had driven into it but it had now been cleared.

In addition, trees on Shuttleton had been damaged by youths.

8.7 Public Conveniences

Councillor Povah advised that the works to repair the Public Conveniences had started.

8.8 Car Park

The Clerk advised that a date was still awaited for the car park to be resurfaced by MDDC.

8.9 Village Maintenance

Maintenance continues around the village.

Councillor Povah has requested a quote for the handrail at Eastlands to be repaired. The rails could be metal, wood or recycled post and rails. The work was required for Health & Safety reasons.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to use recycled post and rails.

Ian Pike was repairing the millennium seat.

The hedge at Parklands/Logan Way needed to be cut back and it was RESOLVED to visit the area and ascertain if the trees were on private land or the verge. Hedges were the land owners responsibility.

Action: Clerk

The Tennis Club had asked if two benches could be located by the tennis courts. Councillor P Doble was currently holding two benches and three picnic tables.

PROPOSAL: That two benches be placed by the tennis courts.

PROPOSER: Councillor P Doble

SECONDER: Councillor Ward

DECISION: All in favour

Action: Councillor P Doble

The hedgerow opposite Cavanna Homes by Logan Way required cutting – again this would be dependent on land ownership as to responsibility.

Action: Clerk

8.10 Ground Maintenance

Councillor Povah and the Clerk are putting together a document of current hourly rates for those undertaking ground maintenance in the village. This task was ongoing due to the time spent on actioning agreed works.

Action: Councillor Povah/Clerk

9. Project Reports

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report:

9.1 Community Land (Cavanna)

Report from the Clerk

- Information from solicitor (Part 2)
- Meeting with Cavanna – information circulated (Part 2)

9.2 Station Road Pavement

Report from Councillor Povah

- Update from solicitor (Part 2)

9.3 Connecting the Culm/DRIP

Memorandum of Understanding (web cameras)

PROPOSAL: That the Parish Council sign the Memorandum of Understanding but use a local contractor to maintain the cameras

PROPOSER: Councillor Moon

SECONDER: Councillor A Doble

DECISION: All in favour

Action: Clerk

Floodgate at The Garages
Councillor P Doble would contact M3.
Action: Councillor P Doble

9.4 Improvements to Longmead

See Longmead. This item could be taken off the agenda.

9.5 Improvements to the MUGA

See Finance. This item would be reported under Finance in future.

9.6 Skatepark

This item would be removed from the agenda until a report on the way forward was received from the Skatepark Committee.

9.7 Assistance for the Clerk

The work on the preparation of the inventory was continuing and a report had been circulated.

9.8 Longmead Carpark

Councillor Povah had drawn up a specification for the works required to extend the car park and the Parish Council would manage the project using its preferred contractor and purchasing materials. It was noted that planning permission was not required.

The sleepers had been removed and a skip may be required to take away the existing matting.

9.9 Building Maintenance

As reported in the Finance Committee minutes, Councillor Summers and the Clerk would work from the documents provided by Councillor Povah in 2020 and take advice from a builder.

Councillor Clist and the Clerk would continue to look for a company who could ratify the work so that a planned maintenance programme for all assets could be put in place.

Action: Councillor Clist/Povah/Clerk

10. Community Matters

10.1 Garages Youth Project

Councillor P Doble advised that there was nothing to report.

10.2 Hemyock Community Larder

Councillor P Doble advised that the community larder continued to attract residents.

10.3 Footpaths (P3)

Councillor Povah advised that he was seeking a second PROW grant and that work was still required to the bridge as reported previously.

10.4 Community Speedwatch

The report from the Community Speedwatch volunteers had been circulated and another call for volunteers would be initiated by the Parish Council.

11. Highways

The Parish Council noted the report from the Clerk@

Report from Clerk

- Road Warden
- Claim being made for equipment purchased.
- Claim being made for cones

- 20mph applications/speed limits

In response to the questions raised in the Public Forum, the Clerk advised that she was still awaiting costings from DCC as to the cost of the Parish Council taking on the consultation required to extend the 20mph area. All 20mph applications had to go through a consultation process and there was a cost involved.

- VAS units came in a number of different forms with varying costs from 'smiley' faces to those that had number plate recognition. The costs varied. DCC Highways had to approve the locations for the VAS units and poles on public land had to be installed by DCC.

Action: Clerk to provide costings at the next meeting

- Bus routes

No further correspondence received.

DCC Highways policy on mirrors

Meeting requested.

Someone has replaced the mirror.

Parklands Play Area

See Village Maintenance.

Eastlands

See Village Maintenance.

Barriers

DCC have not responded to the request to change the barriers.

12. Police matters

12.1 Crime

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

12.2 Councillor Advocate Scheme

Councillor Clist felt this was a political motivated scheme and did not attend meetings.

13. MDDC Report

Councillor Clist gave a brief report on recycling efforts and advised information would be coming on the safeguarding of councillors.

14. DCC report

Councillor Clist advised that a motion was being put forward regarding 20mph limits and he would have more information at the next meeting.

A housing task force was being set up to look at social rented and affordable housing and DCC were providing upskills training.

15. Public Relations

Public relations and social media

Councillor Talbot advised that there had been some messages regarding the grass at Longmead and the work at Eastlands.

Social Media Policy

Councillor Talbot advised that the updated Social Media Policy reflected current legislation and it should be provided to all councillors, staff and volunteers.

PROPOSAL: That the Parish Council approve the new Social Media Policy

PROPOSER: Councillor P Doble

SECONDER: Councillor A Atkinson

DECISION: All in favour

Action: Clerk

Report from Clerk

Email addresses were being set up.

16. Clerk Update/Correspondence

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report:

Blackdown Support Group AGM.

Councillor Ward would report at the next meeting.

Blackdown Hills National Landscape

Festival of Heritage 2025 – a celebration of the rich history, natural beauty, and vibrant communities of the Blackdown Hills. 13-20 September 2025

Maintenance of the park below Lower Millhayes

No update received

Station Road Drainage

Ongoing

Emergency Plan

This is a work in progress and will require an Open Meeting for residents. The 2012 Emergency Plan has been circulated to councillors.

Date to be set.

Neighbourhood Plan

Meeting being arranged with a planning consultant, Councillor Bradshaw and Devon Communities Together between mid-September and mid-October.

Blackdown Hill Parish Network

Report on AGM – bring forward to the next meeting.

DALC

Motions to the AGM - None

Attendance at the AGM - Clerk

Housing Needs survey

Awaiting update from Devon Communities Together/MDDC

Mid Devon District Council - State of the District Debate

Wednesday 17 September 2025 - 5.00pm to commence at 5.30pm – Clerk to attend and Councillor Clist also hoped to be present.

It was the same day as the Longmead Management Committee meeting.

17. Matters raised by Councillors/meetings attended

Councillor Povah – Brookridge Timber would supply soft timber free of charge and the Parish Council RESOLVED to use soft wood.

18. Items for the next agenda

As detailed in these minutes.

19. Dates of the next meetings:

Full Council Meeting

-

Wednesday, 1 October 2025

Dates to be set for:

Asset Management Working Group

Action Plan Meeting

Skatepark Meeting

Finance Committee

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman

Part 2

Community Land

Meeting with solicitor

The Parish Council received an update from the Clerk on the ongoing negotiations regarding the exchange of contracts.

Meeting with Cavanna

The Clerk had reported back on the on-site meeting and information had been circulated regarding the drainage situation.

Further correspondence was awaited with regard to the remedial plan.

Station Road

The Parish Council received a report from Councillor Povah and the Clerk.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to proceed with the pavement as far as agreements had been reached but noted that the solicitor had not actioned the requests from the Clerk.