

Hemyock Parish Council
Meeting of the Parish Council
held at Blackdown Healthy Living & Activity Centre, Hemyock at 7.30pm on 7 January 2026

Present

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

Councillor Doble opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were approved for Councillors Madge and Talbot.

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:

- Anti-social behaviour by teenagers gathering at the Public Conveniences and possible actions such as opening and closing times, CCTV at the Parish Hall etc
- Potholes and the risk to life from drivers swerving to avoid them
- Extension of the cemetery path – could this be brought forward to facilitate access to the new spoil heap
- Blocked drains at Longmead and Station Road. DCC used to clear gulleys annually, Longmead is cleared every three years, the last time was October 2022.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 3 December 2025

PROPOSAL: The council minutes of 3 December 2025 are approved as a true record of the meeting.

PROPOSER: Councillor Atkinson

SECONDER: Councillor Moon

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 wished all present a Happy New Year.

6. Finance

Councillor Summers ran through the financial information from the updated financial information document circulated to councillors and reflected in these minutes and the Finance Committee meetings published on the website. He thanked the Clerk for her work on Scribe and the resulting financial reports.

6.1 To agree income and expenditure and bank reconciliations:

The information is provided up to 31 December 2025.

INCOME (to 31 December 2025)

	December
Account ending 1298	0.00
Account ending 1308	7.32
Account ending 1311	4.22

Account ending 1324		969.08
Pizza van	£ 20.00	
Cemetery	£250.00	
Interest	£699.08	

EXPENDITURE – Invoices received 2025/26

Payments made to 31 December 2025

01Dec2025	HUSQVARNA UK LIMIT	8QNN4F.Z10000L7RWY	-437.29	
01Dec2025	MDDC DIRECT DEBITS	1251581	-53.00	
04Dec2025	VALDA ENERGY LIMIT	VALDAENERGY	-149.78	
05Dec2025	B/P to: Repair Cafe	P COUNCIL GRANT	-340.00	
05Dec2025	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	REIMBURSEMENT	-72.00	
05Dec2025	B/P to: hmrc cumbernauld	120PW00334133	-314.77	
05Dec2025	B/P to: r beaver	2025-0680	-250.00	
05Dec2025	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	EXPENSES	-54.50	
05Dec2025	B/P to: bunyan plumbing	PARISH COUNCIL	-96.00	
05Dec2025	B/P to: bunyan plumbing	PARISH COUNCIL	-102.00	
05Dec2025	B/P to: Chrissie Parker	HPC/0009	-130.13	
05Dec2025	B/P to: I R Pike	VILLAGE MAINTENANC	-160.00	
05Dec2025	B/P to: e ingledew	P COUNCIL	-171.00	
05Dec2025	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	WAGES NOV 25	-862.54	
05Dec2025	B/P to: mddc	20041915	-1541.09	
05Dec2025	B/P to: A Doble	LONGMEAD	-150.00	
05Dec2025	B/P to: Lights Brigade	P COUNCIL GRANT	-470.00	
05Dec2025	B/P to: blackdown healthy	INVOICE 4162	-16.00	
08Dec2025	VALDA ENERGY LIMIT	VALDAENERGY	-29.46	
23Dec2025	CAMPAIGN TO PROTEC	PM1208023	-60.00	
31Dec2025	Bank charges		9.25	-5468.71

Invoice from RBL to be presented at the meeting if received

Invoices to pay for December (approval at January 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.	£72.00 £262.50	I Pike	Cemetery maintenance Village maintenance
2.	171.00	E Ingledew	Public Convenience
3.	6.00	S McGeever	Giff Gaff subscription
4.	976.64	S McGeever	Wages
5.	364.78	HMRC	PAYE/NI
6.	22.50	S McGeever	Mileage
7.	26.00	S McGeever	Expenses
8.	437.29	Husqvarna DD	Robot mowers
9.	29.24	Valda DD	Electricity – public convenience
10.	169.31	C Parker	Inventory
11.	See 16	BHLAC	Meeting room
12.	42.00	NALC	Training
13.	282.00	Woodquist	Website

No	Amount	Payee	Reason
14.	792.00	Scribe	Accounts package
15.	165.32	Valda DD	Longmead
16.	1516.00	BHLAC	Larder and December meeting
17.	1581.18	Sutcliffe Play	Play area
18.	19.50	C Houghton	Drain clearance
19.	84.00	DALC	Assertion 10 training (to be shared)
20.	67,964.40	DCM Surfaces	90% of MUGA resurfacing
21.	462.00	Energieo	Light at car park
22.	73.02	Pennon Water	Public convenience
23.	29.10	Pennon Water	Cemetery
24.	41.14	S McGeever	Annual Parish Meeting

The ICO direct debit for £52.00 will be collected on 5 February 2026.

The Clerk was awaiting bank details for the RBL grant payment of £110 for the Armistice Day wreath.

PROPOSAL: The payment to DCM Surfaces should be withheld given that work was still outstanding and no date had been received as to when the work might be finished. The authorisation of the payment should be delegated to the Chair on satisfactory completion of the work and evidence that the surface had not been damaged by the sand pallets left in situ.

PROPOSER: Councillor Clist

SECONDER: Councillor Atkinson

DECISION: All in favour

PROPOSAL: All payments except DCM Surfaces should be paid.

PROPOSER: Councillor Summers

SECONDER: Councillor Clist

DECISION: All in favour

Bank Reconciliations

The bank reconciliations for the Unity Trust Bank are as detailed below:

Bank account	Closing balance 30/11/2025	Monies in	Monies out	Closing balance 30/12/2025
Unity Trust Bank current 298	4664.91	10000.00	-5468.71	9205.35
Unity Trust Bank deposit	120699.78	969.08	10000.00	111668.86
Unity Trust Bank GF	766.49	4.22		770.71
Unity Trust Bank P3	1327.40	7.32		1334.72

Details of all bank accounts are given below:

HSBC Comm Acc 2116	£317.72
HSBC Deposit 2132	£98,574.34
United Trust Bank	£90,349.21
Unity Deposit 1324	£111,668.86
Unity GF 1311	£770.71
Unity P3 1308	£1,334.72
Skipton Building Society	£91,385.54
Unity Current 1298	£9,196.20
Nationwide Instant Access	£5,210.41
Nationwide 35 day	£85,235.21
Cambridge Building Society 2546	£83,567.14
Total in Banks	577,610.06

The nine-month budget report and 2026/27 budget and precept calculation had been circulated to Parish Councillors.

6.2 Precept discussion

Councillor Summers and the Clerk had prepared a budget which had been circulated all Parish Councillors.

The Finance Committee had considered this budget at its meeting on 30 December which had suggested a £50,000 increase. This amount took into consideration an inflationary rise for all costs associated with the running of the council and the running/maintenance of its assets as well as possible increases in costs for projects with earmarked reserves. In addition, it included a contingency fund for the possible costs relating to Local Government Reorganisation including the possible acquisition of MDDC non-statutory assets.

The Finance Committee had concluded that a £50,000 increase would place too high a demand on residents and was putting forward a recommendation of an increase in the precept of £25,000 with costs associated with Local Government Reorganisation being included in the 2027/28 precept given the recommended conclusion date for the acquisition of MDDC non-statutory assets being 30 April 2027.

The Parish Council considered the Finance Committee's recommendation and noted that under Local Government Reorganisation, it might be asked to fund assets not only in the parish but leisure centres used by its residents such as Tiverton, Crediton and Honiton.

Whilst the Parish Council considered that starting a Local Government Reorganisation contingency fund was the preferred course of action, it also noted the concerns of the Finance Committee that this was another tax increase residents would have to face in 2026/27. At the end of the discussions, the following proposal was put forward:

PROPOSAL: The Parish Council RESOLVES to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation of a £25000.00 increase in the precept for 2026/27 which would see the total sum rise from £98000.00 to £123000.00 - a rise from £107.53 to £123.40 per annum or £15.87 per month.

PROPOSER: Councillor Summers

SECONDER: Councillor Moon

DECISION: Of those voting, all were in favour. Councillor Clist abstained given that he would be required to vote on the Council Tax figures for MDDC and DCC.

The Parish Council noted that there might be a move in the future to cap parish precepts at 5%.

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

The Clerk advised that such applications could take up to six months.

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

Changes to the accounts can only take place by signatories.

HSBC – Councillor Summers was still looking to achieve online access

Cambridge Building Society – signatory work ongoing

Nationwide – verification of accounts ongoing

Skipton Building Society – address change achieved / signatory work ongoing

United Trust Bank – Councillor Summers had set up online banking

Unity Trust Bank – deleting signatory work ongoing

6.5 To receive information on S106 monies

No update on S106 monies from previous developments had been received.

6.6 To receive requests for grants

The Finance Committee was recommending that new netball posts be purchased to replace the current posts which were rusted out.

PROPOSAL: The Parish Council accepts the Finance Committee's recommendation to purchase new netball posts at a maximum cost of £400.00.

PROPOSER: Councillor Summers

SECONDER: Councillor A Doble

DECISION: All in favour

Mid Devon Mobility

The Clerk had sent the grant application form.

6.7 Pension Regulator

The declaration for the pension regulator had been completed.

7. Planning

7.1 To consider the following applications:-

There were no new planning applications to consider.

Other matters:

Public Open Space Contribution: Planning Application 25/00881/OUT – Culmstock Road, Hemyock

PROPOSAL: The Parish Council accepts the proposal that S106 funds from the above application are used to enhance Public Open Spaces in the parish.

PROPOSER: Councillor Moon

SECONDER: Councillor Ward

DECISION: Of those voting, all were in favour. Councillor Clist abstained given that he would be required to vote on the S106 proposal for MDDC.

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

25/00610/OUT – APPROVAL – 5 December 2025

Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved apart from access) for the erection of 1 dwelling following the removal of existing double garage

Location: Land and Building at NGR 313818 113501 Hollingarth Way Hemyock Devon

25/01113/FULL – REFUSAL – 5 December 2025

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

Location: Land at NGR 312090 115702 Culm Davy Hemyock Devon

25/01591/LBC – APPROVED – 24 December 2025

Proposal: Listed Building Consent to install internet to property to include a fibre optic cable and junction box

Location: Culmbridge Mill 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

25/00188/COU – 10 October 2025

Change of use of land and erection of kennels
Land at NGR 312008 112296 Scotland Farm Hemyock

The Clerk had spoken with the Enforcement Officer in November and site visits are taking place. An update would be given, if and when action was taken.

The number of cars being dumped at the bottom of Dead Mans Land was raised and this would be highlight to Enforcement and the Environment Agency,

Action: Clerk

8. Asset Management Reports

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report.

8.1 Longmead

The Parish Council has made the decision to take the finances back in house and have the Longmead Management Committee as the Longmead Advisory Committee.

Draft Terms of Reference (see e. below) had been forwarded by the Clerk from the Advisory Committee and it was noted that the day to day booking of the facility and revenues were not included. The Clerk (see b. below) advised that an online system for bookings was be set up and an agreement was needed on the costs for hiring the facilities. Councillor Clist felt that the facility had to be used to its full potential. Leisure centres were generally loss makers but maximising revenue lessened that loss. Further discussion was required. Going forward there was the potential to organise a Park Run.

Action: Clerk to circulate potential meeting dates

Councillor Ward advised that he had been waiting for wet weather to take the photographs for the potential quotes and funding for upgrading the football pitches (see f. below)

Councillor Ward advised that responses to the emails and photographs regarding the green roof (see n. below) were awaited.

Councillor Ward raised the matter of the little triangle of earth in the new Longmead Car Park. This was being driven over by cars despite the curb.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to use an upright conifer tree (Councillor Ward to source) and large flint stones (Councillor P Doble to provide) to prevent cars being driver across.

Councillor Povah advised that the concrete at the entrance to the MUGA was breaking up and the area in front of one of the containers was muddy.

The Parish Council RESOLVED that Councillor Povah should ascertain the approximate costs of the work and present it to the next meeting. It was felt it could be done on an hourly basis.

Update on matters brought to the Clerk's attention:

- a) Options for having a permanent license at Longmead Pavillion
The application for the licence is ongoing – can the Parish Council be the licensee or does someone needs to be appointed (cannot be the Longmead Advisory Committee)
- b) Online booking system for the facilities at Longmead Pavillion
Awaiting details of all booking requirements from the Longmead Advisory Committee

- c) Inventory of equipment at Longmead
The Clerk had requested that an inventory of equipment should be put together by the Longmead Advisory Committee - outstanding
- d) Insurance
The second insurance policy will run to May 2026 to cover the handover.
- e) Terms of Reference for the Longmead Advisory Committee
See note above regarding a meeting.
- f) Quotes for upgrading the football pitches in the spring
See information above.
Action: Councillor Ward
- g) The fire extinguisher service will be due for payment
The Clerk was awaiting the invoice outstanding.
- h) Update on robotic mowers
It is understood that the robotic mowers are working well and should be cutting the whole area.
Request for confirmation sent. Understand they are being serviced
- i) Electricity contract (EDF/VALDA)
Possibility of grants for solar panel/battery system to run all sports facilities/electric car charges.
Meeting to be set up. Dependent on decision regarding Longmead roof (see n. below)
- j) Update of MUGA refurbishment (2G surface ordered) and an opening ceremony
Work is ongoing – finish date requested
- k) Play park repairs
Equipment received and being delivered to Mr Pike.
- l) Acoustic equipment
The Longmead Advisory Committee wish to improve the acoustics in the building.
Quotes requested.
- m) Recycling bins
Clerk awaiting information from Longmead Advisory Committee
- n) Longmead roof
Photos received, emails being sent and responses awaited.
- o) Netball posts
See Finance.

Ongoing actions:

Planning application for a Certificate of Lawfulness ongoing.

The planned improvements are almost complete.

8.2 War memorial

Nothing to report.

8.3 Cemetery

Hedging

Update from Councillor Ward.

Action: Clerk to purchase tree protectors

Spoil Tip

Completed – an email had been sent to funeral directors and stone masons but it appeared the old spoint tip was still being used.

Bier House

Councillors Clist and A Doble felt a decision needed to be taken in the spring as to whether to upgrade the Bier House or move to allow for a straight path down the cemetery.

Path to extension

Noting the comments made in the public forum, Councillor A Doble was asked to get quotes for a grippy/patterned and potentially coloured concrete path. Concrete being more hard wearing than tarmac and easier to walk on than gravel. Quotations should be obtained to put in the new section of path and to also upgrade the existing tarmac path.

Moving to online records

It was understood the work to move the records online would start in the New Year.

Brown bin

Councillor A Doble advised that he had no received the brown bin.

8.4. Blackdown Healthy Living and Activities Centre

Report on

- Trees (will be going ahead in November)
Action: Clerk to chase and to get a further quote to remove branches overhanging the solar panels
- Riverbank (report received - Connecting the Culm looking at funding). No further update has been received.

8.5 The Parish Store

Councillor P Doble advised that he had nothing to report.

8.6 The Commons

Councillor Moon advised that the Gun Club required written evidence that they could move the shoots.

Action: Clerk to send MDDC email to Councillor Moon

A response regarding the insurance for the gate at Shuttleton was awaited.

Action: Clerk to chase

8.7 Public Conveniences

Councillor Povah advised that repair works and refurbishment of the public convenience was nearing completion.

Given the comments in the public forum and the offer of assistance from residents, it was agreed that the public convenience would be closed overnight for a trial period of six months.

Winter opening hours to 1 October to 31 March

Monday to Friday 6am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday 6am to 1pm

If events were taking place on the Sunday then the public convenience would remain open until 6pm.

This information would be published in the upcoming Newsletter. Summer hours would be agreed at the March meeting.

Action: Councillor Povah to get two sets of keys cut for the residents who would be opening and closing the public convenience

Signage would be arranged to be put up on the public convenience.

Action: Clerk

The question of CCTV at the Village Hall would be brought to the attention of the Village Hall Committee.

Action: Councillor Clist/Clerk

8.8 Car Park

The Clerk advised that dates were still awaited for the resurfacing to take place.

The Parish Council is now responsible for the Street Lighting in the Car Park and two faults had been reported and dealt with through MDDC and Enerveo (see Finance).

DCC are moving closer to appointing an electric car charger contractor/partner.

Baptist Church are taking action on the wall in the spring.,

8.9 Village Maintenance

Maintenance continues around the village.

Outstanding issues:

- Handrail at Eastlands
Councillor Povah advised he was awaiting the hardwood posts from Brookridge
- Repairs to the millennium seat
Mr Pike advised that the millennium seat had been repaired.

8.10 Ground Maintenance

Councillor Povah advised that he now had the time to assist the Clerk in putting together a document of current hourly rates for those undertaking ground maintenance in the village.

Action: Clerk to send known rates to Councillor Povah

9. Project Reports

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report:

9.1 Community Land (Cavanna)

The Clerk reported that

- No further information had been received from the solicitor. The matter was in a holding pattern until Cavanna provided updated costings for the remedial work to the fields in question.
- Proposal from Cavanna
An update on the proposal from Cavanna was awaited
- Proposed purchase of additional land
All paperwork had been completed and an exchange date was awaited

9.2 Station Road Pavement

Councillor Povah advised that a new drawing would be required for the contracts to be signed.

Action: Councillor Povah to bring a quotation to the next meeting.

9.3 Connecting the Culm/DRIP

Memorandum of Understanding (cameras)

The documentation has been signed by DCC but the Clerk was still awaiting a copy.

Floodgate at The Garages

Due to be installed in next 4-6 weeks.

9.4 Skatepark

Councillor Summers advised that a meeting would be required to discuss possible ways forward.

9.5 Assistance for the Clerk

Mrs Parker was happy to provide further assistance to the Clerk once the inventory is complete.

9.6 Longmead Carpark

See discussion above on grass triangle.

9.7 Building Maintenance

Councillor Clist advised that DCC had an in-house facility and they might be able to provide names of individuals who could carry out a building maintenance plan.

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 and the annual figures had been provided and were as follows:

Number of 'Meals' equivalent – 8336.08
Value of food redistributed (£) - 62,401.55
CO2e footprint saved (kg) – 63,513.02
CO2e footprint equivalent by driving (miles) – 14,480.97

Actual weight of food redistributed in 2025
19,847.82kg

This represented 20 tonnes of food, an increase of 4.5 tonnes from last year.

Councillor Summers felt more information should be provided on the actual cost of running the community larder with a view to increasing donations.

10.3 Footpaths (P3)

Councillor Povah advised that he was now awaiting the survey paperwork from DCC for the year 2026/27.

11. Highways

The Parish Council noted the report from the Clerk who apologised for the delay in claiming reimbursements.

Report from Clerk

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

- 20mph applications/speed limits
Information was awaited from DCC.

DCC Highways policy on mirrors

Meeting requested – no update.

Parklands Play Area

The hedge between 2 Parklands and the Parklands Play Area. This is a double hedge with an informal path between. The Play area hedge has grown over the path and 2 Parklands hedge and is as far as touching the house. It can either be trimmed back or layered to thicken up the hedge.

Barriers

The Clerk advised that she was following up on the barriers but there tended to be delays over the Christmas period.

Action: Clerk to follow up.

The Parish Council noted the concerns expressed during the Public Forum in relation to potholes and considered whether employing a Lengths Man would be beneficial. It was noted that Road Wardens are able to fill in smaller potholes that did not meet DCC's safety criteria. The tarmac was provided free of charge and Mr Houghton who had undertaken some work to clear the drains might be able to assist.

The Clerk had been advised that all drains would be cleared in October 2025 but Councillor Clist advised that financial restraints were affecting the amount of work that could be done and priority was given to major roads and the Neighbourhood Highways Officer was covering three areas at present.

The Clerk was asked to approach Mr Houghton to carry out some additional drain work at a cost of £19.50 per hour and ascertain if he would be interested in a retainer to carry out work on behalf of the Parish Council. The initial thought was £300 per month.

Depending on the response from Mr Houghton, a formal proposal would be brought to the February meeting. A spreadsheet of all works done would be created so that problem areas could be identified and a database built up. In some instances, DCC may be needed to be asked to carry out certain works.

12. Police matters

12.1 Crime

There had been another incident at the Public Conveniences – see discussion on closing them.

12.2 Councillor Advocate Scheme

Councillor Clist advised the post of Police and Crime Commissioner was being abolished with no replacement scheme envisaged.

13. MDDC Report

Councillor Clist noted the report circulated from MDDC Councillor DuChesne and also raised the recent appeal lost by MDDC on mobile homes and caravans. This could have an impact on the AONB going forward.

14. DCC report

Councillor Clist advised that much of DCC's time was spent on the implications of Local Government Reorganisation in 2027 and balancing the books where the potential elections needed to be factored in.

15. Public Relations

Public relations and social media

In the absence of Councillor Talbot, no report was given. Councillor Clist raised the question of a statement relating to the rise in precept and the decision made at the December meeting would be upheld.

Report from Clerk

The email addresses had been set up and the Clerk was in the process of sending details to all councillors.

16. Clerk Update/Correspondence

Maintenance of the park below Lower Millhayes

No update received

Station Road Drainage

Ongoing but drains cleared.

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

The meeting was on 20th January 2026 at Sampford Peverell with a start time of 7.30pm. A reminder would be sent.

Blackdown Hill Parish Network

Information circulated

Housing Needs survey

Awaiting update from Devon Communities Together/MDDC

Use of an image and request for payment on Hemyock.org

A response was awaited.

Anti-social behaviour

An email had been received from a resident stating that:

A bunch of kids were mucking about by the toilets and someone in the Old School House was chopping wood at the time and he was seemingly verbally abused by them, eventually escalating to stones being thrown at the chap’s porch window and breaking a window in the process. The police were called.

Does the Hall or surrounds have CCTV.

See discussions under Public Convenience.

17. Matters raised by Councillors/meetings attended

Councillor Summers advised that he was unable to attend the next Parish Council meeting.

18.Items for the next agenda

As detailed in these minutes.

19. Dates of the next meetings:

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday, 4 February 2026

Dates to be set for:

Asset Management Working Group

Action Plan Meeting

Skatepark Meeting

Finance Committee - February

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairman