

Hemyock Parish Council
Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
held at Blackdown Healthy Living & Activity Centre, Hemyock at 7.30pm on 1 July 2026

Present

Councillors Atkinson, Parish, District & County Councillor Clist, Povah, Talbot (Vice-Chair) and Ward together with Mrs S McGeever (Clerk).

In the absence of Councillor P Doble (Chair), Councillor K Talbot (Vice Chair) opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed those present.

005/1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were approved for Councillors A. Doble, P Doble, Moon and Summers. It was noted that the Parish Council had one vacancy.

005/2. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

Councillor Clist declared an interest in planning and financial decisions.
Councillor Ward declared an interest as per Item 2 of the agenda.

005/3. Public Participation

Members of the public raised the following points:

- Boundary at the bottom of Longmead is not secure and can affect business in the industrial park. Businesses have installed their own boundary fences.
- The hedges on Pencross Hill have not been cut high enough to allow coaches to pass along without moving to the middle of the road.
- More mindless vandalism at the public conveniences.
- Anti-social behaviour and intimidation at the Parish Hall/Snooker Club
- State of the roads
- Grant application from the Blackdown Support Group (currently 85 users from Hemyock)
- Brown bin sticker arrived and dated June 2027. The bin has been emptied.
- Dog signs at Longmead missing
- Battery required for one of the defibrillators
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The matters were noted by the Parish Council and, where possible, the Clerk would follow up on the concerns or they would be discussed during the meeting if already on the agenda.

005/4. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 24 June 2026

PROPOSAL: The council minutes of 24 June 2026 are approved as a true record of the meeting.
PROPOSER: Councillor Ward
SECONDER: Councillor Atkinson

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 Vice Chair.

005/5. Chair's Announcements

There were no announcements to make.

005/6. Finance

In the absence of Councillor Summers, the Clerk ran through the financial report.

6.1 To agree income and expenditure and bank reconciliations:

The Clerk had updated the information circulated to reflect the month end of 30 June 2026.

INCOME (to 30 June 2026)

Account ending 1298	5541.62		
04-Jun-26	Transfer from 20371324		5000.00
05-Jun-26	DEVON CC	2606032-251	131.62
09-Jun-26	DEVON CC	2606052-290	410.00
Account ending 1308	6.52		
Account ending 1311	3.77		
Account ending 1324	99357.54 (Skipton)		
	20.00 (Exe Valley)		
	410.20 (interest)		

EXPENDITURE – Invoices received 2026/27

Payments made to 30 JUNE 2026

01-Jun-26	Service Charge		-10.60	
	Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT			
01-Jun-26	DEBITS)	1251581	-56.00	
	Direct Debit (VALDA ENERGY			
03-Jun-26	LIMIT)	VALDAENERGY	-110.68	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: I R Pike	CEMETERY GRASS	-744.00	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: I & Y Pike	REIMBURSEMENT	-16.25	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: e ingledew	P COUNCIL	-153.00	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	EXPENSES	-43.25	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	WAGES MAY 26	-841.32	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	MICROSOFT	-104.99	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: hmrc cumbernauld	120PW00334133	-305.61	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: Chrissie Parker	HPC/0015	-119.32	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: blackdown healthy	INVOICE 4343	-20.00	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: play inspection co	86196	-113.94	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: inspired partnersh	IPL 315	-180.00	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: brookridge timber	318614Q	-390.06	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	MDDC EVENT LICENCE	-21.00	
04-Jun-26	B/P to: BHPN	HEMYOCK PC	-25.00	
	Direct Debit (HUSQVARNA UK			
04-Jun-26	LIMIT)	8QNN4F.Z10000SUG3G	-437.29	
	Direct Debit (VALDA ENERGY			
05-Jun-26	LIMIT)	VALDAENERGY	-29.87	
30-Jun-26	Service Charge		-6.77	-3728.85

Invoices to pay for June (approval at July 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.	544.00	I Pike	Village maintenance £200 Cemetery maintenance £344
2.	162.00	E Ingledew	Public Convenience
3.	6.00	S McGeever	Giff Gaff subscription
4.	1086.65	S McGeever	Wages
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No	Amount	Payee	Reason
5.	412.79	HMRC	PAYE/NI
6.	August	S McGeever	Mileage
7.	26.00	S McGeever	Expenses
8.	437.29	Husqvarna DD	Robot mowers
9.	29.87	Valda DD	Electricity – public convenience
10.	220.58	C Parker	Inventory
11.	40.00	BHLAC	Meeting room
12.	134.66	Valda DD	Longmead
13.	140.00	T Slator	Longmead (moles)
14.	360.00	J Stevens	Topping commons and Turbary
15.	45.00	Open Space	Membership
16.	255.00	Upcotts	Cutting Longmead
17.	126.00	Metcalfe Allen	CCTV at Longmead
18.	50.00	Summers	Flowers – Hemyock Day
19.	65.00	R Taylor	Bike jump
20.	75.00	R Taylor	Footbridge
21.	2821.00	Blackdown support	Grant

PROPOSAL: The above payments should be made by the Parish Council.

PROPOSER: Councillor Ward

SECONDER: Councillor Atkinson

It was RESOLVED that the above payments should be made. Councillor Clist abstained.

Bank Reconciliations

The bank reconciliation for the Unity accounts to 30/06/2026:

Bank account	Closing balance 31/05/2026	Monies in	Monies out	Closing balance 30/06/2026
Unity Trust Bank current 298	5001.48	5541.62	3728.95	6814.15
Unity Trust Bank deposit	73056.05	99796.74	5000.00	167852.79
Unity Trust Bank GF	774.68	3.77		778.45
Unity Trust Bank P3	1341.60	6.52		1348.12

Bank reconciliation for all bank accounts to 30/06/2026:

HSBC Comm Acc 51082116	317.72	Monthly statement 22/6/26
HSBC Deposit 51082132	100123.64	Monthly statement 22/6/26
		Interest 112.12
United Trust Bank	90349.21	Matured 27/8/25 – interest given Oct 25 next interest Oct 26
Unity Deposit 20371324	167852.79	Monthly statement
Unity GF 20371311	778.45	Monthly statement
Unity P3 20371308	1348.12	Monthly statement
Unity Current 20371298	6814.15	Monthly statement
Skipton Building Society		Matured 2/5/2026 and fund transferred to Unity Trust Bank
Nationwide Instant Access	5295.96	Matured 31/3/26
Nationwide 35 day	87541.93	Matured 31/3/26
Cambridge Building Society	85196.93	Matured 31/3/26
CB01452546		
Total in Banks	545618.90	

Work was ongoing to achieve online banking for all accounts and paperwork will be brought to the meeting for signature.

6.2. Mileage Rates

The Clerk advised that HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) had changed the approved mileage rates for the tax year 2026/27. It is the first change since 2011.

Approved mileage rates from tax year 2026 to 2027

- Cars and vans — 55p per mile for the first 10,000 business miles in the tax year, then 25p per mile thereafter.
- Motorcycles — 24p per business mile.
- Bicycles — 20p per business mile.

How this affects parish and town councils

As the mileage rates are included in the council's policy or someone's contract or terms as "in line with HMRC mileage rates" or words to that effect, then they should automatically be paid the new HMRC rates.

PROPOSAL: The new approved mileage rates should be adopted.

PROPOSER: Councillor Atkinson

SECONDER: Councillor Ward

It was RESOLVED that the new mileage rate be adopted. Councillor Clist abstained.

6.3 Grant applications

Blackdown Support Group

The application had been circulated to all Parish Councillors regarding the request for a grant of £2821.

The Parish Council noted that in 2024, a grant of £2000 had been given and in 2025 this has been doubled to £4000 as the Blackdown Support Group had taken on premises.

PROPOSAL: Given that the Parish Council regularly gave support to the Blackdown Support Group, the requested grant of £2821 should be provided.

PROPOSER: Councillor Clist

SECONDER: Councillor Talbot

It was RESOLVED to provide a grant of £2821 to the Blackdown Support Group.

6.4 AGAR

The Parish Council noted that the AGAR paperwork has been submitted to the External Auditor within the time scales required.

6.5 VAT

The Clerk advised that the VAT reimbursements are being prepared and would be submitted prior to the next meeting.

005/7. Planning

7.1 To consider the following applications:-

26/00817/HOUSE

Proposal: Installation of an air source heat pump

Location: 3 Logan Way Hemyock Cullompton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 313334 / 113265

Parish: Hemyock 26

The Parish Council noted that the reason this application had been submitted was that the heat pump did not meet the sound specifications required. The Parish Council RESOLVED that the decision should be made by the Planning Officer who would understand the requirements.

PROPOSER: Councillor Povah

SECONDER: Councillor Ward

Councillor Clist abstained.

26/00822/HOUSE

Proposal: Erection of a garden implement store

Location: Culm Pyne House Hemyock Cullompton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 313795 / 114846

Parish: Hemyock 26

The Parish Council RESOLVED that it was content with this application.

PROPOSER: Councillor Ward

SECONDER: Councillor Povah

Councillor Clist abstained.

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

The Parish Council noted the following decision:

No decision notices have been received.

7.3 To receive information regarding enforcement issues:

No update has been received on any ongoing Enforcement issues.

005/8. Asset Management Reports

8.1 Longmead

The Parish Council considered that a meeting with the Longmead Advisory Committee would be beneficial to finalise the Terms of Reference and the ongoing operation of Longmead.

- a) Finance
The Finance Committee would look at the best way to manage the finances and come to the Parish Council with a proposal regarding the finances and the Natwest Longmead Account.
- b) Cleaner
The Cleaner would be paid on a monthly basis by the Parish Council. Any cleaning equipment or supplies should be advised to the Clerk who would organise a delivery through Spot-On. This company was used for supplies for the Public Convenience.
- c) Bookings
The online booking system was under construction. The terms of booking would include a deposit to ensure that the facilities were left in a proper condition.
- d) Works required
There were several small maintenance issues to be dealt with at the pavilion.
Large issues at Longmead included protecting the premises and adjoining grounds, the manhole, concreting the area in front of the containers, re-concreting the area at the bank of the MUGA and increasing car parking space at the pavilion car park.
- e) Work on the permanent license was ongoing
- f) Recycling bins for clothes
The Clerk was awaiting a delivery date for the bins.
- g) Longmead roof
The Clerk was preparing the documentation for the feasibility study on Longmead pavilion.
- h) Planning application for a Certificate of Lawfulness was ongoing.

Other matters included:

- Sand on the pitches
- Dead tree by the river

8.2 War memorial

Councillor Povah advised he had nothing to report.

8.3 Cemetery

Councillors Atkinson and Povah had prepared a report on actions to be taken at the cemetery. All were subject to the planning application required for change of use of the agricultural land that made up the cemetery extension.

The option to loan the Bier to a museum would be investigated.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council would have site of the S106 agreement providing access to the cemetery extension.

8.4 Blackdown Healthy Living and Activities Centre

In the absence of Councillor P Doble no report was given.

8.5 The Parish Store

In the absence of Councillor P Doble no report was given.

8.6 The Commons

In the absence of Councillor Moon no report was given but it was noted that The Commons had been topped.

8.7 Public Conveniences

Councillor Povah advised that recent vandalism had broken a toilet seat and rail.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to put information regarding vandalism on social media and provide costings for the work carried out.

The possibility of CCTV cameras was raised and this would need to be in conjunction with the Village Hall.

Action: Clerk to contact Village Hall

8.8 Car Park

The Clerk advised that she was still waiting to hear from MDDC as to when the car park would be received.

DCC have awarded a contract to an electric car charger company. More information would be available at the end of August.

Lighting on footpath from the Car Park to Redwoods Close plus trip hazard were ongoing

The Baptist Church was taking action on the wall.

8.9 Village Maintenance

Maintenance continued around the village and it was hoped the repairs to the Eastland railings would be completed shortly.

It was noted that work was required to the handrail on the flood bridge and St Margaret's Brook required clearing. Himalayan Balsam was present and would need to be disposed over via an operator with a waste management certificate.

8.10 Ground Maintenance

Councillor Povah and the Clerk were continuing their work to put together a document of current hourly rates for those undertaking ground maintenance in the village.

005/9. Project Reports

9.1 Community Land (Cavanna)

In the absence of Councillor P Doble, the Clerk reported that works to reinstate the land was ongoing.

Cavanna had provided the details of the new person dealing with the transfer of the land.

Questions raised by Parish Councillors on the transfer documentation had been sent to the solicitor and responses were awaited.

9.2 Station Road Pavement

Councillor Povah advised that the planning application was ready to be submitted.

9.3 Connecting the Culm/DRIP

The Clerk advised that the Floodgate at The Garages has been fitted.

9.4 Purchase of Land

Questions raised by Parish Councillors on the transfer documentation had been sent to the solicitor and responses were awaited. Once satisfactory answers had been received, the purchase could be completed.

Once the Parish Council was responsible for the land, insurance would be put in place and signage would be erected. A public meeting would be called.

9.5 Building Maintenance

Miss Lawrence has circulated Building Maintenance information to Parish Councillors for consideration.

Councillor Povah advised that the next action was to cost out the works for each element of the proposal. This was a task he could undertake but it would require the purchase of a construction price book at a cost of around £200.00.

Action: Finance Committee to make a recommendation to the Parish Council.

9.6. Biodiversity

Consideration of ways biodiversity can be increased in the parish and it was agreed to ask an expert to come and speak to the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk

005/10. Community Matters

10.1 Garages Youth Project

Councillor Atkinson advised that there was nothing to report.

10.2 Hemyock Community Larder

In the absence of Councillor P Doble, no report was given.

10.3 Hemyock Day/Lights Brigade

Hemyock Day

The organiser advised that it had been an excellent day and thanked the Parish Council for their support. The date had been set for the next event which would be 12 June 2027. The colouring wall had been particularly successful.

There had been a small loss against record breaking food and bar takings. Next year, evening food would be provided.

Consideration would be given to Martyn's Law for the next Hemyock Day and whether additional work/actions were required.

Lights Brigade

The parade would take place in 2026 and the committee was looking at providing wall-mounted Xmas trees holder. These could be used for hanging baskets in the summer.

The Village Lights competition would take place.

10.4 Footpaths

Councillor Povah confirmed that the installation of the bridge on Footpath 19 would take place this summer and DCC had advised that the path would be closed for 6 months.

The basic P3 grant had been received.

10.5 Speedwatch

The Parish Council would put a call for volunteers in the next edition of the Pump.

005/11. Highways

11.1 Road Warden Scheme

a. Road Warden

The claim for PPE had been processed and the funds received.

The traffic cones were being delivered by the NHO.

The tarmac was with Councillor A Doble for ease of access by the Lengths Man.

The Clerk was awaiting confirmation that the signs proposed by the NHO met Councillor Clist's requirements.

b. 20mph applications/speed limits

Councillor Clist advised that the Clerk should contact the Neighbourhood Highways Officer in the first instance.

11.2 Lengths Man

No work had been undertaken in June but work would start on repairing potholes in July.

11.3 Highways matters

DCC Highways policy on mirrors

The Clerk advised that she was still awaiting a meeting date from the NHO.

Barriers

The Clerk advised that she was still awaiting a meeting date from DCC Footpaths and Highways as to how the barriers could be adapted to provide better access for prams/wheelchairs etc.

The Parish Council felt they had a duty to improve access for residents and that this could come at a cost.

005/12. Police matters

12.1 Crime

A report was awaited from the Neighbourhood Police Officer on the anti-social behaviour experienced in Hemyock and an invitation issued for a representative to attend a Parish Council meeting.

Action: Clerk to follow up

12.2 Councillor Advocate Scheme

Councillor Clist advised that there was a focus on rural crime.

005/13. MDDC Report

Councillor Clist advised that the Clerk would forward Councillor DuChesne's monthly report.

005/14. DCC report

Councillor Clist had not submitted a report gave a verbal update:

- A request had been made to Government for 'Mayor' status which would open up further income and funding opportunities/streams.
- A further £4.6m had been allocated to highways with additional funding year on year. He hoped that works would be undertaken at the bottom of Station Road and damage to the square and Whitehall Bridge addressed.
- Funding had been earmarked for libraries and hubs would be created
- More social workers were being allocated to Ilfracombe and Barnstaple
- Rural Affairs were looking at a farming roadmap and increased food security
- Housing at Cranbrook would provide onsite adult social care
- The Locality Budget was open for applications that would benefit the environment and young people.

005/15. Public Relations

Councillor Talbot advised that the Pump article was coming up and called for information.

It was noted that there was information on South West Water and River Rights which recognizes rivers as living systems with legal protections, allowing them to hold rights similar to a person or corporation.

005/16. Clerk Update/Correspondence

The Clerk brought the following information to the attention of Parish Councillors:

Station Road Drainage

Work was ongoing to understand the flooding.

Emergency Plan

The draft Emergency Plan and details of Emergency Community Hubs had been circulated to Parish Councillors.

Councillors Atkinson and A Doble had provided information and the Clerk called on other parish councillors to do the same.

An updated Emergency Plan would then be taken to a Public Meeting – date to be agreed.

Neighbourhood Plan

Further information on drafting a Planning Statement circulated to Parish Councillors.
MDDC funded Housing Needs Survey confirmed.

Blackdown Hill Parish Network

Information had been circulated on Annual General on Wednesday July 22nd 2026 at 6:45 for 7pm.
This will be taking place at The Otter Room, Sidmouth Arms, Upottery, EX15 9PN.

MDDC Assets

An expression of interest had been submitted.

005/17. Matters raised by Councillors/meetings attended

The following matters were raised:

- The bridge at Whitehall

005/18. Items for the next agenda

- InPost at Longmead – to go onto the next agenda with a recommendation to not go ahead given the impact on the Post Office

- Quotes for the work at Longmead
The work on the drain should go ahead under health and safety.
- Co-option papers should be available at each meeting

005/19. Dates of the next meetings:

The next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on:

2 September 2026

Dates for the following meetings would be circulated with a view to them taking place before the September meeting:

Commons Meeting
Finance Committee
Longmead Meeting

Signed _____ Date _____
Chair