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

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

Councillor P Doble (Chair) opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed those present.

007/1. Apologies for absence
There were no apologies for absence.

Mrs J Redwod had completed the co-option form and the Parish Council RESOLVED to co-opt Mrs Redwood as a Parish Councillor. The Acceptance of Office was duly signed.
Proposer: Councillor P Doble
Seconder: Councillor Clist
Decision: All in favour

007/2. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations
Councillors P Doble and Ward declared an interest as per Item 2 of the agenda.

007/3. Public Participation
Members of the public raised the following points:

Purchase of the Land
The question was raised as to whether the dogs would be allowed off the lead on the new land.
The Parish Council would be holding an open meeting once the purchase of the had been completed.

Bin at Longmead
The amount of rubbish in the bin at Longmead was being monitored.

Defibrillators
The Parish Council was advised that two sets of defibrillator pads expired in October 26 and one set in December 26.

Play equipment
Rubber feet were required for the play equipment.

Cutting of the hedges at Longmead
It was requested that the Parish Council clear up any debris from the cutting back of the hedges and mend the broken pipe.

Path at the back of properties at Station Road/Castle Park
It was noted one side of the path belonged to the surgery and the other side to 2 houses and that both sides were overrun with brambles.
The village maintenance man undertook to clear the path.

Pencross Hill
The height of the hedges was raised and it was noted that this was a matter for the landowner.
Action: Clerk to contact DCC and ask that a letter be written

Website
A resident with website expertise gave an insight into the quotes for received for a new website. The recommendation was that the Parish Council either go with Netwise or Parish Online which also had a booking system and maintenance programme.

Both were compliant with the most recent legislation.
The Parish Council thanked the resident for their input.
Action: Clerk and resident to arrange a meeting with Parish Online

Councillor Clist advised that the had tuned in to Cullompton Town Council's meeting and wondered if this could also be achieved for Hemyock.
Action: Clerk to investigate

007/4. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 2 September 2026

PROPOSAL: The council minutes of 2 September 2026 are approved as a true record of the meeting.
PROPOSER: Councillor Summers
SECONDER: Councillor Taylor

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.

007/5. Chair's Announcements

The Chair advised that he had sanctioned the hard cut back on the hedges around Longmead. There had been several complaints about the state of the hedges and a hard cut back would mean that they were manageable going forward.

This meeting would finish at 9pm to allow for the Clerk's review.

007/6. Finance

Councillor Summers ran through the financial report prepared by the Clerk. It covered the month of September.

6.1 To agree income and expenditure and bank reconciliations:
The information provided reflects the bank transactions up to 30 September 2026.

INCOME (to 30 September 2026)

Account ending 1298	£	0.00
Account ending 1308	£	6.63
Account ending 1311	£	3.38
Account ending 1324	£	803.80
Interest	£783.80	
Exe Valley Pizza	£20.00	

A transfer of £5000 was made from the deposit account to the current account on 11 September 2026.

EXPENDITURE – Invoices received 2026/27
Payments made to 30 September 2026

01-Sep-26	Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT DEBITS)	1251581	-56.00
03-Sep-26	Direct Debit (HUSQVARNA UK LIMIT)	8QNN4F.Z10000U2K6L	-437.29
03-Sep-26	Direct Debit (VALDA ENERGY LIMIT)	VALDAENERGY	-111.64
07-Sep-26	B/P to: HSBC 2116	PC TRANSFER	-100.00
07-Sep-26	B/P to: HSBC8124	PC TRANSFER	-100.00
07-Sep-26	B/P to: HSBC 2132	PC TRANSFER	-100.00
07-Sep-26	B/P to: net world sports	Q00125139	-575.00
07-Sep-26	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	WAGES MONTH 5	-811.72
07-Sep-26	B/P to: hmrc cumbernauld	120PW00334133	-292.66
07-Sep-26	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	EXPENSES	-32.00
07-Sep-26	B/P to: Mrs S M McGeever	MILEAGE	-40.00

07-Sep-26	B/P to: I R Pike	CEMETERY GRASS		-160.00	
07-Sep-26	B/P to: I & Y Pike	REIMBURSEMENT		-29.82	
07-Sep-26	B/P to: Chrissie Parker	HPC/0018		-209.47	
07-Sep-26	B/P to: dalc		7816	-60.00	
07-Sep-26	B/P to: R Taylor	PARISH COUNCIL		-145.00	
07-Sep-26	B/P to: Cloud Next		208062	-48.19	
07-Sep-26	B/P to: Blackdown Healthy	PARISH COUNCIL		-20.00	
07-Sep-26	B/P to: e ingledew	P COUNCIL		-180.00	
07-Sep-26	B/P to: Ben Macauly		121	-200.00	
07-Sep-26	Direct Debit (VALDA ENERGY LIMIT)	VALDAENERGY		-29.85	
14-Sep-26	B/P to: Rebecca Thomson	AUGUST HOURS		-143.00	
29-Sep-26	B/P to: ajgibl gbp client		561089388	-4218.24	
30-Sep-26	Service Charge			-7.00	-8106.88

Unity Accounts to 30 September 2026

Bank account	**Closing balance 31/08/2026**	**Monies in**	**Monies out**	**Closing balance 30/09/2026**
Unity Trust Bank current 298	4734.08	5000.00	8106.88	1627.20
Unity Trust Bank deposit	158392.79	803.80	5000.00	154196.59
Unity Trust Bank GF	778.45	3.83		782.28
Unity Trust Bank P3	1348.12	6.63		1354.75

Invoices to pay for September (approval at the October 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.	360.0	I Pike	Village maintenance £112 Cemetery maintenance £248..
2.	144.00	E Ingledew	Public Convenience
3.	6.00	S McGeever	Giff Gaff subscription
4.	1043.95	S McGeever	Wages
5.	393.96	HMRC	PAYE/NI
6.	41.25	S McGeever	Mileage
7.	26.00	S McGeever	Expenses
8.	**437.29**	**Husqvarna DD**	**Robot mowers**
9.	**28.31**	**Valda DD**	**Public convenience**
10.	**96.30**	**Valda DD**	**Longmead**
11.	50.00	Devon Communities	Membership
12.	485.20	S Aldworth	Internal Audit / Payroll
13.	792.00	Scribe	Accounts package
14.	20.00	BHLAC	Meeting room
15.	351.34	C Parker	Inventory
16.	182.00	R Thomson	Longmead cleaning
17.	264.00	Scott Reed Supplies	Gate and post (Commons)
18.	200.00	B Macauly	Longmead
19.	390.06	Brookridge	Handrail
20.	756.00	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit
21.	300.00	J Stephens	Manhole cover - Longmead
22.	350.00	B Macauly	St Mary's Brook

In addition to the invoices listed above, the Clerk advised that further information had been received by post/email at the meeting:

R Taylor	£145.00 bike ramp and footbridge
Source for Business	£26.71 waterbill at the cemetery
Source for Business	£98.02 water bill at the public convenience
C Houghton	£443.50 lengths man

PROPOSAL: The Parish Council RESOLVE to make the above payments.
PROPOSER: Councillor Summers
SECONDER: Councillor Atkinson
DECISION: All in favour

Bank Reconciliation

All bank accounts to 30 September 2026

HSBC Comm Acc 51082116	417.72	Monthly statement 22/9/26
HSBC Deposit 51082132	100557.19	Monthly statement 22/9/26 Interest 112.55
HSBC 51082124	100.00	R-activated account
United Trust Bank	90349.21	Next interest Oct 26
Unity Deposit 20371324	154196.59	Monthly statement
Unity GF 20371311	782.28	Monthly statement
Unity P3 20371308	1354.75	Monthly statement
Unity Current 20371298	1627.20	Monthly statement
Nationwide Instant Access	5295.96	Matured 31/3/26
Nationwide 35 day	87541.93	Matured 31/3/26
Cambridge Building Society CB01452546	85196.93	Matured 31/3/26
Total in Banks	527419.76	

The Chair signed the bank reconciliation prepared in Scribe.

6.2 VAT

The VAT reimbursements were being prepared – 2023-24 ongoing, 24-25 and 25-26 ready to send.

6.3 Insurance

The insurance policy had been renewed at a cost of £4218.24.
This was based on index linked increases (5% on buildings and 3% on contents).
Stone walls are insured as a separate "building" if they are not part of an insured building area (such as the toilets).

Their recommendations had been:
The Parish Council make use of the Hiscox Risk Academy to insure that knowledge is up-to-date.

- **Risk Academy Platform Demo Video**

Multiple users can be added via a bulk upload.

The Parish Council get renewed valuations for each building:
Cardinus Risk Management provide desktop valuations which usually cost £180 + VAT
Action: The Finance Committee consider this option

The Parish Council undertake a tree survey as part of its autumn review.
Action: The Clerk to obtain quotations

It was also noted that footbridges generally are owned and maintained by the Highway Authority as it is part of the Highway and there is a statutory duty to maintain them. In Hemyock's case the footbridge over the river was maintained by DCC but the lead up on each side was the responsibility of the Parish Council.

A review of the insurance provider should take placed every three years.

6.4 Annual Return
The External Auditor's report has been circulated to Parish Councillors and posted on the website.

The only point raised was that there was no contract between the Parish Council and the Internal Auditor. The Clerk had worked with the Internal Auditor to provide a proposed letter of contract.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the proposed letter of contract.
Proposer: Councillor Summers
Seconder: Councillor Clist
Decision: All in favour

6.5 Website
The Clerk had circulated the quotations from three website providers. A recommendation would be bought to the next meeting following further investigation.

6.6 Grant requests
BHLAC
The Clerk had circulated a report and quotations received from the BHLAC for air conditioning.

The Parish Council noted that work was also required on the heating system to include the introduction of more solar panels.

The Parish Council RESOLVED that the grant should be considered by the Finance Committee with a view to carrying out essential work to cut down on heating oil consumption but new capital expenditure be considered after an energy requirement study had been completed. Such a study would assist with grant applications for external funds.

The cost of new valves and thermostats together with a phone controlled app would be £3706.00.
Action: Finance Committee

Youth Club
The grant request for £500.00 had been circulated to Parish Councillors.
The Parish Council RESOLVED to pass this to the Finance Committee for a recommendation.

Mary Waldon Trust
A grant request from the Mary Waldron Trust had been circulated to Parish Councillors.
The Parish Council considered that this request may be best met by the Trustees of the Second Poor Charity.
Action: Finance Committee to also consider

It was agreed that there would be a meeting of the Finance Committee on 20 October 2026.

007/7. Planning
7.1 To consider the following applications:-

There were no new planning applications to consider.

7.2 To receive the following decision notices/appeal decisions:-
The Parish Council noted the following decision:

25/00881/OUT – APPROVED – 16 September 2026
Proposal: Outline application with all matters reserved, other than the point of access for the erection of up to 9 self or custom-build dwellings
Location: Land at NGR 313524 113461 Culmstock Road Hemyock Devon

The access to the cemetery extension is in the S106 agreement together with a Public Open Space contribution.

26/00914/FULL – APPROVED – 22 September 2026
Proposal: Creation of footpath and relocation of boundary walls (Revised Scheme)
Location: 27 & 29 Station Road Hemyock Cullompton Devon

7.3 To receive information regarding enforcement issues:
No update has been received on any ongoing Enforcement issues.

Other matters:
Plan Mid Devon – Local Green Space consultation
The content of the consultation had been circulated to Parish Councillors. The consultation period had been extended to January 2027 and Parisher Councillors were asked to send their thoughts to the Clerk to formulate a response that could be reviewed at the next meeting.
Action: All

Mid-Devon District Council – Housing and Economic Needs Assessment
The information on the HELAA report itself had been circulated to Parish Councillors. Each site required consideration and it was not yet known which sites might be put forward for the new Local Plan.

The Housing and Econdomic Needs Assessment appeared to be predominantly for businesses and developers.
Action: All

When considering the possibility of new housing, the Parish Council needed to consider what benefits/infrastructure would be needed to make it acceptable to residents given the Governments new housing targets.

Plan Mid Devon
It was understood the next full consultation would take place in January 2027.

007/8. Asset Management Reports

8.1 Longmead
The Clerk had prepared a separate report which had been circulated to Parish Councillors and posted on the website.

The Clerk ran through the key elements of the report:

BANK ACCOUNT
The Parish Council RESOLVED that the Longmead NatWest bank account should be closed and the funds transferred to the Parish Council's working account so that all income and expenditure relating to Longmead was in one place.
Proposer: Councillor Clist
Seconder: Councillor Ward
Decision: All in favour
Action: Clerk

WIFI
The Parish Council RESOLVED that it was content for the Clerk to obtain quotes for WiFi at Longmead.
Action: Clerk

Football pitches:
Grant to improve football pitches.
Councillor Ward advised that the application for a grant to improve the football pitches was ongoing.

Maintenance of the football pitches
The report has been forwarded to all Parish Councillors and to the Longmead Advisory Committee who were looking to see if the maintenance programme can be put in place using volunteers.

In order for this to happen, the mini tractor would need servicing and a new battery bought which was not in the budget. The Parish Council referred the expenditure to the Finance Committee.
Action: Finance Committee

The quote for the verti-draining circulated to Parish Councillors as part of the maintenance report would need to be carried out in June 2027 and should be booked in during the autumn.
The Parish Council referred the expenditure to the Finance Committee.
Action: Finance Committee

MUGA
Repairs
The MUGA had been repaired once but It had been reported that there are three further spots on joints which needed to be glued down. These repairs had also been carried out by the contractor.

It had been suggested that it may be advantageous to purchase Astro pro glue from Amazon at £7.20 plus cartridge gun at about £ 7.00. This would be used to repair any tears in the astro turf as a result of use.
The Parish Council referred the expenditure to the Finance Committee.
Action: Finance Committee

Brushing if after use:
The Clerk reported that the MUGA did not appear to be being brushed after each use.
Action: Longmead Advisory Committee

Signage
The Longmead Advisory Committee believes as it is locked it might not be necessary to put up signage but it would serve as a reminder to users about type of shoes, no smoking etc.
Action: Finance Committee

Security Checks
The Longmead Advisory Committee has allocated individuals to carry out security checks and send the forms to the Parish Council. The possibility of having Google Forms that can be completed online and held on the Parish Council's account was being explored but there were also several companies that provided an online system such as Scribe and Parish Online.

The checks are currently being carried out on a monthly basis but for insurance purposes they should be carried out on a weekly basis.
Action: Finance Committee and Longmead Advisory Committee

CAR PARK
Manhole Cover In Car Park
The manhole cover had been repaired.

Quotes for improving the various car parking areas/access:
The quotes had been included in the agenda.
The Parish Council referred the expenditure to the Finance Committee who may require further quotations to be obtained.
Action: Finance Committee

CLOTHING BANK
The clothing bank would be delivered the week of 5 October 2026. There would be no financial benefit until the current fuel crisis is over.

INPOST
The Parish Council was concerned about the impact on the Post Office and the offer has now been withdrawn.

LINE PAINT
The blue and white line paint had been purchased and delivered. This formed part of the current agreement with the football clubs.

BOOKING SYSTEM FOR LONGMEAD
The Clerk had had had several exchanges with the current website holder but 9 months had passed with no action.

There were several options available including a dedicated site for £120 per year or may be able to be linked to a new website – Parish Online offers such a facility. The matter was placed on hold pending the decision on the website.

LICENCE
The Clerk had circulated information on both the rate and the VAT implications of having a full licence at Longmead and increasing the 'business' element of Longmead i.e. non-sports related activities.

The original concept of Longmead had been that it would be independent of the Parish Council but the reality was that over the past 20 years, income had not covered expenditure with the Parish Council stepping in to cover much of the maintenance.

The Clerk understood that Magelake at Uffculme was leased to a charity by the Parish Council who in turn employed a management company. It was possible that a similar arrangement could be put in place for Longmead.
Action: Finance Committee/Clerk

SOLAR PANELS
Empowered Projects are conducting a grant funded review of energy requirements at Longmead and the current systems in place.
The possibility exists to replace the green roof with solar panels. All grant possibilities would be explored to achieve this.
Action: Clerk

LEAP AREA
The Parish Council put forward a vote of thanks to Trish Slater who had looked after the LEAP area for many years.
Action: All Parish Councillors to consider the way forward for the area. This may link into the Community Land and the new river land.

TENNIS AREA
Correspondence has been received regarding maintenance at Longmead and the responsibility for hedges surrounding the tennis courts. This matter had been addressed by cutting the hedges.

DEFINING LONGMEAD'S BOUNDARIES AND THE NEED FOR FENCING
The Parish Council referred this matter to the Finance Committee.
Action: Finance Committee

COMPLETE GROUND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME FOR LONGMEAD
The Longmead Advisory Committee had been tasked with creating a maintenance specification for all areas.

GOING FORWARD
The Clerk raised the following items for consideration:
Location of bike ramps
Entrance to the new land
Entrance to the Cavanna land

Councillor Ward raised the matter of a dead tree at Longmead. The Parish Council RESOLVED that this was a health and safety issue and could be agreed at this meeting.
Proposer: Councillor P Doble
Seconder: Councillor Clist
Decision: All in favour

8.2 War memorial
Councillor Povah advised that there was nothing to report.

8.3 Cemetery
A separate report has been circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the July meeting and this would be incorporated into the Action Plan being prepared by the Clerk.
Action: Clerk

8.4. Blackdown Healthy Living and Activities Centre
The BHLAC would be considered at the next meeting following the Finance Committee meeting.

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report on Connecting the Culm and the Riverbank report as this was linked to the purchase of the new land.
The renewal of DCC's lease for offices was ongoing.

8.5 The Parish Store
Councillor P Doble advised that he had nothing to report.

8.6 The Commons
Councillor Moon advised that the gate post had been purchased.
The work on the inventory had focussed on the Commons and this information has been circulated to Parish Councillors.

8.7 Public Conveniences
Councillor Povah advised that there was nothing to report.
Work was ongoing on the possibility of CCTV cameras.

8.8 Car Park
The Clerk advised that she was still awaiting dates for the re-surfacing of the car park by MDDC.

On other matters:
- Lighting on footpath from the Car Park to Redwoods Close plus trip hazard – ongoing
- DCC are moving closer to appointing an electric car charger contractor/partner – online meeting on
- Baptist Church are taking action on the wall in October.

8.9 Village Maintenance
Councillor Povah had obtained four quotes for the handrail at Eastlands.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to take the cheapest quote.
Proposer: Councillor Povah
Seconder: Councillor Moon
Decision: All in favour

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 is an ongoing process.
As part of this process, the Longmead Advisory Committee are mapping out all areas that require maintenance at Longmead.

007/9. Project Reports

9.1 Community Land (Cavanna)
Councillor P Doble and the Clerk had met with Cavanna and expressed the Parish Council's concern over the state of the land. A further visit to the land prior to this meeting had revealed that spraying could take place again to remove the weeds.

Responses were still awaited from the Parish Council's solicitor on the questions raised regarding the transfer documentation.

9.2 Station Road Pavement
Councillor Povah advised that the planning application had been approved and he would now be progressing to obtaining quotes for the work.

9.3 Connecting the Culm/DRIP
The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

9.4 Purchase of Land
The Clerk had circulated further information on the land purchase to Parish Councillors and was meeting with the solicitors to raise any questions from the Parish Council.
A further report would be given to the next meeting.

9.5 Building Maintenance
Councillor Povah advised that he had nothing to report to this meeting but the use of Artificial Intelligence was being looked into.
Action: Councillor Povah

9.6. Biodiversity
The Clerk had met with representatives from Devon County Council and discussed the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy and it would be possible to understand the biodiversity of all Parish Council land and ways to increase biodiversity.
Action: Clerk

007/10. Community Matters
10.1 Garages Youth Project
Councillor Atkinson advised that there was nothing to report.

10.2 Hemyock Community Larder
Councillor P Doble advised there was nothing to report.

10.3 Hemyock Day/Lights Brigade
A report would be given at the next meeting.

10.4 Footpaths
Councillor Povah advised that the installation of the new bridge on Footpath 19 was ongoing.
Footpath maintenance was continuing around the parish.

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

007/11. Highways

11.1 Road Warden Scheme
The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report but the matters were not discussed:

- Road Warden/Flood Warden
  The cones had been delivered.

- 20mph applications/speed limits
  The Clerk advised that she had spoken to DCC Highways and was awaiting further information.

- Flood Warden Scheme
  Information circulated to Parish Councillors

- Hedgerow reports
  Overgrowth on hedgerows has been reported.
  Update from Councillor Povah on delivery of letters to the three properties concerned.

- Road by the footbridge
  Councillor Clist and the Neighbourhood Highways Officer have emailed the rapid response team to see if this section of road can be escalated.

Lengths man
The Parish Council RESOLVED to order more tarmac.
Proposer: Councillor Clist
Seconder: Councillor Atkinson
Decision: All in favour

Highways Matters:

Change of speed limit request
DCC Highways have had a proposal from an MP to change the speed limit from Black Pit Cross on Culmstock Road, heading to Hemyock to a 30 mph zone, with the justification that pedestrians from the properties walk along here.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to support the change of speed limit and felt it would be beneficial for the 20mph sign to be moved to the current location of the 30mph.

DCC Highways policy on mirrors
Meeting requested.

Barriers
DCC have responded and the situation is quite complicated.
Discussed with DCC P3 and a meeting is being arranged.

007/12. Police matters
This matter was carried forward to the next meeting.

007/13. MDDC Report
Councillor Clist noted that the Clerk had forwarded Councillor DuChesne's monthly MDDC report to Parish Councillors.

007/14. DCC report
Due to the shortness of time, Councillor Clist did not give a report.

007/15. Public Relations
Councillor Talbot advised that there was nothing to report.

007/16. Clerk Update/Correspondence
Due to the shortness of time the Parish Council noted the Clerk's report and RESOLVED to ask the Clerk to further discussions on the possibility of a Park Run.
Proposer: Councillor A Doble
Seconder: Councillor P Doble
Decision: All in favour

007/17. Matters raised by Councillors/meetings attended (not for decision)
No matters were raised.

007/18. Items for the next agenda
As listed in these minutes.

007/19. Dates of the next meetings:

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

2026

It was noted that the following meetings were still required:
TBA - Commons Meeting
20 October 2026 - Finance Committee
TBA - Longmead Meeting with the Advisory Committee

Signed _____ Date _____
Chair