

MEETING OF MARY TAVY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE READING ROOM, MARY TAVY
ON 9TH SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7:00PM

Present:

Cllr P Reid	Cllr J Honey
Cllr J Dunn	Cllr A Grindey
Cllr A Longland	Cllr M Griffiths

In attendance:

Ms Amy Christie (Parish Clerk)
A member of the public.

The meeting was chaired by the Chair, Cllr Honey.

FC.25/113 Welcome and Formal Opening of the Meeting by the Chair:

Cllr Honey opened the meeting at 7pm.

FC.25/114 Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Banks - Unwell

FC.25/115 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations:

None.

FC.25/116 Business Raised by the Public

A member of the public spoke in relation to flooding on Brentor Road & general water run-off from Gibbet and will clear ditches and leats on their land.

A member of the public offered seeds for the parish council's cemetery wildflower corridor. Councillors thanked the member of the public for the offer of seeds.

FC.25/117 Minutes:

- i) The minutes of the meeting of 8th July 2025 (copy previously circulated) were approved.
- ii) Members received updates on actions/items from the previous meeting.
 - a) Down's Garage Site planning application - no planning application has been received for this site to date.
 - b) Cllr Grindey provided an update on the Bus Stop maintenance & painting works carried out by councillors. Cllr Dunn said that DNPA may be able to provide a digital copy of the original map in the bus stop if required at a later date. Discussion about potential for a mural painting in the bus stop for future consideration at council, a post for a volunteer mural painter will be put out on social media. Cllr Griffiths raised the idea of a picture board in the bus stop for parishioners to place and share photographs of the parish.
 - c) St Mary's Churchyard path, Cllr Honey will write to WDBC and request an update on churchyard path maintenance works.
 - d) The Parish Clerk provided an update on the pension portal full delegate changes.

- e) The Parish Clerk provided an update about the Accounts software recommended by the Auditor, the Clerk will undertake a free trial and report to council.
- f) Village checks – Cllr Longland reported a broken dog bin hinge on Bal Lane, the parish clerk will report it to WDBC for repair/replacement. The noticeboard has an issue with the leg, Cllr Longland will make enquiries to the school about the crosses in the cemetery.

FC.25/118 Standing Item – Climate and Ecology Emergencies:

Councillors noted that the council resolved to become a signatory of the Devon Climate Declaration and will focus on those activities where we as a parish, can make a difference to climate change, biodiversity and the environment.

Matters arising since the last council meeting

FC.25/119 Highways

Members received and considered any updates in relation to Highways.

Resolved:

- i) Members received an update on potholes and Road Warden work completed to date from Cllr Reid and discussion about further pothole work to be completed around the parish.
- ii) Cllr Reid raised flooding on Brentor Road / run off from Gibbet, Cllr Honey has written to the County Councillor, discussion about large pieces of stone being placed to prevent erosion, weather/climatic changes, flooding and water run off and a landowner supports works in collaboration. Cllr Honey will write to Dartmoor Ranger Kit Hancock about a FIPL grant to support landowners with mitigating water run off and subsequent flooding.
- iii) Discussion about Mary Tavy – Horndon Road overgrown vegetation & visibility issues affecting road users, all members of the public can report Highways issues including overgrown vegetation on the Devon County Council Report an Issue website, in addition Cllr Reid will meet with members of the public to discuss concerns overgrown vegetation & visibility issues, and any potential request to DCC for appropriate signage if required.

New items of business

FC.25/120 Councillor Reports

- i) Emergency Warden – No report received. Cllr Reid will check with the Emergency Warden that there is sufficient salt for the Winter period.
- ii) West Devon Matters (Southern Parishes Link) Committee Representative – No update.
- iii) Mary Tavy & Horndon Broadband Champion – Cllr Reid provided an update that Sir G Cox has said that Bridestowe will get Broadband and Horndon will be next. There is a meeting between BT & EE about mobile phone coverage and masts on church towers.
- iv) Mary Tavy Community Field & Hall Representatives – Cllr Reid provided an update about the rewiring of the Coronation Hall, and quotations being obtained for the snooker room.
- v) Office of Police and Crime Commissioner – Cllr Griffiths, no update received.

FC.25/121 Local Government Reorganisation
Cllr Dunn provided an update from meetings attended on Local Government Reorganisation. There are Local Government Reorganisation surveys from West Devon Borough Council: www.westdevon.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation and Devon County Council Local Government Reorganisation Survey [Have Your Say Today - We want to hear from you - New Devon - Your Say On Our Future](#) and Devon County Council Local Government Reorganisation Events.

Resolved: Councillors considered a Local Reorganisation surveys and resolved to respond individually if desired.

FC.25/122 Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021 – 2026 Review – Public Opinion Survey
Councillors received notification of the Dartmoor Partnership Plan Review – Public Opinion Survey, members of the public can respond to the survey on the following link: [Dartmoor Partnership Plan 2021-2026 Review](#)

FC.25/123 Domain renewal
The parish clerk provided an update about the renewal of the co.uk domain www.marytavyparishcouncil.co.uk expiry 21 October 2025 as a government recommended security measure.

Item was deferred until October Full Council.

FC.25/124 (13) Co-option
Councillors considered co-option and discussed deadlines, notification and advertising of co-option vacancies.

Resolved: Councillors agreed to proceed with co-option, post the vacancy on the parish noticeboard and a post on social media, and set a deadline for applications of Monday 6th October 2025.

FC.25/125 (14) Biodiversity Policy
i) Councillors received a revised working group version of the Biodiversity Policy and considered adopting the biodiversity policy.
ii) Councillors considered a proposal for a wildflower corridor in the cemetery and considered the purchase of any materials as required
iii) Councillors considered any further proposals for biodiversity projects in the parish including a bio-blitz surveying as a next step.

Resolved: following discussion:

- i) Councillors adopted the revised working group version of the Biodiversity Policy
- ii) Councillors resolved to create a wildlife corridor in the cemetery and resolved to spend £30.00 on wildflower seed / materials.
- iii) Councillors resolved to look into carrying out a bioblitz as the next step in biodiversity projects in the parish.

FC.25/126 (15) New Cemetery project

- i) An update from the Diocese of Exeter about the parish council's approach about any land they hold in the parish of Mary Tavy for a cemetery project had not been received prior to the meeting.
- ii) Councillors received and considered an informal update on any further potential new cemetery sites in Mary Tavy parish.

Resolved: Following discussion:

- i) The parish clerk will kindly request an update from the representative of the Diocese of Exeter about any land they hold in the parish of Mary Tavy for a cemetery project.
- ii) Councillors will informally monitor whether any further potential new cemetery sites may become available in the Mary Tavy parish.

FC.25/127 (16) Councillors Code of Conduct

Councillors considered re-adopting the Councillor's Code of Conduct

Resolved: Councillors readopted the Councillor's Code of Conduct.

FC.25/128 (17) Freedom of Information Publication Scheme

Councillors considered re-adopting the Freedom of Information policy

Resolved: Councillors readopted the Freedom of Information Policy.

FC.25/129 Accounts & Financial Statement

- i) Councillors approved the following payments:

Grounds Maintenance Chris Ball September Invoice	£ 468.00
Clerk Salary September	£ 648.23
NEST Pension Employer's Payment September	£ 82.28
DD Banking Service charge September	£ 6.00
HMRC P30 Employer's Payslip September	£ 264.70
Reimbursement Cllr Honey Bus Stop paint	£ 41.99

- ii) Councillors received and approved payment and receipt transactions between 1st August and 31st August 2025.

Treasurer's Account

Date	Details	Payments	Receipts
13.08.25	Grounds Maintenance Chris Ball July Invoice	£ 468.00	
13.08.25	Clerk Salary August	£ 726.86	
13.08.25	HMRC P30 Employer's Payslip Aug	£ 219.20	
13.08.25	NEST Pension Employer's Payment Aug	£ 92.56	
13.08.25	DM Payroll, Payroll Services, 1 st April – 30 th Sept 25	£ 72.00	
13.08.25	SLCC Managing Grant Applications and Source Funding BK222200-1	£ 72.00	
13.08.25	Paul Russell Annual Audit Inv. IA/0182/25	£ 175.00	
13.08.25	Pascoe's memorial application		£ 121.00

14.08.25	NEST pension	£ 251.96	
26.08.25	Pascoe's memorial application		£ 54.00
28.08.25	Pascoe's memorial application		£ 121.00
31.08.25	DD Banking Service Charge	£ 6.00	

iii) Councillors noted the council's monthly budget monitoring report (copy circulated 'spend against budget').

iv) Councillors noted that the council's investment account 95-day notice account interest rate will reduce to 3.75% from November 2025.

FC.25/130 Matters brought forward by Councillors: (for information only).

Remembrance day wreath on next agenda.

Discussion about cemetery deeds and ownership of the hedge, councillors and parish clerk will look into this.

The date of the next Full Council meeting is 14th October 2025.

Meeting closed at 8:52pm

Signed **Date**