

Parish council meeting 9th December 2026

I trust everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. Hopefully there are at least some resolutions still intact.

The council met on a very rainy Tuesday, with water still running off from the night before. The meeting started with thanks from a local resident for the actions of the council's Emergency Response team in safeguarding a property in the village from flooding, and a report of overflowing drains in Hawthorn Park. The council has no authority or equipment to deal with such blockages, and the matters were duly passed on to Devon Highways using their public "report a problem" portal. Although many will already be aware of how to report a problem to Highways, the council was asked if this information could be shared again:

A search for "Devon Highways report a problem" should bring up a link to the page – Report a problem – Roads and transport. Following that and successive links will take you to a help page which explains how to report a problem, and thence to an interactive map where you can search to see whether your issue has already been reported or whether you need to start a report.

The council's affordable housing survey has concluded with 19 responses and a quantity of data for analysis. It has been arranged for the Housing Enabling officer from West Devon to come to January's meeting to help Councillors decide on what action to take to progress this project to the next stage.

Following reports at the November meeting about problems caused by visitor parking at the Castle Inn on Bonfire Night Councillors met with the pub managers, who assured them that steps were being planned to ensure that these issues don't arise again in the future. The management did stress that they would welcome sensible suggestions from the parish on the matter.

The council is now working in collaboration with Mary Tavy parish on concerns raised by riders and walkers when crossing the A386 at the Skitt Lane or Watervale Farm crossings. A report has been requested from mounted officers working with our local constabulary on horse and rider safety.

The council is still in discussion with Stagecoach about whether buses could reach a proposed hard standing for wheelchair users beside the bus shelter above the War Memorial. In essence, Stagecoach' response to the council's request for them to consider timetabling a stop here is that the larger buses they use on the route cannot turn at the triangle, whilst Councillors' position is that a number have been seen making that manoeuvre.

The council is aware of previous government initiatives to upgrade rural broadband provision, although the present status of those plans, and particularly how they will impact on the provision within the village, is uncertain. A request for clarification has been sent to the Cabinet Member concerned at Devon Council.

Councillors agreed that the review of provisions within the village for the disabled has run its course. The advisory parking bay by the Granite Way is being repainted and re-sized; two bays for disabled drivers will be marked out in the car park; Dartmoor National Park have commissioned a report to identify how (amongst other changes) the toilets in the car park can be upgraded on their present footprint to include provision for the disabled, and discussions are in hand to try and improve the provision for disabled users of the public transport in the village. The council will continue to monitor the progress of these developments and act where necessary.