

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
<https://thurlestoneparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 4th August 2025

Date: 4th August 2025	Venue & Time: Thurlestone Parish Hall, 19.30 hrs	
Present: Cllr Rosa Lewis (in the Chair) Cllr Gill Stone Cllr Eric Palmer Cllr Nigel Hadaway Cllr David Smyth Cllr Mike Hodges	In Attendance: Helen Leather (Parish Clerk) SHDC Cllr Mark Long Parishioners/guests: 16	Apologies: DCC Cllr Louise Wainright SHDC Cllr Sam Dennis

REPORT IT:

Potholes: Members of the public are requested to report all Highways issues through the Highways Website, enabling faster assessment of problem areas which can then be added to the repair/maintenance schedules. You can report potholes, overgrown vegetation, defective signs/lighting and much more.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/report-a-pothole-form/>



To report: Abandoned Vehicle, Damaged or Full Dog Bin, Damaged/Full Litter Bin, Damaged/Full Recycling Bank, Dead Animal, Dirty Beach, Fly Tipping, Litter/Dog Mess, Planning Breach, Stray Dogs, AND MORE...

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/report-it>

It takes two minutes to report a problem, please help keep our community beautiful.

40. OPEN FORUM

A MOP asked if the slow sign on the road by Court Park could be repainted as it was no longer visible.

A MOP gave feedback on Traffic Management System of Bantham Swoosh. She said overall it had been good but there were issues at West Buckland and the boomerang event, suggesting a one-way system might help. Lucy Powell from Level Water said she appreciated the volunteers' efforts and overall good management, but acknowledged there had been some issues.

A MOP introduced himself and spoke about speed issues near Church Cottages in Thurlestone, suggesting a 20 mph speed limit.

A MOP spoke about traffic problems in Bantham and the difficulty in walking along the lane from West Buckland to Bantham due to cars being parked all the way along.

Cllr Hadaway encouraged everyone to report any issues on Highways to DCC and to the parish clerk, as nothing will get done if they do not know about the issues.

41. BANTHAM SWOOSH FEEDBACK FROM LUCY POWELL

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped host and support this year's charity event. It's a vital part of the work we do throughout the year, and your generosity, patience, and commitment over the weekend were deeply appreciated. Traffic Challenges - We did face a few issues a bus driver who went through West Buckland despite road closures and briefings. Unfortunately traffic management team didn't intercept the route in time. We're especially grateful to the resident who stepped in to

help. Sunday also brought congestion on Bantham Road, particularly with the Boomerang traffic flow. It's clear that our traffic plans need further refinement. Looking Ahead - we're committed to improving. A note has been placed in this week's Village Voice inviting anyone interested in helping us rethink traffic solutions for future events. Public input would be invaluable—not just in planning, but also in execution. Thank you again for your continued support. I'll be at the next meeting and hope to see many of you there.

Around £250,000 had been raised by the event for the charity, which equates to 1000 swimming lessons for over 272 children.

Cllr Lewis expressed strong support for Level Water and acknowledged its valuable work with children. However, she raised concerns about the growing scale and commercialisation of the event. Despite thorough Planning year on year learning from and seeking to find solutions along with the Parish Council traffic numbers remain problematical. The scale of the number of vehicles that use our single track roads in the High season in addition to the increasing numbers of Level Water activities, and all that involves, has proven not to be possible whilst allowing our Parish to function normally during the high season which understandably brings its own challenges every year, an essential part of our economy and visitors leisure time. She suggested exploring alternative fundraising methods that would support this charity whilst preserving the functionality of the Parish.

42. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Email DCC Cllr Louise Wainwright: louise.wainwright@devon.gov.uk

43. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Email Cllr Samantha Dennis: samantha.dennis@swdevon.gov.uk

Email Cllr Mark Long: cllr.mark.long@southhams.gov.uk

SHDC Cllr Long - The District Council is inviting residents and businesses to share their views on future services as part of a wider local government reorganisation. A survey is available on the District Council website, with space for detailed comments.

https://devoncountycouncil.commonplace.is/?utm_campaign=NewCommonplaces16_07_2025&utm_source=cp-email&utm_medium=email

Public meetings will be held in September and October, including:

- 2nd October at Kingsbridge Community College
- 7th October at Cliff House Salcombe.

Both run from 6:15 to 8:00 PM. Tickets can be booked online to help manage attendance. Any additional events will be added to their webpages when confirmed. To find out more and to book a place on one of the engagement events please visit <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/lgr-events>

This reorganisation also involves the potential removal of district and borough councils across Devon, moving toward a new unitary authority. The deadline for submitting plans to the Minister is 28th November. Additionally, council leaders across Devon, Plymouth, Torbay, and South Hams have proposed the creation of a South West Peninsula Mayoral Strategic Authority as part of broader devolution efforts.

New Joint Local Plan (JLP): A review and preparation of a new JLP is underway, covering only South Hams and West Devon. Plymouth has opted out, though the existing JLP remains active until the new one is adopted. The process will take approximately 30 months from initiation,

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including three government inspection stages. Leadership will be guided by a board of council leaders, supported by two working groups—one for South Hams and one for West Devon. Community Involvement: - Town and parish councils, residents, and businesses are encouraged to contribute insights and feedback. A formal consultation process will be launched, including surveys and opportunities to feed in via parish councils. The aim is to ensure the new plan reflects local needs, especially in rural areas, which were underrepresented in the previous Plymouth-centric JLP.

Neighbourhood Plans: Existing neighbourhood plans are not automatically out of date, even if over five years old. Reviewing them is optional but considered best practice, especially once the direction of the new JLP becomes clearer. Key Issues to Address:

- Housing targets set by the government
 - Local connections, principal residence policies, and rural priorities like dark skies protection
- The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill (published 10 July) may introduce new requirements for neighbourhood governance, aiming to bring decision-making closer to residents. Town and parish councils will remain independent but are expected to work alongside new neighbourhood structures.

Rockbox has relocated from Thurlestone to South Milton, and notably, no complaints have been received from Thurlestone this year regarding their operations.

Dog Bin Update: A new bin has been installed near the church, though there were issues with the fixings. Replacement of the bin at the end of Island Road is scheduled for next week. The proposed bin at Buckland is under review due to safety concerns—its location near the road verge may pose a risk.

Litter Bins: The proposed bin in Bantam remains off the regular cleaning round. Servicing it requires diverting staff, which adds cost and time—especially challenging during the busy summer months.

44. APOLOGIES

SHDC Cllr Sam Dennis, DCC Cllr Louise Wainwright.

45. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2025 were approved and signed and initialled by the Chair.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

47. CLERK'S REPORT

Latest news from Devon Highways on 20 mph limit in Thurlestone:

- Thurlestone remains the top-scoring site within the Salcombe Electoral Division – one of 12 in sixth place.
- It is scheduled for implementation in either Tranche 4 (2025/26) or Tranche 5 (2026/27).
- The order of the 12 sixth-place submissions has not yet been finalized.
- Once the scheme progresses, a draft design will be prepared by the consultant, followed by a meeting with DCC to review and refine the proposal.
- No new submissions will be invited until the current tranche of 12 sixth-place projects is completed.

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UK Government has not included any funding for Neighbourhood Plans as part of their spending review in June of this year. NALC and Locality have expressed their disappointment in this decision. As a result a petition has been started - "Continuing support funding for community-led Neighbourhood Plans" to try and get this reconsidered. You can read more and sign the petition here: https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/continuing-support-funding-for-community-led-neighbourhood-plans?share=1e138ce9-0ea7-4c74-9198-0a32ffbce190&source=&utm_medium=socialshare&utm_source=

The public toilets drains had been blocked and overflowing again. Plymouth drains attended and discovered an old drain pipe lodged a long way down the drain. It's been extracted and the drains should now be working much better.

48. COUNCILLOR REPORTS ON AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED –

- a) Overgrown vegetation on roads in Thurlestone. The clerk had written to residents whose properties were causing the problem. Most are second homes and have not responded. The clerk will ask the lengthsman to tackle one of the properties where the owner is unwell and unable to undertake the work. The clerk will ask DCC to take action on the properties that are still causing a problem.
- b) Neighbourhood Plan Updates. Cllr Stone suggested setting a date to review the Neighbourhood plan and also to discuss the new licensing proposals from SHDC. There's growing tension between long-standing protections and modern development freedoms. A few key contradictions stand out:
 - I. 1. Dark Skies vs Permitted Development. The Dark Skies policy aims to preserve natural nightscapes, especially in designated areas like AONBs yet permitted development rights allow extensive window installations and lighting changes without oversight—undermining the very essence of dark skies protection.
 - II. AONB Designation vs Modern Pressures - Our area was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1949, under very different social and agricultural conditions. Today, diversification, tourism, and infrastructure demands have reshaped the landscape. Many of these changes lack updated safeguards or nuanced policy responses that reflect current realities.
 - III. Licensing Expansion vs Environmental Stewardship - The ease of acquiring alcohol licences—even for open land—raises concerns about increased footfall and noise, pressure on wildlife and habitats, conflicts with biodiversity goals and the ethos of protected landscapes
 - IV. A Call for Cohesive Policy - what's needed is a more joined-up approach—one that aligns planning freedoms with environmental protections, updates AONB frameworks to reflect modern land use, reviews licensing laws in sensitive areas to balance economic activity with ecological integrity
- c) Footpaths update – including Dixons Quay news. Dixons Quay footpath - A site meeting was held with the three landowners concerned, 3 PC councillors, Graham Gilbert and officers from DCC Public Rights of Way team. The meeting focused on the informal fenced path along the field boundary, proposed as an alternative to the historic diagonal route across the field. DCC Highway Authority Decision. The informal hedge-side route was deemed inadequate by the Highway Authority. It does not carry the same legal rights as the historic route included in the Article 14 application. The Authority will now proceed with formalising the diagonal path which runs from the gate at the inland end of the field down to Dixon's Key. The Creation Order is now the preferred route, expected to be quicker than the Schedule 14 process. DCC has indicated informal support, though written confirmation is pending. If all goes smoothly, the footpath could be formally established within 12 months.

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This would mark a resolution to a process that began in 2019. Bantham Estate are actively exploring options for installing steps down to Dixon's Key.

Footpaths 6 and 13 – PROW officer had a productive meeting with the landowner and will undertake repairs to the fence and gates.

- d) Highways/Roads update. DCC Cllr Wainwright has written to Thurlestone school to ask if they would like to help with posters for the 20 mph scheme. A Kingsbridge speedwatch group is being set up which Cllr Hadaway will join.
- e) Open Reach and highway clearance problems. Cllr Palmer reported that recently when DCC highways were strimming the hedgerows close to Weston Lodge they had cut through a BT junction box, resulting in a road closure. The clerk will report this to DCC Cllr Louise Wainwright.
- f) New bins –update from SHDC Cllr Long. Already discussed
- g) Speeding in Bantham complaint. Already discussed.
- h) Flood Guidance. Cllr Hodges has signed up to the new Flood Guidance weekly risk assessment so that water levels and quality in the Ley can be monitored.

49. PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT (RESPONSE DATES NOTED)

Full details of all applications and Thurlestone Parish responses please visit the South Hams District Council planning portal at:

<https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Disclaimer?returnUrl=%2F>

- **2071/25/AGR – Lower Aunemouth Farm, Bantham, TQ7 3AD.** Application to determine if prior approval is required for proposed new agricultural access track (length 70 mtrs x width 4.5 mtrs). Councillors support
- **1972/25/VAR -b 5 Whimbrels Edge, Thurlestone, TQ7 3BR.** Application for variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 0499/25/HHO. No decision – SHDC will send extra details of application. **7 August 2025.**
- **2060/25/HHO – The Clock House, Bantham, TQ7 3AN** – Householder application for extension to front of dwelling & improvements to storage to car park area. **TPC support as long as flat roof over extension.**
- **1923/25/HHO – Cob Cottage, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NJ.** Householder application for new ancillary building set at rear of GII listed thatched cottage, amendments to access driveway and parking area. **TPC Support.**
- **1924/25/LBC – Cob Cottage, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NJ.** Listed Building Consent for structural repairs & works to pigsty to rear of cottage & to boundary wall associated with alterations to driveway & parking area. **TPC support**
- **1666/25/HHO – Beacon, Eddystone Road, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NU.** Ratification of TPC Decision – Support.

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS:

- **RE: Appeal Reference: APP/K1128/W/25/3360028 – Appeal dismissed.**
- **1666/25/HHO – Beacon, Eddystone Road, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NU. Approved**

50. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE Receipts & Payments – Month 4

Accounts to pay – Parish Hall Hire. Clerk's salary. Julian Lee hours for July. Ratification of Plymouth Drains payment of £300 for emergency call out.

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Summary of Receipts and Payments

All Cost Centres and Codes

Administration

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
1 Salary				7,000.00	1,959.37	5,040.63	5,040.63 (72%)
2 HMRC		1,344.63	1,344.63				1,344.63 (N/A)
3 Hall Hire				384.00	90.00	294.00	294.00 (76%)
4 Stationery & Admin				1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00 (100%)
5 Training				700.00		700.00	700.00 (100%)
6 Insurance				1,600.00	1,451.80	148.20	148.20 (9%)
16 ICO Subscription				35.00	47.00	-12.00	-12.00 (-34%)
17 DALC Subscription				400.00	302.99	97.01	97.01 (24%)
18 SLOCC Subscription				75.00	75.00		(0%)
19 Internal/External Audits				500.00	190.00	310.00	310.00 (62%)
24 PAYE Annu Subscription				120.00		120.00	120.00 (100%)
25 Website				1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00 (100%)
28 Election Recharge				190.00		190.00	190.00 (100%)
33 SCRIBE				500.00		500.00	500.00 (100%)
34 Climate & Ecology							(N/A)
38 Travel Expenses							(N/A)
47 Bank Charges	228.00		-228.00	51.00	17.00	34.00	-194.00 (-69%)
SUB TOTAL	228.00	1,344.63	1,116.63	14,666.00	4,133.16	10,421.84	11,638.47 (78%)

Grounds Maintenance

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
13 Grass & Hedge cutting				4,000.00	780.00	3,220.00	3,220.00 (80%)
SUB TOTAL				4,000.00	780.00	3,220.00	3,220.00 (80%)

Income

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
20 Precept	44,934.00	22,467.00	-22,467.00				-22,467.00 (-50%)
21 Bank Gross Interest	18.00	79.59	61.59				61.59 (342%)
22 HMRC Refund	1,376.45		-1,376.45				-1,376.45 (-100%)
30 REFUND							(N/A)
31 Localities Grant	500.00		-500.00				-500.00 (-100%)
45 P3 Funding Income	700.00		-700.00				-700.00 (-100%)
SUB TOTAL	47,628.45	22,646.69	-24,981.76				-24,981.76 (-52%)

Loan Repayment Parish Hall

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
7 Loan Repayments				6,215.21	3,107.55	3,107.66	3,107.66 (50%)

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Summary of Receipts and Payments
 All Cost Centres and Codes

SUB TOTAL					6,216.21	3,107.66	3,107.88	3,107.88 (50%)
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Parish Events & Associated		Receipts			Payments			Net Position
Code	Title	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
23	VE Day Celebration		24.00	24.00	3,000.00	3,435.84	-435.84	-411.84 (-13%)
27	Wreaths				50.00		50.00	50.00 (100%)
37	Coronation Event							(N/A)
43	Church Donation				300.00		300.00	300.00 (100%)
44	Grants Donation							(N/A)
46	Climate							(N/A)
SUB TOTAL		24.00	24.00		3,350.00	3,435.84	-85.84	-81.84 (-1%)

Public Toilets & DAAT		Receipts			Payments			Net Position
Code	Title	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
8	DAAT Electricity				320.00	175.72	144.28	144.28 (45%)
9	Public Toilets Water				2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00 (100%)
10	Public Toilets Electricity				900.00	148.96	751.04	751.04 (83%)
11	Public Toilets Cleaning				4,500.00		4,500.00	4,500.00 (100%)
12	Public Toilet Repairs/Maintenance				2,000.00	526.70	1,473.30	1,473.30 (73%)
42	DAAT Repairs							(N/A)
SUB TOTAL					9,720.00	851.38	8,868.62	8,868.62 (91%)

Repairs & Maintenance		Receipts			Payments			Net Position
Code	Title	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
15	Speed Signs				300.00		300.00	300.00 (100%)
26	Phone Box Maintenance & Upke				300.00		300.00	300.00 (100%)
29	Asset Repairs				1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00 (100%)
39	DAAT							(N/A)
40	Defibrillator Repair							(N/A)
41	P3 Funding Income							(N/A)
SUB TOTAL					2,100.00		2,100.00	2,100.00 (100%)

Summary								
NET TOTAL		47,768.46	23,816.22	-23,841.23	38,940.21	12,307.83	27,832.28	3,781.06 (4%)
V.A.T.						749.39		
GROSS TOTAL			23,816.22			13,067.22		

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A	Bank Reconciliation at 30/07/2025		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		52,875.35
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2025 - 30/07/2025		23,915.22
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2025 - 30/07/2025		13,057.32
	Cash in Hand 30/07/2025 (per Cash Book)		63,533.25
B	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 30/07/2025	0.00	
	Current Account 30/07/2025	33,826.17	
	Deposit Account 30/07/2025	29,707.08	
			63,533.25
	Less unrepresented payments		
B	Plus unrepresented receipts		63,533.25
	Adjusted Bank Balance		63,533.25
	A = B Checks out OK		

Governance:

- Suggested remedial work for public toilet drains - £150. Approved
- Donation to repair Dixon Quay Footpath steps. No decision

51. NEXT MEETINGS

- Monday, 1st September 2025 7.30 pm
- Monday, 6th October 2025 7.30 pm
- Monday, 3rd November 2025 7.30 pm
- Monday, 1st December 2025 7.30 pm

Signed as a true record:

Print Name: Date:

Agenda Items and Updates; where possible please submit to the Clerk one week prior to the meeting to ensure time for inclusion, circulation, and study. If a Council Member is unable to attend a meeting it would be appreciated if they could submit a brief précis of progress on their actions, if applicable, (to the Clerk for distribution) together with their apologies.

Distribution List: Thurlestone Parish Councillors. For Information to: County Cllr L Wainright, South Hams District Council Salcombe & Thurlestone Ward Councillors, Thurlestone Parish Website:

<https://thurlestoneparishcouncil.gov.uk/>