

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 13th April 2026

Date: 2 nd March 2026	Venue & Time: Thurlestone Parish Hall, 19.30 hrs	
Present: Cllr Rosa Lewis (in the Chair) Cllr Gill Stone Cllr Nigel Hadaway Cllr David Smyth	In Attendance: DCC Cllr Louise Wainright SHDC Cllr Mark Long Helen Leather (Parish Clerk) Parishioners/guests: 2	Apologies: SHDC Cllr Sam Dennis Cllr Mike Hodges Cllr Eric Palmer

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.

132. OPEN FORUM

No comments received.

133. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

DCC Cllr Louise Wainwright. Email: Louise.Wainwright@devon.gov.uk (Apologies sent)

Cllr Wainwright thanked the parish council for its support, particularly in encouraging collaboration between local parish and town councils, the road warden scheme, recent assemblies, and ongoing discussions about reorganisation. She highlighted that the current Salcombe division has six councillors across 16 parishes, but under the future unitary authority the area is likely to have only one councillor. She stressed that this will significantly reduce opportunities for face-to-face engagement and advised that voters will need to choose someone with the capacity and energy to manage both district-level and county-level responsibilities within a single, demanding portfolio. Canvassing is expected to begin in the autumn ahead of elections next May.

Cllr Wainwright explained that Neighbourhood Area Committees will sit between parish councils and the new unitary authority. All parish and town councils will be invited to attend, but only unitary councillors will have voting rights. With around 17–18 committees across Devon, each could involve representatives from dozens of parish councils, making full participation impractical. She noted the need for smaller local “hubs” of parishes to coordinate views before attending committee meetings. She intends to continue organising divisional assemblies to help parishes build relationships and identify shared priorities.

She added that the detailed structure of the new system will be set out in government legislation expected in autumn, with elections in May 2027 and a transition year until April 2028. Some elements—such as how area committees operate—may be shaped by the new

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unitary authority during this shadow period. She emphasised that Salcombe Division is well-placed to be considered for early pilot committees because it has already begun collaborative work through assemblies and shared initiatives.

Councillor Wainwright has organised a Masterclass on Pothole Repairs for the Salcombe Division Road Wardens on 24th April. This will also be filmed by BBC Spotlight. The video and subsequent training videos will be published on her new YouTube Channel 'Devon Pothole Ninjas'.

Councillors were invited to attend a Highways Assembly on 6th May which will be addressed by the DCC Assistant Director for Highways, Rob Richards, the group manager for traffic management and highways maintenance, Ian James, the cabinet member for Highways, Dan Thomas, and M group (Highways maintenance contractors).

134. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

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

Email Cllr Samantha Dennis: samantha.dennis@swdevon.gov.uk (Apologies sent)

Cllr Mark Long reported that work on the new Joint Local Plan for South Hams and West Devon is now progressing into the scoping phase. This will include a minimum 4–6-week consultation with towns and parishes, though the councils intend to treat it as six weeks plus ongoing dialogue, rather than a one-off exercise. He confirmed that parishes can still submit ideas, including proposals on house extensions, and encouraged councils to keep feeding in thoughts throughout the process. Mark explained the planning hierarchy:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at the top
- Joint Local Plan beneath it
- Neighbourhood Plans underneath the JLP

Each level must align with the one above, though local evidence can justify tailored approaches within the JLP.

The new JLP will replace the previous Plymouth–West Devon–South Hams plan and will focus on housing numbers, development locations, constraints, and local policy priorities. A strategic planning team, supported by government funding, is now in place to carry out the detailed evidence-gathering.

A major part of the work will be to build an evidence base to challenge the government's housing targets where appropriate. The aim is to demonstrate, using constraints and local need, that the area may require fewer homes than the national formula suggests.

The Neighbourhood Plans remain valid, including existing policies on environmental protections, housing mix, and constraints on new builds. The JLP team is particularly interested in evidence from parishes—such as the need to protect smaller homes for downsizing residents and young families—which may be suitable for inclusion in both neighbourhood plans and the JLP. He emphasised that the process will be continuous and collaborative, with repeated engagement rather than a single consultation window. As new policies are drafted, they will be sent back to towns and parishes for comment to ensure local impacts are understood.

Leisure Centres – Operator Update

Fusion Lifestyle, the operator of South Hams District Council's leisure centres, has entered administration. The Council has awarded a short-term contract to Parkwood Leisure, ensuring that all four centres—Ivybridge, Quayside (Kingsbridge), Dartmouth and Totnes—remain open.

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Parkwood, a national operator already running centres in Torbay and North Devon, will take over operations immediately. The Council is working with Fusion's administrators and Parkwood to ensure a seamless transfer for staff, swim schools, classes and memberships. All existing memberships and swimming lesson bookings will continue automatically, with no action required from customers. Further updates are available on the District Council website: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/leisure-and-outdoor-spaces/leisure-centre-updates>

Support for Low-Income Households Using Heating Oil

South Hams District Council has received £108,889 from Devon County Council through the Government's Crisis and Resilience Fund to support low-income households facing financial hardship due to rising heating-oil costs. The Benefits Team is proactively contacting residents who appear to meet the eligibility criteria and will fast-track applications. Support is only available to low-income households reliant on heating oil, not all properties using oil. The fund provides immediate crisis support (e.g., inability to afford heating or hot water) alongside longer-term advice. Eligibility details are available on the Council website.

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/other-available-support/help-heating-oil>

Safe Disposal of Lithium-Ion Batteries

South Hams District Council and Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service are urging residents not to dispose of lithium-ion batteries in household waste, following an increase in fires linked to damaged batteries. Lithium-ion batteries are found in items such as vapes, phones, laptops, e-scooters, e-bikes and children's toys. When crushed or punctured in waste collection, they can short-circuit and enter thermal runaway, causing intense fires in collection vehicles and at waste sites. Residents are encouraged to dispose of battery-powered items safely at appropriate recycling points. More information is available on the Council's website.

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/news/2026/battery-waste-sparks-fire-safety-warning-council>

135. APOLOGIES

SHDC Cllr Dennis, Cllr Hodges and Cllr Palmer

136. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2026 were approved and signed and initialled by the Chair.

137. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

138. CLERKS REPORT

- Two Road Warden have kindly volunteered. They have undertaken the first part of their training and are due to take their Section 8 training in May. The Clerk will investigate purchase of essential materials for pot hole repairs.
- Rob Birtles from the Community Resilience Forum has kindly offered to review the Emergency Plan and will attend the Annual Meeting of the Parish to talk about the importance of Community Hubs.

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

- A. Footpaths Update** – Footpath 6 - The post recently installed on site marks the intended line of the new path. Devon County Council and the landowner, are currently finalising the design of the steps leading down to the quay. The original drawings only showed steps down to the level of the boathouses, not the additional three rock-cut steps needed to reach the lower level. The landowner has agreed to include these extra steps if the contractor's final price is reasonable, as omitting them would leave an unsafe drop and encourage people to use the private slipway instead.
- B. Highways update.**
Parking by the land past the church has become a problem. Vehicles are parking blocking access to the houses and fields. The landowner has agreed to place some large boulders along the side of the verge to prevent parking.
- C. VAS signs.** Cllr Hadaway is waiting to install the posts for the VAS signs to be positioned. The Clerk will ask the parish lengthsman if he is available to help.
- D. Planning and Neighbourhood Plan**
Cllr Stone is drawing up suggestions that will feed into the Joint Local plan and neighbourhood plan, particularly regarding extensions, rebuilds and size of properties. She will compile all suggestions from councillors before submitting.
- E. Cycle Parking Locations – none were identified.**
- F. Thurlestone Post Box.**
The worry about a new large locker being placed outside the post office had been exaggerated and the original letter box had been kept and adapted for parcel posting.
- G. Community Assets.**
It was agreed to proceed with looking into the areas owned by SHDC in the parish to see if they could be transferred to the Parish.

140. 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>

0535/26/HHO - The Clock House, Bantham, TQ7 3AN. Householder application for side extension to provide level access WC and bootroom including alterations to existing storage outbuildings, removal of oil tank and oil boiler. **17th April 2026. TPC Object**

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS:

0353/26/TCA - Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. All Saints Church, Eddystone Road, Thurlestone. **Approved**

0376/26/VAR - 3A Landpath, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PE. Application for variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 2915/25/HHO. **Approved**

0253/26/HHO - 10 Parkfield, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NW. Householder application for front/side single storey extension. **Approved**

0237/26/HHO - 1 Court Park, Thurlestone, TQ7 3LX. Householder application for single storey rear extension to existing detached bungalow. **Approved.**

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141. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE Receipts & Payments – Month 10

Accounts to pay – It was agreed to pay/approve –Parish Hall Hire. Clerk’s salary. DALC Membership 26/27 - £362.32. Julian Lee monthly maintenance. Repairs to Defibrillator at Sloop Inn- £384.00

Governance: Repairs to external drain – Public Toilets - temporary Repairs (£220) or permanent - £2500 – quote circulated. It was agreed to obtain two extra quotes before deciding. Councillors approval the final 2025/26 accounts and closing figures for audit. Attached.

142. NEXT MEETINGS

- **Monday, 11th May 2026 – Annual General Meeting of Parish Council, 7.30 pm (please note this change of date due to Bank Holiday)**
- **Monday, 1st June 2026, 7.30 pm**
- **Monday, 8th June 2026 – ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH. 7.30 pm**

143. THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10 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/>