

WIDWORTHY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Carol Miltenburg, Colhayne Close, Colhayne Lane, Shute, Devon,
EX13 7QQ

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The Councillors were summoned to attend the meeting of Widworthy Parish Council held at Wilmington Village Hall on Thursday, September 17th, 2026, starting at 7.00pm. The following were present:- Susan Duffy, Mary Jeffery, Diana Preston (Chair), Philip Webber and Carol Miltenburg (Clerk). The following matters were discussed.

MINUTES

- 1) Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Helen Parr (EDDC). No declarations of interests in items in this meeting were made.
- 2) The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on July 30th, 2026 were accepted and signed by the Chair. Proposed PW, seconded SD.
- 3) Co-option of new Council member. Mary Jeffery has kindly agreed to be co-opted as a member of the Council and duly signed her Acceptance of Office and her Register of Interests. Our Chair welcomed her. Clerk to allocate a .gov.uk email. Proposed SD, seconded PW.
- 4) Reports from Councillors – no reports, Police – no report, Village Hall – no report, Church – no report. Community Fund – A meeting of the committee will take place shortly.
- 5) Public Forum. No members of the public were present.
- 6) Highway Matters. A35 update – the Clerk has contacted the interim Route Manager with National Highways but has not had a response yet. Clerk to chase. Clerk to contact DCC Highways concerning the island at the junction of New Road and A35 to look at a possible reconfiguration. PW reported that he had been told that new lamp standards may be installed in the near future.
- 7) Finance. Payments to be made - none. Payments received – EDDC £3750.00 precept. The NALC 2026/2027 national pay agreement was accepted and the members agreed for back pay to be claimed for hours worked. Proposed SD, seconded PW. The bank statements were available for viewing. Cllr Jeffrey to be added to the bank signatory list. Proposed PW, seconded SD.

- 8) Council Documents. Updated Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. Carried forward.
- 9) Planning. 26/1799/FUL - Coombe Edge, Hayne Lane, Wilmington - single storey rear extension and new detached garage. The members felt the scale of the new double garage and office building proposed and its style perhaps not being in synergy with that of the existing property. This seems to be a complex building operation due to the gradient on site and local geology. They were concerned this could provide greater excavation risks and thought the application may need further information of a higher level for structural engineers or planning officer professionals to review. Members felt that there was likely to be an increase in the number of vehicles using the site, and this has implications to Hayne Lane generally which is narrow and has few passing places. This concern relates to not only the number of vehicles possibly permanently present on site after construction, but also the increase in HGVs, delivery vehicles and earthmoving equipment and the resultant extensive disruption during the construction phase. The members also noted there would be an increased danger at the Hayne Lane / A35 junction from increased movements as visibility for vehicles leaving Hayne Lane here is not good. The new entrance was felt to be an improvement as it will provide an expanded visibility splay for vehicles leaving the site.
- 10) Emergency Planning / Community participation.
Emergency planning meeting – there will be a community meeting on 15th October, starting at 6pm at Whitford Village Hall, Whitford, EX13 7NQ. All residents will be welcome to attend.
Sandbags – Clerk to order 200 from EDDC. Proposed MJ, seconded SD.
- 11) Councillor training. Cllrs Duffy and Jeffery would like to do the New Councillors course. Clerk to contact DALC. Proposed PW, seconded DP.
- 12) ClerkDesk software. It was agreed to wait and investigate other methods of recording council documents. Proposed DP, seconded PW
- 13) Devon local government reform. Noted.
- 14) Correspondence received. South West Water possible visit / talk for the residents about the updated Wilmington Treatment plant. We are waiting to hear from SWW.
- 15) Items for future discussion and consideration. Budget 2027/28.

Date, place & time of next meeting date Thursday October 22nd, 2026 at Wilmington Village Hall starting at 7.00pm.