

THROWLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Throwleigh Parish Council on Monday, 20th July 2026 at 7.00pm in Throwleigh Village Hall, Throwleigh.

Present: Cllr R Littlewood (Chairman), J Wiesnieski, M Byatt, D Vincent, K Barrau.

Also in attendance: K Graddock, Parish Clerk.

THR01 Apologies

Cllr Phil Wilson and Cllr Jordan.

THR02 Declarations of Interest

None.

THR03 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of 11th May 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

(NC)

THR04 Public Participation

No public were present.

THR05 Reports from outside bodies

a) Devon County Councillor – Cllr Sue Davies

The report by Cllr Davies is attached as Appendix 1.

b) West Devon Borough Councillor – Cllr Steve Guthrie

Cllr Guthrie gave his apologies, but a report is attached to the Agenda as Appendix 2.

THR06 Planning

a) Class BC – Temporary recreational campsite notification, Elvan Farm.

information attached for Cllrs.

RESOLVED: No adverse comments.

THR07 Finance

a) Confirm renewal of Parish Council Insurance.

RESOLVED: That the insurance cover is renewed for 2026/27.

(NC)

b) Payments and Receipts: To approve Payments and Receipts

RESOLVED: That the following payments be approved.

(NC)

Throwleigh Village Hall	Hall Hire	£150.00
Community Heartbeat Trust	Defib Battery, Wonson	£361.20
Community First Trading	Insurance Policy	£197.80

Julie Snooks	Audit	£110.00
AJ Electrics	Defib box repairs	£120.00
K Graddock	Salary and expenses	£907.65
HMRC	PAYE	£216.40

THR08

Annual Governance and Accountability Reports 25/26

- a) To discuss and agree the Annual Governance Statement detailed in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 25/26
RESOLVED: That the Annual Governance statement be approved for 2025/26.
(NC)
- b) To receive and agree the Accounting Statements contained within the Annual Governance and Accountability Return along with the internal auditor's report and Internal Control 25/26.
RESOLVED: That the Accounting Statement, Internal Auditors report and Internal Control for 2025/26 be approved.
(NC)
- c) To consider and agree the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 25/26 and confirm exempt status.
RESOLVED: That the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and exemption be approved and submitted for 25/26.
(NC)
- d) Agree the public rights notice and dates.
RESOLVED: That the public rights notice and dates be approved for 25/26.
(NC)

THR09

Defib – Wonson

The Clerk reported that an electrician had been to complete urgent repairs to the Defib Box following reports from the monthly checks. Whilst on their visit, they found that RCD's were not present and there were gaps on within the box that allowed slugs and snails to get in. Another Councillor suggested another company for a comparative quote and it was

RESOLVED: That the Clerk authorise the work up to £360.00 + VAT with the most reasonable quote following another quotation.

(NC)

THR10

Notice of Scoping Consultation – Dartmoor National Park

The Clerk reported to members that there was information relating to the scoping consultation for Dartmoor National Park and that Councillors could submit their comments individually via the links on the DNP website.

THR11

Beating of the Bounds

- a) To agree expenditure for the event including processes of reclaiming expenses.
- The Commoners will be donating £500.00.
 - Thank you to Michael for printing the notifications for the Newsletters.

- A Facebook event page has been set up by the Clerk and shared on Throwleigh Hub page, along with some event posters for display around the village.
- Sandwich making on Sunday night.
- Picnic on moor with sandwiches and pasties on Monday.
- Kathy will source food for sandwiches and consumables.
- Steve Alford speak to Ellis Bakery re: the below:
 - 144 Pasties
 - 2 slab cakes
 - Also to enquire whether he has any water containers that could be filled and taken out the moor
- 2 x 20L Ciders - £144.00 – Duncan will order. Cool boxes and ice packs for sandwiches – Kathy to source if possible.
- Use beer cans from Village Hall if available.
- Afternoon tea – donations for cakes which can be set up the night before on long tables in the hall.
- Bill Murray – Steve Alford to confirm he has spoken to him and if he sources prizes for the dogs.
- Peter Gilbert will help load up the food and take out to the Moor.
- Welcome talk to the Chairman.

b) To confirm Insurance details.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's insurers will cover the event only, but will not cover any transport including tractors, quad bike etc for the event, so anyone using vehicles will be at their own risk and not covered by insurance unless through the individuals.

c) To confirm First Aider and Risk Assessment assessor.

The First Aider will be Cllr Phil Wilson who will provide relevant certification to the insurers, and he will also be providing a Risk Assessment, which will be provided to the Insurance company. Cllr Barrau will send her certificate through to Cllr Wilson.

d) To agree any other items relating to Beating of the Bounds that does not fall within one of the above criteria.

THR12 Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda

- Hedge Cutting.

Meeting ended at 9.10pm.

Signed: Dated:

Appendix 1 – Report From Devon County Council – Throwleigh Parish Council – 20th July 2026

LGR

Last Thursday 16th July the government announced that they had reached their decision on Devon's Local Government Reorganisation plans to transition to Unitary councils. The plan submitted by DCC for 'One Devon' was dismissed, as was the credible West Devon Borough Council 5-4-1 plan. Predictably the Labour government chose to go with the plan submitted jointly by Exeter city and Plymouth City, which proposes 4 Unitary Councils – an expanded Exeter City, an expanded Plymouth City, a slightly extended Torbay and the rest of Devon called Country and Coastal (this name is likely to change).

Link attached showing map: [Government confirms four unitary model for local government reorganisation in Devon - News](#)

This is a disappointing outcome. The labour government have clearly fulfilled their plan of shoring up the Labour controlled cities, and dismissing the rest of us. The vast single unitary Devon Country and Coastal leaves us with an enormous geographical area to cover but no obvious revenue driving business centre, although it is being suggested that Barnstaple would be the proposed site for council offices.

As an indication of next steps, we can expect to see the legislation via the Structural Changes Order (SCO) in the Autumn. This will contain the detail, however it is likely that the necessary boundaries review will not have been completed and may start the new councils with wards/divisions as they currently stand. On 6th May 2027 shadow Unitary elections will take place across Devon. Vesting day for the new Unitary Councils is 1st April 2028.

Highways

Change of NHO – as 1st July we have a new Neighbourhood Highways Officer - Jade Ash. Jade takes over from Josh Scillitoe who has been helpful in some recent work with the council. I am sure Jade will be just as enthusiastic, and I hope that the clerk and council members working on highways issues can meet with Jade soon to establish a productive working relationship. Email address for Jade: Jade.Ash@devon.gov.uk

After a long wet winter our roads continue to deteriorate and we are now at a stage where potholes are more prevalent than ever. I must ask councillors and constituents to continue to report potholes whenever they see/hit them and don't assume that it has already been reported.

The Road Warden scheme has been relaunched as a means of getting, smaller, non-safety defect identified potholes repaired quickly to prevent them becoming a bigger problem. This scheme has been successful in other divisions and is worth reconsideration by Throwleigh parish council. Cold-lay material, tools and equipment are provided by the council, as well as 3rd party insurance, so that a local volunteer group can carry out these repairs in their own time. Safety training needs to be completed before starting the scheme, and then a productive working relationship is established with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

I have provided a link below for the Council to consider:

[Call for more volunteer road wardens in Devon as scheme marks 10th anniversary - News](#)

Crisis Resilience Fund

A new Crisis and Resilience Fund is now in place to support low-income households in Devon who face sudden financial difficulty. This replaces the Household support fund, and is backed by the government for the next three years.

Anyone facing sudden financial difficulty can contact their local district council to find out how to access their local Crisis and Resilience scheme, <https://devon.cc/crf>, or they can speak to Citizens Advice Devon at www.cabdevon.org.uk.

This provides much needed support in this current cost-of-living crisis period. Please make sure that struggling local families are aware of this support, and if necessary help them to apply. I am happy to do so if you want to direct constituents to myself.

[Devon's Crisis and Resilience Fund - Supporting low-income households facing financial shocks - News](#)

Okehampton Interchange Station

Plans for the opening of the new station are progressing, and we are awaiting an opening date announcement; I did check Friday but there are further safety checks that need to be completed before opening, but the last week of July is possible. The station and the car parking site is looking very smart, however I remain dismayed that this seventeen million pound project does not include on site public toilets. Also there are some questions to be answered regarding street lighting at the station due to wildlife concerns. I am aware that nowadays we must make environmental considerations with all infrastructure plans, but I also consider public safety to be a priority – we will wait and see if the car park is to be lit.

Cllr Sue Davies

Hatherleigh and Chagford Division

Sue.davies@devon.gov.uk

Appendix 2 – Report from Cllr Guthrie, West Devon Borough Councillor

LGR in Devon as you are probably all aware has now been decided by Govt. it has gone against nearly all of the significant conditions that we were asked to abide by in our submissions, in particular no boundary changes and keeping a commitment to rural areas. The overriding Govt. reason for enlarging the Exeter, Plymouth and Torbay areas as Unitaries is that the urban areas are the economic drivers. Unfortunately history has shown us that up to today Rural communities are significantly disadvantaged in all economic metrics. We will have to see if the new Govt. will act on real devolution to all communities.

I am happy to chat about this in detail if anyone wishes to contact me. Theoretically all Parishes should receive the full details shortly.

If the PC is not aware of Tamar Energy Community I would recommend their community energy free advice, ranging from home retrofit to Community energy hubs and to individual home visits to help assess any aspect of Green transitioning including Grant availability.

I visited the Apricot Centre near Dartington recently, a working farm focusing on regenerative practices with good links to the farming community. They are well established and involved in practical research alongside their mixed farming.

They also have a strong focus on supporting start up farmers who suffer from a huge number of failures

.

They facilitate ongoing support in person and peer to peer, for members of the farming community struggling with mental health issues. Farmers across the country still have one of the highest suicide rates and Devon is regrettably highest.

A couple of consultations coming forward are the new Local Plan initial scoping work, consulting from 16th July to 24th September. West Devon will be reaching out to all Parishes.

Lifton and Okehampton will be undertaking conservation Area appraisal from 27th July to 6th September.