

## **MESHAW PARISH MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27 APRIL 2026 AT 7.30PM AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, MESHAW, EX36 4NE**

**Present:** Jeff Souch (Chairman) and Sarah Vertigan (Parish Clerk)

**In Attendance:** Paul Hornsby, Clive Reynolds, Erica Reynolds, Jill Souch

**Apologies:** James Vertigan

### **1. Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 24 November 2025**

- The minutes, having been circulated to all those present by email prior to the meeting, were deemed to be an accurate and true account of the previous meeting. Since there were no matters arising, they were approved and the Chairman signed off on the minutes during the meeting.

### **2. Chairman's Report for the year 2025-26**

- The Chairman reported that the finances between the Parish Meeting and Meshaw Together were now separate and the precept monies mainly covered the grant to the church for the upkeep of the churchyard, membership of Devon Community Local Council (DALC), and ongoing costs for the defibrillator.
- The Chairman also wished to thank the following people for their help over the past year:

**Roger Creed** for the work he does as the Neighbourhood Watch representative, also for running the Meshaw Sports and Social Whatsapp Group and the Meshaw Together Facebook Group.

**James Vertigan** for the work he does updating the Meshaw Village Website.

**Claire Lewis** for monitoring and checking the village defibrillator.

**Paul Hornsby** (and his team of volunteers) for their work on the Community Speedwatch Group.

**Sarah Vertigan** for her continued support as our Parish Clerk.

### **3. Review of the Annual Governance Policy (AGP)**

The Chairman reported that Clive Reynolds, our internal auditor, had audited the accounts and found everything to be in order. The Chairman signed the Exemption Certificate, which will be sent to the external auditors following the meeting.

### **4. Receipt and Approval of the Accounts for the Year 2025/26**

- The signed audited accounts were shown to those present and Erica Reynolds proposed that they should be approved and seconded by Jill Souch.
- The accounts will be available for the public to inspect during the period of Public Rights Period that will operate from Tuesday 2 June 2026 to Monday 13 July 2026.

### **5. Election of Chairman for the forthcoming year 2026/27**

The Parish Clerk reported that no applications for the Chairmanship had been received prior to the meeting, therefore those present proposed that Jeff Souch should be re-elected for the next year, which he duly accepted.

## **6. To Authorise certain expenditure envisaged in the 2026/27 budget**

- Expenditure for the year 2026/27 is anticipated to be approximately £1200. However, a further un-budgeted £250 was approved by those present, as it will now be necessary for the Parish Meeting to apply for Public Liability Insurance due to the proposed speed awareness signs (see below) which will be installed in the village during the coming year assuming Batsworthy Windfarm Trust approve a loan to purchase the equipment believed to cost in the region of £4,500.

## **7. To receive reports, if any, from local organisation and groups**

- *Community Speedwatch Campaign:*

The Chairman reported that Paul Hornsby had led a very successful campaign to monitor speeding motorists through the village and, as a result, it had been agreed that it would indeed be beneficial to install speed detectors (like the one in Alswear) at both ends of the village. The Highways Agency is aware of our intention and will be able to install the posts required at no cost to the village. However, the purchase of the actual signs and detectors will be the responsibility of the village – approx. £4.5k each. It is, therefore, intended to apply for a grant from the Batsworthy fund for the first sign and at a later date to apply for funding for the second sign.

Since the village would now be classed as owning assets, i.e. the speed signs and the defibrillator, it will be necessary for us to take out Public Liability Insurance, for the purposes of protecting our volunteers, protecting the public against accidents and theft of the assets. The Chairman had received two quotes, one from Zurich Insurance and one from Community First, who offer insurance for local communities (which is underwritten by Zurich), and it was agreed that he should go ahead once the funding for the speed signs had been received. Maximum spend of £250 should cover the cost.

Paul Hornsby explained to those present at the meeting that they had witnessed approx. 25% of drivers breaking the speed limit through the village and he agreed to be the project leader going forwards.

- *Webmaster:*

James Vertigan reported that he was regularly updating the website and that he had updated the price of the green garden waste wheelie bin scheme. He felt it might be a good idea to promote the website regularly in the monthly Witheridge Group Newsletter to make people more aware of its existence. He continues to welcome any contributions from villagers by email to: [webmaster@meshawvillagedevon.uk](mailto:webmaster@meshawvillagedevon.uk)

- *Neighbourhood Watch:*

In the absence of Roger Creed, there was no report on any criminal activities. However, the Chairman confirmed that the WhatsApp Group was working well and that new people to the village were keen to sign up to it.

## **8. Any other business**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.17pm.