

INWARDLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Clerk to the council: clerk@inwardleigh.org

**Draft minutes from the meeting of Inwardleigh Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th July 2026:
at Folly Gate Parish Hall to be approved at the next meeting.**

In attendance:	Cllr. Dennis	Cllr. Ions	Cllr King
	Cllr. Timms	Clerk: Mrs. Clarke	WDBC Leech
	WDBC Dexter	DCC Davies	0 Parishioners

Minutes.

01/03/25 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Piddington, Cllr. Hooper. In the chairs absence, the vice-chair Cllr Dennis stood in.

02/03/25 There was no public participation period

03/03/25 There was a declarations of interest for an item on the agenda under planning, whereby it was agreed the previous chair Cllr. King would stand in at the appropriate time.

04/03/25 Minutes of the last meeting of Wednesday 27th May 2026 were approved and signed.

05/03/25 Reports from Councillors: WDBC Councillor Leech and WDBC Dexter. Discussion took place regarding automatic facial recognition trials, including safeguards, watch list governance and public awareness, with concerns raised about transparency and implications of the technology. Information was also circulated regarding Dartmoor Prison as part of a heritage feature for members' review.

A query was raised regarding affordable housing on a new estate of 23 properties, including whether local residents were being allocated the affordable homes. Councillors discussed the allocation process which appeared to have been extended across the whole of West Devon rather than the immediate local area. Homes were owned by Legal & General and managed through another housing association. Councillors expressed concern that this arrangement hasn't supported homes for local people. Running costs of heat pumps and a discussion on insulation was also mentioned, these costs can be high unless buildings are properly insulated.

Waste collection is being brought back under direct council control as WDBC believe savings will be made. The vehicle fleet replacement program will purchase fuel-efficient/lower-carbon vehicles. A county conservation area appraisal consultation is in progress making slight adjustments to conservation area boundaries and associated planning arrangements.

The local government reorganisation effect on highways was discussed this could be transferred to smaller authorities. Devon has a large road network and the roads should be improved before the responsibility changes. Cllr Dexter discussed the new digital network on 22nd July, there have been a number of problems that affect other computers in the vicinity resulting in a substantial amount of technical faults. Cllr Leech noted that after a recent police meeting the entire stretch of road is now expected to be reviewed to determine whether additional speed restrictions on the A386 due to tragic accidents that have occurred. An update on the railway station was also provided, with a potential opening due in August.

Cllr Leech wants local residents to comment on the local plan that is being developed. Safeguarding training for councillors and there attendance was also discussed.

06/03/25 Matters Arising:

06.01 Dog Bins - The ongoing dog fouling issues - councillors agreed that the main problem was irresponsible dog ownership rather than a lack of bins, and that additional bins were unlikely to resolve the issue. The costs and difficulties of enforcement i.e. DNA testing were discussed, and residents encouraged to report specific incidents and locations.

06.02 Highways - Road Conditions, Speed Sign, Pot hole reporting. A detailed local survey was being undertaken, with potholes being mapped, measured, photographed and recorded with GPS information.

The aim was to create a baseline record so deterioration could be monitored over time and used as evidence when dealing with Devon County Council. As there were no details on the speed sign this is deferred until September. The road warden schemes was discussed, including training requirements and insurance concerns.

06.03 ROI's Councillors are to review due to a change in the legal requirements. Home addresses would no longer appear publicly online. Recent concerns regarding harassment and unwanted contact were noted as a reason why councillors welcomed the change.

06.04 Policy - Publication Scheme. The council's publication scheme was circulated. It was explained that councils are required to maintain a number of mandatory documents.

Updates on matter in previous minutes Banking Hub may be considered by the Town Councils, further information will be provided in September. Broadband issues affecting some residents have improved following parish council involvement.

The parish hall roof project was discussed as a future agenda item. Updated plans had been prepared following earlier feedback. The plans will be displayed at the village fair, where residents would have an opportunity to comment.

07/03/25 Planning - The chair, Cllr Dennis stepped away whilst the following was discussed, lead by Cllr. King.

07.01 Planning Applications: - **1654/26/CLP Certificate of Lawfulness** Councillors reviewed a planning application relating to Easington Farm involving agricultural structures and concrete hardstanding. Concerns were raised that planning documents contained limited information, making it difficult for councillors to understand the proposal fully. Discussion covered whether replacement concrete required planning permission and the possible implications for drainage. **1575/26/COM - comms equipment**, Councillors discussed an Openreach application for telecommunications equipment near Oak Baptist Chapel. Three wooden poles (two 9m poles and one 15m pole) to support broadband infrastructure and the site locations for the poles was established.

07.02 Planning Decisions: **1500/26/AGR Eastington Farm**, Cowshed cover. It was noted that prior approval had been granted for certain agricultural works and that limited further information was available.

08/03/25 Finance Cllr Dennis resumed chairing the meeting. The clerk provided a financial update. The balance at the end of June was £10,089.86. Bank reconciliations were reviewed. Budget monitoring information for the first quarter was circulated.

09/03/25 Roads and Footpaths see 06.02

10/03/25 No Matters brought forward by the Chairman.

11/03/25 Matters brought forward by Councillors: The removal of an old building was discussed and will be on the next agenda along with the defibrillator light.

12/03/25 Correspondence received/clerks report: details were provided in finance. Dartmoor Prison Heritage details was also provided.

13/03/25 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16th September 2026 at 7.00pm

14/03/25 The chair closed the meeting