INWARDLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Clerk to the council: clerk@inwardleigh.org

Minutes from the meeting of Inwardleigh Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th September 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.

01/09/25 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Piddington, Cllr. Hooper. In the chairs absence, the vice-chair Cllr Dennis stood in.

02/09/25 There was no public participation period

09/09/25 There was no declarations of interest raised.

04/09/25 Minutes of the last meeting of Wednesday 15th July 2026 were approved and signed.

05/09/25 Reports from Councillors: WDBC Councillor Leech and WDBC Dexter. Cllr Dexter provided an update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), the process has been paused with normal district council elections anticipated next May. Strategic authorities are intended by 2028, creating the possibility of a mayoral election for a combined Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay authority. West Devon is facing a potential deficit of around £1 million for the financial year after the withdrawal of rural service delivery grants.

Cllr Leech reported on delays with Section 106 projects, highlighting long-awaited play equipment from Persimmon's first development site and the ongoing issues surrounding the footpath, where insufficient funding has stalled completion. Okehampton Castle is now open 24 hours a day with the help of volunteers, visitors predominantly travel to or from Cornwall without staying locally. A development consultation is currently open on the West Devon website and runs until the 24th, councillors were urged to complete this. Changes to the planning system effective on the 1st October 2026 mean decisions will largely be made by planning officers rather than committees, with parish councils given a strict three-day window to raise concerns before applications are reviewed by planning leads.

DCC Davis noting uncertainty surrounding LGR. Warning was given that road conditions could deteriorate with winter approaching due to blocked drains and gullies. DCC Davis highlighted roadworks by BT Openreach causing delays and mentioned the Electrical Safety Fund and the upcoming in-house carers service starting 1st October.

06/09/25 Matters Arising:

06.01 Licensing request Raj Poot The licensing application was discussed, members raised no particular concerns.

06.02 Community Emergency Plan
The clerk suggested that a full-scale emergency plan might be disproportionate and proposed a simple single sheet containing essential emergency contact numbers instead. The council agreed to hold off on a comprehensive plan until the data-mapping exercise is further advanced.

06.03 ROI'S The register of interests was discussed, noting that new requirements necessitate including spouse or partner interests.

06.04 Policy - The Investment Policy, was reviewed by Councillors and approved.

07/09/25 Planning -

07.01 Planning Applications: Planning Applications: 2156/26/PAS. National Grid - Two poles near a junction and housing development was reviewed; councillors concluded it is primarily for information and did not propose objecting to the infrastructure. **Planning Decisions:** None

08/09/25 Updates of matters from the last meeting:

Communication issues regarding the proposed village hall project were discussed, a list of planning documentation was discussed with a view to an additional meeting in October if required.

09/09/25 Finance The clerk provided a financial update. The bank reconciliation was reviewed. Approved payments: Hmrc, Paye, Website fees. At the end of August, the parish bank balance stood at £9,405.57. Bank reconciliation and the first budget quarter information were noted for circulation.

10/09/25 No Matters brought forward by the Chairman.

11/09/25 Matters brought forward by Councillors: Concerns were raised regarding vehicle speeds and tailgating along the road, VAS was discussed and pressing the police for speed enforcement. A fence along the parish wall obstructing driver visibility, the discussion concluded that there was insufficient justification to alter the fence or install a mirror. The fallen sign at Prism Lane was noted for repair.

12/09/25 Correspondence received/clerks report: The clerk provided an update on emails received.

13/09/25 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda Road markings around the parish junctions and the Northlew have recently been repainted. The upcoming November meeting will incorporate the annual budget.

14/09/25 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18th November 2026 at 7.00pm

15/09/26 The chair closed the meeting at