



Ashburton Town Council

Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting
held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm
in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall

Present: Cllrs. Coles, Distin, Harper, Nutley, Searight, Snowsill, Turner and Wood.

In attendance: Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Cllr. Rogers (DCC & TDC), The Portreeve and Mrs. Fleming, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group.

Cllr. Wood opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

030.26 Apologies.

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr. Bovey due to illness and Cllrs. Giles, Pugh due to prior commitments. Cllr. Snowsill proposed to accept these apologies; seconded by Cllr. Turner. All in favour.

The Clerk also noted that apologies had been received from Cllr. Major (TDC) due to a prior commitment.

031.26 Declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

032.26 Public comments and statements.

Cllr. Wood read a statement received from a member of Ashburton Primary School PTA sharing information about the West Community Council. (Appendix 1). This is the governance committee combining the head teachers of Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Ermington primary schools in a once termly committee with governance staff from West Schools Trust, elected parent governors from all three schools and hopefully community members from all three communities. Councillors agreed that this letter should be shared on social media.

ACTION: Clerk's office to share the letter on social media.

033.26 To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting, 10th February 2026.

The actions from the minutes were reviewed. The Clerk explained the position regarding public liability insurance for open spaces within the town. Cllr. Nutley proposed that these minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and be signed accordingly; seconded by Cllr. Snowsill. All in favour.

034.26 To receive the Chair's report.

Cllr. Wood presented the Chair's report (Appendix 2), firstly sending her thoughts to our Mayor, Cllr. Ann Bovey, who continues to be unwell; and continuing to detail a busy period attending a number of events.

035.26 To receive the Clerk's report.

The Clerk delivered her report (Appendix 3) outlining areas such as the Administrative Assistant vacancy, internal audit date and the continued efforts of the asset management working group.

036.26 To receive the Police report.

The Clerk presented the Police report. (Appendix 4)

037.26 To receive the Devon County Council report.

(Appendix 5) Cllr. Rogers advised on –

- The Global situation with regard to gas and oil prices.
- The UK / City Town of Culture bid.
- Potholes – must be reported to Devon County Council.

038.26 To receive the Teignbridge District Council report.

Cllr. Nutley delivered his report (Appendix 5)6 and explained that the Teignmouth Lido will be kept open this year after a successful rescue by two community groups. Cllr. Turner asked whether there will be money available to upgrade playparks. Cllr. Nutley to gather more information and report back. Cllr. Rogers will attend a meeting on 26th March focusing on how to support towns that do not receive the Community Infrastructure Levy.

39.26 To receive the report from the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Cllr. Turner presented the actions from the previous meeting, all of which were complete. She stressed that the result of a referendum, should the Town Council require one, would be required by early Autumn.

040.26 To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

The NHP Chair noted the importance of a detailed presentation and that the Plan is almost ready to be examined. She asked that any questions are submitted via the Clerk. These will be responded to at the General Purposes meeting on 25th March. The Deputy Chair presented a National Trust report which he will circulate to all Councillors along with the Statement of Community Consultation. He will present the report on Local Heritage Assets at the General Purposes meeting. The Clerk asked that all reports are shared electronically.

ACTION: Neighbourhood Plan Deputy Chair to share the National Trust report and Statement of Community Consultation with the Clerk to be circulated. Also to present the Local Heritage Assets report to the General Purposes committee.

041.26 To receive the report from the Portreeve.

The Portreeve presented his report (Appendix 6)7 detailing events that he had attended and advertising his upcoming charity event on 28th March.

042.26 To receive the Councillors' reports of attendance at sub-committees and meetings of other organisations.

Cllr. Wood noted (in her role as Chair of Ashburton Swimming Pool) that they now have sufficient funds to repair the pool and plan to open during June. Cllr. Coles spoke about climate breakdown and advertised a film that is being shown by ACE. The asset survey

was discussed at length along with the plan to take a simplified version into schools. Both schools had reported they are happy with either a classroom or full assembly approach.

043.26 To suggest content for the Ashburton Town Council media post.

Several suggestions were made and Councillors were asked to email Cllr. Turner with any other ideas.

044.26 Matters raised by Councillors for information only or on a future agenda.

Unsafe driving and parking in Woodland Road was discussed. Cllr. Nutley suggested the Warden goes down there at school times. Cllr. Turner will note this in the next Around Ashburton article. The Clerk reported that all questions regarding the installation of the bike racks have been answered and that there must be a risk assessment in place with a list of volunteers that will be involved.

Cllr Wood thanked those present and closed the meeting at 21.12

Signed (Chair) Date
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Action Points Arising from the Full Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Council Chambers

032.26 Public comments and statements.

Clerk's office to share information about the West Community Council on social media.

040.26 To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Neighbourhood Plan Deputy Chair to share the National Trust report and Statement of Community Consultation with all Councillors. Also to present the Local Heritage Assets report to the General Purposes committee.

West Schools Trust who are the academy with responsibility for Ashburton Primary School and Buckfastleigh Primary school (as well as many schools in the Southwest including South Dartmoor) are looking for community members to join their WCC (West Community Council). West Community Council is the governance committee combining the head teachers of Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Ermington primary schools in a once termly committee with governance staff from West Schools Trust, elected parent governors from all three schools and hopefully community members from all three communities.

As you may have heard, the school is currently in quite a state of transition, with the leaving of the last head and currently an interim head in place. To put it mildly there has been a lot of disquiet among parents and children about the running of the school, which is evident in quite a large exodus of children and parents from the school to other schools in the area. The school is at a turning point and really needs the communities support and expertise!

I and a couple of other parents from Ashburton Primary have applied to be Parent governors on the West Community Council - To be a voice for the parents of Ashburton Primary, to support, challenge and also to hold to account the academy trust who have for a long time been a very distant and mysterious corporate body to a lot of parents and children. No parent has officially been elected yet, but we were invited to attend the meeting last Thursday as observers to get an idea of how it would work.

It was very evident to me as an observer, the lack of representation from our community, and as the head of the school doesn't live in Ashburton and the new head is also very likely not to live in the community, its essential that we use this opportunity to provide support and oversight for the towns primary school.

I believe that West Schools trust will be sending out a role description to the head teachers very soon of what a community member of the WCC's responsibilities would be. I believe that they will also be sharing criteria of who could apply. I will share these on when I can.

That's all I know for the moment, but I'm trying to spread the word and plant the seed in people's heads so hopefully we can get some proper representation and oversight.

Please could you pass this information on through your channels to the council.

Many thanks.

034.26 – Chair’s Report

Firstly, as always, my thoughts are with our Mayor, Ann, who continues to be unwell. I had the pleasure of seeing her a couple of weeks ago, and I know she is very hopeful of returning to this seat before her term concludes. I’m sure I speak for all of us when I say we are very much looking forward to welcoming her back when she is able.

Over the past month, I have attended the Twinning Association AGM and I will also be joining their coffee morning this coming weekend. It is always a pleasure to see the enthusiasm and dedication that goes into maintaining those friendships and connections beyond our town.

I have also really valued the opportunity to speak with residents at the recent asset transfer engagement events. So far, we have held four sessions here in the Town Hall, where councillors and staff have welcomed residents in to share their thoughts and ask questions. The conversations have been thoughtful and constructive, and it has been encouraging to see people taking such an interest in the future of our town. We are now exploring ways to take that engagement further—out onto the streets and into neighbourhoods—so that people can better understand what changes may mean for them locally. I would like to thank the councillors and Town Hall staff who have given their time to support these events.

Later this month, I will be facilitating a meeting that brings together local organisations and charities across the town. The aim of this first gathering is simply to listen and learn more about each other: what organisations do, what is going well, and what challenges they may be facing. From there, we hope to explore whether there are opportunities to support one another more closely—perhaps by sharing resources or working together on some of the issues that many groups have in common. I would warmly welcome any councillors who would like to attend.

Finally, tomorrow, I will be meeting with ACE to discuss and agree how we can move forward in our relationship with the group. I am hopeful that we can do this in a way that is positive and mutually supportive, enabling them to continue the fantastic work they are already doing. It feels particularly important that our town continues to have a dedicated group focused on how we respond to the ongoing climate emergency, and I look forward to strengthening that relationship.

Best wishes

Lucy Wood

CiLCA update

I have now fully submitted my CiLCA portfolio to SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks). It is now in the hands of their external assessors who have up to 12 weeks to examine it and present the certificate.

The next step is to apply for the General Power of Competence, this is set out in the Localism Act of 2011 and gives the council the power to do anything that any individual may do, as long as it is lawful. Some examples of where this could be used:

- 1) We could expand the Information Centre, setting it up as a CIC (Community Incorporated Charity) and be able to trade as a community shop.
- 2) We will be open to more fundraising and sponsorship opportunities.
- 3) We could also offer much wider grant options to local individuals as well as constituted groups; for example, a scout who wishes to climb Mount Snowdon for charity but needs assistance with travel expenses or equipment; currently we would be unable to consider this.

Unfortunately, we do not meet the criteria for this as two thirds of the council must be elected, not co-opted (currently 7 are elected, 4 are co-opted and 1 vacancy). This cannot be resolved until the first Full Council meeting after the elections next year.

Vacancy update

The vacancy for the Admin Assistant role is advertised again – in our noticeboard, on our website, on the DALC website and Indeed.com. The deadline is Thursday 19th March and we have had a large amount of interest, particularly from Indeed. I have sent the application form to 9 of the applicants so far. We agreed that the interviews are likely to take place during the week commencing 23rd March, so an interview panel will need to be agreed.

Audit

We are fast approaching the financial year end and have agreed a date for the Internal Auditor to return – Tuesday 2nd June. The Office will be closed on this day, and his report should then be available to us ahead of the Full Council meeting the following week.

Asset Management

I'm sure Cllr. Harper will speak more on this subject shortly, but I wanted to remind Councillors that the Headteachers from both Ashburton and St Mary's Primary Schools are happy to engage with us, welcoming Councillors to speak to the children and gain their opinions on local assets. Additionally, we do not currently have a date for the next Asset Management Working Group meeting, but I suggest mid-april; this gives Cllr. Snowsill a chance to analyse the data from the town survey, and I believe that this meeting should focus mainly on community engagement. A few local residents are keen to get involved and go door-to-door to spread awareness if necessary, so we really do need to keep up the impetus and interest.

Balland Lane Tree

A gentleman came into the office today. He would like to maintain the area of land surrounding the Eucalyptus tree at the entrance to Balland Lane; planting flowers in the stone trough, cutting the grass and generally improving the approach to Ashburton. So, if you agree and following a risk assessment on the area, including an understanding to not affect the tree itself, I see no reason why we would need to refuse his assistance.

Finally,

I would like to highlight the fact that our portreeve's better half is here on a special birthday today; so, I hope you will all join me in saying Happy Birthday to Mags!



Ashburton & Chudleigh Neighbourhood Police Team

101 Non-urgent
999 in an emergency
www.devon-cornwall.police.uk
101@dc.police.uk

DevonAndCornwallPolice
@DC_Police
dc_police.999
DCPolice

ASHBURTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

10TH MARCH 2026

This report covers the parish of Ashburton including its road network. The Parish has the Police beat code of JA2C. The Parish is served by the Neighbourhood Police team working out of Ashburton Police Station and Chudleigh Police Office. The Parish forms part of the Teignbridge Coastal & Rural Policing sector. The team is led by Police Inspector Sean Roper and Sergeant Ryan Cook Neighbourhood Team Leader and PC Claire Hurrell is the Neighbourhood Constable (Neighbourhood Beat Manager) and is supported by PCSO Tina Jordan.

Although every effort has been made to produce an accurate representation of the figures included in the report there may be a slight discrepancy in the totals shown.

For the period 1/02/2026 to 28/02/2026 in the Ashburton beat area there has been a total of 50 Incident Reports of a varying nature logged resulting 23 Occurrence Reports being raised that required further investigation under the following categories:

Public Safety and Concern for Welfare: 3
Public Order: 1
Violence less serious: 4
ASB Personal: 1
ASB Nuisance: 1
Fraud & Forgery: 2
Theft From Motor Vehicle: 1
Suspicious Circumstances: 1
Drug Related: 1
GBH: 2
Police Generated & Administration: 6

Good evening , Town & Parish Clerks , I hope you & councillors are doing okay .

There is much activity Globally , in the Middle East which is already influencing prices the UK (particularly with rising prices at the fuel prices at the fuel pumps .)

Domestic, non-mains energy supplies—such as heating oil, LPG, and park home/heat network connection often experience significantly higher price volatility, lack of regulatory protection, and higher costs compared to mains gas and electricity.

Key Impacts on Prices and Costs

- **Unregulated Pricing and Lack of Caps:** Unlike mains energy, many non-mains sources (such as heat networks or communal heating) are not covered by the standard Ofgem energy price cap. This has allowed suppliers to increase prices for these customers by up to 700% since late 2021.
- **Volatile Commodity Costs:** Non-mains fuels like heating oil and LPG are heavily influenced by international oil prices, which can lead to sharp, sudden spikes in costs compared to the generally steadier, hedged pricing of mains suppliers.
- **Higher Unit Rates for Electricity Heating:** Households that rely on direct electric heating (common in non-mains properties) face higher costs due to inefficient heating methods and the fact that electricity prices are significantly higher per unit than gas.
- **Risk of High Debt:** Vulnerable, non-mains consumers often face high, uncontrollable, and unpredictable consumption costs, leading to an increased risk of fuel poverty and debt.
- **Limitations on Resale Prices:** While landlords and site owners (e.g., park homes) cannot legally profit from reselling energy, they can pass on the costs they paid. They are only allowed to charge an extra fee for services like meter readings if it is in the agreement

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- <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/news/changes-energy-price-cap-between-1-april-and-30-june-2026>.

On Wednesday 10 March 2026 I am attending DCC Cabinet to ask cabinet to add information to ensuring the most vulnerable and excluded in Devon & a plan support is essential .

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/devon-county-council-sets-plans-new-crisis-resilience-fund/>

Parish , Towns , Residents Businesses & Organisations can participate in giving a view to UK Government (Submission by 26th March 2026).

<https://www.devonlgr.co.uk/>

You recently received an update

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>

I am awaiting an update on key information on the Ashburton & Buckfastleigh DCC Division and will advise , this includes road salt bins for community access .

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>

UK City / Town of Culture.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-town-of-culture-2028-expression-of-interest/uk-town-of-culture-2028-expression-of-interest-guidance-for-bidders>.

Ashburton Arts & Buckfastleigh MIC are it is hoped going to undertake a combined submission .

<https://ashburtonarts.org.uk/>

<https://www.moorimagination.org/>

There is much Globally activity , but within England and Wales Baroness published a report on the future of Adult Social Care (further information will be issued)

<https://caseycommission.co.uk/news/>

Attached is the link to the February 2026 TDC meeting .

Attached is the link to the TDC Budget (Cllr Parker requested I send to his & Cllr Daw Ambrook Ward.

Of note within the link .)

A meeting is now confirmed with the Deputy leader for Dartmoor Ward member March 26, 2026.

Dartmoor Wards do not receive CIL & minimal S106 .

The meeting was agreed following my question within the TDC Chamber .

TDC Chair Rob Steemson will facilitate the meeting .

For transparency there will be notes of the meeting issued

At TDC Full Council meeting £800k for match funding over 4 years

£500K (Total £1 million over 2 years) for play parks .

Information is within the link .

Please advise if you have any questions .

<https://democracy.teignbridge.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=3669>

There is much activity and there is commitment to continually updating you .

Thank you for sharing with Councillors .

Take care please .

Thank you for receiving the email .

Kindest Regards

Stuart .

County Councillor Stuart J Rogers BEM.

District Councillors Report fo 10th Of March 2026. Further to questions asked regarding Car Parks and Play Parks. As I have said before, there is no consideration that the car parks will be handed over to Town Councils as it is their main source of revenue. However, I am awaiting further clarification which I will forwarded this on should I receive it before tomorrows Full Council meeting. Speaking with my Executive Colleague who covers Assets, Economic Development, Major Projects and Communications. TDC are compiling a single definitive list of council play areas condition/life remaining to plan investment and possible transfers. I am assured that Ashburton is a top priority to have its play park renewed. As you are probably aware having seen the news regarding the Lido at Teignmouth, TDC had originally decided that it would not open for the coming season giving a saving of £74k. Having now had two community groups taking an interest to take over the Lido and having had an Overview and Scrutiny meeting at which one of the groups were present, it has been decided that we will open the Lido for this season. We will be looking for some of this group to come in and be trained in some of the operations required in running the Lido. The orders have been signed off to commence the new work on the recycling / bulking station at the Brunel site in Newton Abbot. Update from the Leisure Team Progress Update: Our Digital-First Journey Over recent years, Teignbridge Leisure has made a big shift towards a digital-first approach, changing how customers access and interact with our activities across gym, swimming and exercise class programmes. Using 2025 data, 92% of all bookings are now made online: • 87% via our leisure app • 5% via our website • 8% via front of house This transition has not been about reducing personal service. Instead, it has focused on improving accessibility, efficiency and customer experience, while enabling on-site teams to spend more time on high-value, face-to-face engagement and support. Key benefits of this digital-first model include: • Improved convenience for customers, with 24/7 booking access. • Reduced queues and pressure at front-of-house points. • Better-quality data to understand customer behaviour, inform decisions and support retention. While digital development is ongoing, this represents an important milestone and provides a strong foundation for future service improvements, operational efficiency and customer engagement. This progress reflects the collective efforts of Teignbridge Leisure teams, alongside the support of myFitApp, Legend and TDC staff in delivering modern, accessible leisure services for our communities. We will continue to build on this approach to ensure our services remain responsive to customer expectations while supporting long-term sustainability and value for money. Please see below the TDC Budget Report from the Full Council meeting held on the 26/2/26.

Cllr John Nutley

The budget was passed and excepted by the majority of the Councillors, but as usual, some rejected and some abstained. Below is the full report. BUDGET REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL 26/2/26 3. 4. 5. The Government settlement has been particularly complicated this year and there have been significant changes from previous years. This is a three-year settlement which gives us some welcome stability albeit that the formula disadvantages predominantly rural areas such as Teignbridge There have been major Changes to the main funding formula with a stronger link to levels of deprivation. Many funding streams have been rolled into the main funding formula instead of being provided as separate grants. The

baseline for retained business rates has been reset. The new homes bonus has been abolished. Some grant pots have been simplified and consolidated including homelessness prevention rough sleeping and temporary accommodation. The government has provided some transitional funding including a minimum funding floor to protect councils from the full impact of the funding changes. There are still many uncertainties not least the likely re-structuring of Local Government in Devon within the next few years. Whatever the future may hold however it is important that we continue to maintain a high standard of financial management and act in the best interests of the residents of Teignbridge. Despite the disappointing Government Settlement because of good and prudent management of our finances we have been able to significantly reduce the budget deficit which is now estimated at £1m for each of the following 3 years. This equates to 1.5% of projected annual revenue expenditure. We will be able to meet the shortfall from earmarked reserves in the medium term, but work needs to continue to achieve a balanced budget.

3. The Government settlement has been particularly complicated this year and there have been significant changes from previous years. This is a three-year settlement which gives us some welcome stability albeit that the formula disadvantages predominantly rural areas such as Teignbridge. There have been major Changes to the main funding formula with a stronger link to levels of deprivation. Many funding streams have been rolled into the main funding formula instead of being provided as separate grants. The baseline for retained business rates has been reset. The new homes bonus has been abolished. Some grant pots have been simplified and consolidated including homelessness prevention rough sleeping and temporary accommodation. The government has provided some transitional funding including a minimum funding floor to protect councils from the full impact of the funding changes.

4. There are still many uncertainties not least the likely re-structuring of Local Government in Devon within the next few years. Whatever the future may hold however it is important that we continue to maintain a high standard of financial management and act in the best interests of the residents of Teignbridge.

6. The following key assumptions have been used to preparing the budget.

6.1 We will retain 100% council tax support

6.2 Fees and charges have been reviewed – and are summarised on Appendix 6 of the report to Full Council and on the Website.

6.3 We will continue to provide support for housing whilst backing business and bringing people and organizations together for local neighborhood planning.

6.4 We will continue to support Voluntary Groups such as CVS and CAB and have included an annual 4% uplift for the next 3 year for these organisations.

3. The Government settlement has been particularly complicated this year and there have been significant changes from previous years. This is a three-year settlement which gives us some welcome stability albeit that the formula disadvantages predominantly rural areas such as Teignbridge. There have been major Changes to the main funding formula with a stronger link to levels of deprivation. Many funding streams have been rolled into the main funding formula instead of being provided as separate grants. The baseline for retained business rates has been reset. The new homes bonus has been abolished. Some grant pots have been simplified and consolidated including homelessness prevention rough sleeping and temporary accommodation. The government has provided some transitional funding including a minimum funding floor to protect councils from the full impact of the funding changes.

4. There are still many uncertainties not least

the likely re-structuring of Local Government in Devon within the next few years. Whatever the future may hold however it is important that we continue to maintain a high standard of financial management and act in the best interests of the residents of Teignbridge. 6.5 We will continue to react to the climate change emergency by maintaining ongoing budgets for a climate change officer and associated spending in revenue and provision in the capital programme, including ongoing provisions for corporate decarbonisation schemes. 6.6 We will continue to fund a part time Scrutiny Officer to assist Members with the Scrutiny function and working groups and other temporary resources for facilitating the Modern 25 work. 6.7 We have retained the Councillors Community Fund at £1000 per annum 6.8 We will provide for an Infrastructure delivery plan funded by community infrastructure levy (CIL) and external sources where available 3. The Government settlement has been particularly complicated this year and there have been significant changes from previous years. This is a three-year settlement which gives us some welcome stability albeit that the formula disadvantages predominantly rural areas such as Teignbridge There have been major Changes to the main funding formula with a stronger link to levels of deprivation. Many funding streams have been rolled into the main funding formula instead of being provided as separate grants. The baseline for retained business rates has been reset. The new homes bonus has been abolished. Some grant pots have been simplified and consolidated including homelessness prevention rough sleeping and temporary accommodation. The government has provided some transitional funding including a minimum funding floor to protect councils from the full impact of the funding changes. 4. There are still many uncertainties not least the likely re-structuring of Local Government in Devon within the next few years. Whatever the future may hold however it is important that we continue to maintain a high standard of financial management and act in the best interests of the residents of Teignbridge. 6.9 We will continue to invest in Town Centre infrastructure and employment. 6.10 We have increased the provision for employment sites funded by borrowing to £3m. 6.11 Wage and general inflation has been assumed at 3% 6.12 The Teignbridge element of Council Tax will increase by 2.99% to £208.33. 7. The Capital Program reflects the priorities set out in the One Teignbridge Action Plan which was approved by Full Council on 23rd October 2025. Highlights include :- Delivering 10 x 1000sq ft business units at Forde Close Newton Abbot Completing development of the Market Hall and external work Delivering an upgraded waste transfer station and improved facilities at the Depot Delivery of 23 Social Rented Homes on Sherborne House Car park in Newton Abbot. Preparing an Options Report for the Bradley Lane Site to include Extra Care Housing Continuing acquisition of properties to reduce use and cost of Bed and Breakfast for temporary accommodation. Improvements to Playparks across the District using CIL funds Securing planning permissions for additional primary school accommodation in Newton Abbot and Bovey Tracey Refurbishment of Dawlish Leisure Centre Establishing a Community Match fund to support town and parish projects which are in accordance with a Community Infrastructure Plan. Over the next 2 years we are planning to invest almost £35m into projects that will benefit the lives of people living in Teignbridge. 3. The Government settlement has been particularly complicated this year and there have been significant changes from previous years. This is a three-year settlement which gives us some welcome stability albeit

that the formula disadvantages predominantly rural areas such as Teignbridge. There have been major Changes to the main funding formula with a stronger link to levels of deprivation. Many funding streams have been rolled into the main funding formula instead of being provided as separate grants. The baseline for retained business rates has been reset. The new homes bonus has been abolished. Some grant pots have been simplified and consolidated including homelessness prevention rough sleeping and temporary accommodation. The government has provided some transitional funding including a minimum funding floor to protect councils from the full impact of the funding changes. 4. 8. There are still many uncertainties not least the likely re-structuring of Local Government in Devon within the next few years. Whatever the future may hold however it is important that we continue to maintain a high standard of financial management and act in the best interests of the residents of Teignbridge. We have consulted with the public and businesses about the Budget Proposals on the website and the results are set out on Appendix 13. In summary:-

- There were 544 responses to the Survey
- 74% agree
- agreed with an increase in Council Tax by 2.99%
- The top 3 non statutory services supported in order of priority were Walking and Cycling routes, Affordable and Extra Care Housing, Public Toilets.

3. The Government settlement has been particularly complicated this year and there have been significant changes from previous years. This is a three-year settlement which gives us some welcome stability albeit that the formula disadvantages predominantly rural areas such as Teignbridge. There have been major Changes to the main funding formula with a stronger link to levels of deprivation. Many funding streams have been rolled into the main funding formula instead of being provided as separate grants. The baseline for retained business rates has been reset. The new homes bonus has been abolished. Some grant pots have been simplified and consolidated including homelessness prevention rough sleeping and temporary accommodation. The government has provided some transitional funding including a minimum funding floor to protect councils from the full impact of the funding changes. 4. 9. There are still many uncertainties not least the likely re-structuring of Local Government in Devon within the next few years. Whatever the future may hold however it is important that we continue to maintain a high standard of financial management and act in the best interests of the residents of Teignbridge. In addition to the survey detailed above:-

1. We have consulted with Parish and Town Councils by way of an online question and answer session.
2. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the budget proposals at their meetings on 13th January 2026 and 3rd February 2026.
3. The Executive Committee reviewed the budget proposals at their meetings on 6th January 2026 and 10th February 2026 and are recommending to Full Council that they be approved.
10. I believe this is good budget for the Council and a good budget for the people of Teignbridge and I hope members will support it. I accordingly propose:-

1. That the Teignbridge band D council tax for 2026/27 is increased by 2.99% or £6.05 to £208.33 per annum
2. Maintaining 100% council tax support
3. That general reserves are increased to 12.4% of the net revenue budget for 2026/27 or £2.6 million
4. That £200,000 of the general reserve balance in any one year be available to the Executive to meet unexpected expenditure in addition to the agreed revenue budget
5. All other decisions with regard to budgetary change will be approved by reference to virement rules in the financial instructions.
6. That the summary revenue budget

for 2026/27 is £21.0 million as shown at Appendix 4. In particular the revenue budget includes: Assumptions of a 3.0% pay rise for 2026/27 Revenue contributions to fund capital are maintained at £1,500,000 to support the capital budget Core voluntary grants are increased by 4% for three years from 2026/27 through to 2028/29 The councillors community fund grant is maintained at £1,000 each Continued resources to cover Modern 25 7. That fees and charges are approved as shown summarised at Appendix 6. 8. That the capital programme as shown at Appendix 7 is approved. The capital programme to 2028/29 has been updated to align with the One Teignbridge Action Plan, which was adopted at Full Council on 23 October 2025. The main aims are to work with communities, support the local economy, care for the environment, create affordable homes and work with partners to bring forward infrastructure improvements. It also 3. The Government settlement has been particularly complicated this year and there have been significant changes from previous years. This is a three-year settlement which gives us some welcome stability albeit that the formula disadvantages predominantly rural areas such as Teignbridge There have been major Changes to the main funding formula with a stronger link to levels of deprivation. Many funding streams have been rolled into the main funding formula instead of being provided as separate grants. The baseline for retained business rates has been reset. The new homes bonus has been abolished. Some grant pots have been simplified and consolidated including homelessness prevention rough sleeping and temporary accommodation. The government has provided some transitional funding including a minimum funding floor to protect councils from the full impact of the funding changes. 4. There are still many uncertainties not least the likely restructuring of Local Government in Devon within the next few years. Whatever the future may hold however it is important that we continue to maintain a high standard of financial management and act in the best interests of the residents of Teignbridge. includes: · Infrastructure delivery plan projects that are vital to the development and accessibility of the area. These include highways and cycle path projects, funded by CIL and external sources where available. Investment in housing (Homes4Teignbridge) continues. On 23 October 2025, the Sherborne House car park social rented flats budget was increased to £7,243,317. Homes England funding in support of the scheme was confirmed in early December 2025. Half of the funds for this scheme come from council resources (receipts and internal borrowing) and half from external contributions. 3. The Government settlement has been particularly complicated this year and there have been significant changes from previous years. This is a three-year settlement which gives us some welcome stability albeit that the formula disadvantages predominantly rural areas such as Teignbridge There have been major Changes to the main funding formula with a stronger link to levels of deprivation. Many funding streams have been rolled into the main funding formula instead of being provided as separate grants. The baseline for retained business rates has been reset. The new homes bonus has been abolished. Some grant pots have been simplified and consolidated including homelessness prevention rough sleeping and temporary accommodation. The government has provided some transitional funding including a minimum funding floor to protect councils from the full impact of the funding changes. 4. There are still many uncertainties not least the likely restructuring of Local Government in Devon within the next few years. Whatever the

future may hold however it is important that we continue to maintain a high standard of financial management and act in the best interests of the residents of Teignbridge. The purchase of council homes supported by the Local Authority Housing Fund continues, with a further provision of £1,000,000 in prudential borrowing to improve temporary accommodation arrangements and reduce the use and cost of bed and breakfast accommodation. Investment in other support measures such as disabled facilities continue, funded from the Better Care grant. There are provisions to continue corporate decarbonisation measures including energy efficiency measures at Dawlish and Newton Abbot leisure centres. Provision is also included for town-centre investment, including the refurbished Market Hall in Newton Abbot, due to complete in 2026. There is a £3,000,000 provision for employment infrastructure, to create new spaces for jobs and local enterprise.

3. The Government settlement has been particularly complicated this year and there have been significant changes from previous years. This is a three-year settlement which gives us some welcome stability albeit that the formula disadvantages predominantly rural areas such as Teignbridge. There have been major changes to the main funding formula with a stronger link to levels of deprivation. Many funding streams have been rolled into the main funding formula instead of being provided as separate grants. The baseline for retained business rates has been reset. The new homes bonus has been abolished. Some grant pots have been simplified and consolidated including homelessness prevention rough sleeping and temporary accommodation. The government has provided some transitional funding including a minimum funding floor to protect councils from the full impact of the funding changes.

4. There are still many uncertainties not least the likely re-structuring of Local Government in Devon within the next few years. Whatever the future may hold however it is important that we continue to maintain a high standard of financial management and act in the best interests of the residents of Teignbridge. These projects aim to stimulate growth in the local economy and ensure it is an attractive and well-connected environment for local businesses.

9. That the Financial Plan 2026 to 2031 is approved as set out in Appendix 8

10. That the prudential indicators are noted and the prudential limits approved all as set out in Appendix 11

11. That the updated treasury management strategy statement and authorised lending list as set out in Appendix 12 is approved together with the capital strategy in Appendix 12a

12. That each scheme will be considered on its merits as explained at the end of appendix 12 to decide the calculation of minimum revenue

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4. There are still many uncertainties not least the likely re-structuring of Local Government in

Devon within the next few years. Whatever the future may hold however it is important that we continue to maintain a high standard of financial management and act in the best interests of the residents of Teignbridge. provision for capital expenditure in 2026/27 13. That the council tax resolutions as recommended in Appendix 15 are approved

**APPENDIX 7
041.26**

ITEM -

041.26 – Portreeve report

Good evening Councillors and ladies and gentlemen,

Since my last report it has been that quiet time of the year. We have attended the Pensioners' AGM and the Twinning AGM in February.

We have the Twinning coffee morning on the 14th March and my wife and I will be serving hot croissants with cheese and ham.

The 21st March is the Marines Association coffee morning, and the 28th March is my first event.

I have arranged a drag night evening and buffet, being held at the Little Lodge. Tickets are £25.00 each to include a night of fun and laughter and food.

Tickets are available from myself and all details are on the poster.

The Portreeve Bunnies will be back on Easter Saturday giving out free eggs to the children of the town.

And that's the end of my report.