**Chittlehampton Parish Council Minutes for 23/07/25 Meeting**

**Held at Chittlehampton Methodist School Rooms**

**Clerk to the Council: Faye Davies chittlehamptonclerk@gmail.com**

**Meeting commenced:** 19:30

**Those in attendance -** Cllrs Wheaton, Beauregard, Alford, Blyther, Ditchburn, Williams, Hoare, Whitehead, and five members of the public.

**Apologies -** Cllrs Brooks, Seatherton, and County Cllr Tyldesley. Apologies approved.

**Declarations of Interest –** Cllr Alford declared an interest in the annual payment for Umberleigh village hall as she is a member on the committee.

**Minutes -** 11/06/2025 minutes approved. Vice chair Cllr Beauregard signed due to chairing that meeting.

**District and County Councillor reports –** District Cllr White reports that on 1st August at Kings Nympton at the train station there is a meeting at 5pm-6pm held by Northern Devon Railway Department Alliance regarding train transportation and Umberleighwill be a topic of discussion, she advised that the Cllr who represents Umberleigh attend.

Farming Community Network (FCN) are available to be called upon by any farmer who is struggling (financial, business, mental health etc). The details will be uploaded on the Parish Councils website and Facebook page. Additionally, contact details are:

03000 111 999

help@fcn.org.uk

fcn.org.uk

County Cllr Tyldesley report attached to the end of this document.

**Members of the public open session –** Speedwatch discussed during this session. The Speedwatch report has been circulated to the Councillors, will be available to view on the website, and is attached to the end of this document.

The data proves that there is quite a significant problem with speeding through the Parish, predominantly in Umberleigh, and that the problem is not improving. There were 237 incidents recorded in June alone. It has been established that there is definitely an issue and the next step is how to proceed.

There is a locality budget available for speed locator signs. Council to discuss this at the next meeting and agree upon what signs are required.

Clerk to contact Atherington for companies that quoted them for mobile speed camera units and Cllr Tyldesley regarding white lines being added to the road and the 30mph speed sign being moved to the top of the hill.

Members of the public suggested the Council purchase community speedwatch signs and 20 is plenty stickers.

It was reported that there is some damage to the stone on Chittlehampton Square and the cobbles near the Village shop.

The woodland trust is also giving away trees and it was suggested that the Council apply for this.

County Cllr Tyldesley was thanked for the replacement of the lamp.

It was requested that minutes also be available to read in the village shop.

**Chairmans report –** Chair thanked Cllrs Williams, Jones, and Seatherton for organising weed removal. Weeds were not sprayed near vehicles due to the chemicals potentially damaging the paint.

Clerk to do a thank you letter for a member of the public who cleaned East St.

**Clerks report**

* PIALC request, this training is only available until December 2025 and has much more in-depth information on internal audits that previous training has produced.
* CiLCA training is not until February 2026. The curriculum is changing and new applicants will be accepted from February 2026.
* From March 2026 it will be compulsory for Parish Council websites to be WCAG 2.2 compliant, internal audits are changing and checking website compliancy will be part of the audit. From March 2026 it will be mandatory for parish councils to have a WCAG 2.2 compliant website, the website is currently 92% compliant.

**Payments for approval**

* 1. Locum clerk expenses June £376.58 BACS – approved.
	2. Clerk wages to be paid on the 30th of each month - approved
	3. PIALC (Principles of Internal Auditing Local Councils) £120 + VAT – approved.
	4. Umberleigh Village Hall hire £20 04/04/25 – approved.
	5. Pay £25 donation to Chittlehampton Village Fete - approved
	6. Pay £400 Annual Donation to Chittlehampton Village Hall – approved.
	7. Pay £25 donation to Umberleigh Village Fete – approved.
	8. Pay £400 Annual Donation to Umberleigh Village Hall – approved.
	9. Pay £125 Annual Donation to Chittlehampton Methodist Church – approved.

**.gov.uk email addresses –** Council resolved to change to gov.uk email address for the clerk and councillors.

**Open spaces –**

* + 1. VAS signage – ongoing from the June Meeting – Cllr Jones reports that its roughly £5,000 including VAT to do the two signs.
		2. Safety signage for the play area – Chair suggested that Cllr Seatherton be involved with this as their knowledge on the subject is extensive.
		3. Benches – Cllr Brooks sent correspondence regarding the cost of the repair or replacement of the bench at the top of Deptford hill. £175 + VAT for the cost of repair or replace the bench at a cost of £295 with a 25-year guarantee. District Cllr suggested she can help with funding towards a new bench. Cllr Ditchburn is a carpenter/joiner by trade and suggested he could help with the repair. Cllrs voted to have the bench repaired.
		4. Lengsthman – for discussion – Cllr Blyther to talk to Atherington Clerk.

**Planning Applications -**  District Council has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications:

* 80532 – erection of silage pit at South Bray Farm – no comment.
* 80541 – installation of EV charger at Stowford Grange – no comment.

**Council Phone –** Approved. Council to assess how other councils function with clerk phones. Clerk to check costs of purchase.

**VJ/End of WWII –** Planned for Sunday 31st August. Help is needed to erect the marquee on either the Friday or Saturday before the event. Clerk to put a help request on the council Facebook page. Ringing singers available for the cost of £75, payment in cash. The event will be bring your own food, The Bell is providing the bar. Councillors approved this event and the cost.

The hall has been contacted for use of the toilets but no response has been received yet. Clerk checked and the hall has been booked but unclear whether that is the council booking or not. If the booking is not the councils the council resolved to book Umberleigh in its stead.

Council approved the go ahead with this event.

**Management of weeds and overgrown areas –** The short-term resolution currently is that councillors themselves have been maintaining public areas, however the long-term solution is to appeal to the parishioners for a working group to clear the weeds. Clerk is to contact County Cllr Tyldesley as Chittlehampton Parish Council does not own the square, highways do, and so the parish council cannot change anything to land they do not own.

**Play area update –** Phase 2 equipment has been ordered and awaiting delivery which is scheduled for September. A £200 donation cheque was handed to the clerk to be paid in.

**Clerk contract –** Was not discussed openly with the public or the clerk.

**Policies due for review –**

* Child Safeguarding – approved
* Data Protection – approved
* Play area risk assessment – approved
* IT policy – once gov.uk changes are made etc it will be reviewed. Approved.

**Speedwatch update –** Discussed during the members of the public open session.

**Councillor's reports and External Meetings attended (for information only) –** Council resolved to improve their relationship with the village hall committee.

**Date of next meeting -** Wednesday 3rd September at Chittlehampton Methodist School Rooms.

**Meeting concluded:** Council voted to go over the allotted meeting time to cover the last couple of items.

**Meeting concluded:** 22:10

Signed:

Faye Davies

Clerk to Chittlehampton Parish Council

County Councillor Report – July 2025

Dear Parish Councillors,

As we move into the heart of summer, I want to thank everyone who has continued to reach out, share concerns, and invite me to local events. It’s been a busy and productive month, and I’m pleased to share some updates from across the division and the wider County Council.

**Council Finances and Budget Pressures**
Devon County Council has closed the 2024/25 financial year in balance, but the outlook remains challenging. The Council is facing a £30 million funding gap for the current year, and difficult decisions lie ahead. I’ll continue to scrutinise spending - particularly on external contracts and agency staffing - to ensure we’re protecting frontline services and delivering value for money.

**Highways Update – Pothole Repair Blitz**
You may have seen that the Council is trialling a new “pothole repair blitz” as part of an £83 million investment in road maintenance. This includes a more proactive approach to fixing clusters of potholes and improving drainage. I’ve submitted dozens locations from our division for inclusion in the trial and will be monitoring progress closely. Please keep reporting defects and copying me in - your input really does make a difference.

Hopefully you’ve noticed an uptick in pothole repairs in your parishes, as I’ve been out in every single one reporting defects and chasing repairs. We have a long way to go to get the roads into a condition that I’ll be happy with.

**Mount Sandford Road – Landkey**

I recently spent the morning with District Cllr Haworth-Booth talking to residents on Mount Sandford Road, between Landkey and Barnstaple. I couldn’t quite believe the speed at which some motorists travel in that 40mph limit. I have even more respect for the Community Speedwatch group that regularly monitor that road. We are pushing for a combined footpath/cycleway to connect Barnstaple with Landkey, to provide a safe walking route for schoolchildren, as well as allowing residents to walk and cycle to the shops. There will be a petition circulating soon.

**Improving Outcomes for Vulnerable Children**
The new Cabinet has launched a 10-year plan to improve outcomes for Devon’s most vulnerable children. This includes better early intervention, more support for families, and a renewed focus on education and care standards. As a member of the Children’s Scrutiny Committee, I’ll be keeping a close eye on how these ambitions translate into real improvements for children and young people in our area.

**Bus Gate Enforcement – Old Torrington Road**
From later this year, the bus gate on Old Torrington Road in Sticklepath will be enforced by new CCTV cameras. This follows the granting of powers to enforce Moving Traffic Offences, previously only handled by the police – to the County Council. The cameras aim to improve road safety and ensure compliance with long-standing restrictions that prioritise buses, cycles, and taxis. For the first six months, drivers caught breaching the restriction will receive a warning letter; repeat offences or violations after this period will result in a penalty charge notice.

**Household Support Fund – Continued Help for Families**
Despite a huge reduction in government funding, the Council has committed to continuing vital support for households in need. The Household Support Fund remains open, offering help with food, energy, and essential costs. If you know of anyone struggling, please encourage them to apply or get in touch with me for guidance.

**Parish Visits and Local Issues**
I’ve now attended most of the parish councils in the division and continue to rotate attendance to ensure regular contact. I have committed to attending every third meeting of each council, with a focus on answering your questions and raising your issues with the relevant departments. Recent visits have highlighted ongoing concerns about speeding, overgrown verges, and drainage. I’m especially incensed by the poor workmanship I’ve seen on some road repairs. I’ve raised all your issues with the relevant departments and will keep pushing for action.

**Community Events and Engagement**
It was a pleasure to attend Pesticide-Free Devon Conference this month, as well as take part in the Chulmleigh Open Gardens as the Chulmleigh Allotment Association. I arranged for North Devon Homes to host a clear-up day on Bakery Way in Landkey, which was a great opportunity to meet residents and help improve the area. These events are a testament to the energy and dedication of our local volunteers. I’m always happy to support and promote community events - please do let me know what’s happening in your parish.

**Resident Casework**
I’ve continued to support residents with a range of issues, from housing concerns to school transport queries. If you or someone in your parish needs help navigating council services, I’m here to assist.

**Locality Budget**
There’s still funding available through my Locality Budget for community groups, village halls, and local projects. So far I’ve fully funded a Holiday Club for children in Chulmleigh, and contributed towards the bus service for the North Devon Show in August. I’d love to see more applications from across the division.

In the month ahead, I’ll be focused on:

* Monitoring the pothole repair blitz and pushing for improvements in our area.
* Holding the Council to account through the Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, and the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee.
* Helping local groups access funding and support.
* Continuing to build strong relationships with every parish council.

Thank you again for your support and partnership. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch if I can help with anything locally.

With best wishes,
**Cllr Ed Tyldesley**

Community Speed Watch

Umberleigh and Atherington – report dated 3 June 2025

**Executive Summary**

CSW has been operating since 29 November 2024. A small group of volunteers

actively taking steps to prove that there is an issue with speeding vehicles. If more

permanent traffic calming measures are not introduced it is only a matter of time

before there is a serious accident. Maximum speeds recorded in Umberleigh of more

than 57mph immediately outside the entrance to the school. 12% of all third letters

issued in Devon and Cornwall are from Umberleigh and Atherington. 1,186 vehicles

exceeding the speed limit in last 3 months (taken over 14 speed watch sessions).

**Statistics**

Currently there are 10 approved and active sites in Umberleigh, Chittlehampton and

Atherington with between 4-6 active members in Umberleigh and 7-9 in Atherington.

See Appendix for details of approved sites.

Regular sessions have been held for the last **6 months** at these sites. The first

session being in Umberleigh on 29 November 2024. The total number of cars

recorded exceeding the speed limit were **819 in Umberleigh** (30mph zone) and **367**

**in Atherington** (20mph zone)

Umberleigh represents approx. **1%** of all active CSW locations in Devon and

Cornwall but have recording approx. **6% or all offending vehicles** according the

data from the last 3 months. 6% of all first letters, 6% of second letters and 5% of

third letters (See Appendix).

Atherington represents approx. **2%** of all active CSW locations in Devon and

Cornwall but have recording approx. **5% or all offending vehicles** according the

data from the last 3 months. 5% of all first letters, 6% of second letters and 7% of

third letters ( (See Appendix).

This demonstrates a clear need for more permanent traffic calming measures. In the

three months to April 42 third letters were issued by D&C Police, 5 of these from the

CSW teams in Umberleigh and Atherington This means **12% of the more prolific**

**offenders in the whole of Devon and Cornwall are passing through Umberleigh**

**and Atherington.**

1 driver has had a visit from police due to threatening behaviour.

Of all vehicles passing during the 14 sessions held were travelling at or

beyond the threshold to be recorded.

**30%**

**\*Statistics available on the parish council website\***

**These minutes are a draft copy until signed as a true account**