

WEST HILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

HELD ON 4th August 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman Cllr Francis Pullman (FP), Cllr ShirleyMay Saunders (SMS), Cllr Ann Cooper (AC), Cllr Ben Jewell (BJ)

In attendance: Anne Oliver Parish Clerk, 1 member of the public

Apologies: Cllr Michael Owen (MO),

Minute reference 26/

191 Welcome and Chairman's announcements (for information only)

The meeting started at 7.00pm. The Chairman, Cllr FP, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
No announcements were made.

192 Apologies. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence, if considered appropriate.

Cllr Owen sent apologies for his non-attendance. His apology and reason for absence were accepted by the Council.

193 Public question time (3 minutes): To allow members of the public present to give their question/comments to the Parish Council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for further consideration at the discretion of the Chairman, before the start of the Parish Council meeting. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself. (Contributions are limited to 3 minutes).

Footpath Warden, Eileen Perkins, gave a short report:

- Footpaths had been strimmed and were in good condition
- The stile located at the junction of footpath 6+7 was in poor condition as the timber supports had deteriorated further. This matter was previously reported to DCC Public Rights of Way team in February 2026.

Action: The Clerk to report the broken stile to DCC.

194 Declarations of Interest:

- a. To receive Declarations of interest for items on the agenda and receipt of requests for new Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) dispensations for items on the agenda. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at East Devon District Council within 28 days of the change.

Cllrs FP, AC, BJ and SMS each declared no interests for items on the agenda.

195 Confidential/exempt items. In consideration of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted): **to agree any items** to be dealt with after the public and press have been excluded.
None

196 To decide a response to planning applications received:

- **26/1209/FUL** Weggis Farm Higher Metcombe EX11 1SQ
Demolition of agricultural barns and existing dwelling and the construction of 6no. dwellings with associated works following the grant of prior approvals (refs. 25/0026/PDQ and 25/0027/PDQ)

The meeting noted that this application proposed fewer houses on more land compared to the extant permission to convert the farm buildings.

The meeting strongly objected to the application for reasons, including:

- The site is located outside the Built Up Area Boundary
- The site is not sustainable as journeys are very likely to be made by vehicle.
- Adverse impact on the landscape
- Road Safety

- **26/1375/TRE** 17 Hayes End West Hill EX11 1GG
T1: Pine - dismantle standing dead pine down to ground level. The tree has no needles on it Large amounts of necrotic bark at the base and signs of insect boreholes.

The meeting supported the application.

- **26/1374/FUL** Briarscombe West Hill Road West Hill EX11 1TU
Removal of existing conservatory and rear flat roof extension. Construction of single storey extension. Construction of two storey rear extension.

The meeting supported the application.

- **26/1433/TRE** Chorley Mill West Hill Road West Hill Devon EX11 1UZ
3470, Beech : crown raise low branches over road and drive to give 5.5m clearance over road and 3m clearance over drive. 3471, Beech : fell three spot marked stems to reduce shading pressure. 3473, Beech : reduce western side of crown to give 2-3m linear clearance to Tree 3471 and reduce shading pressure. 3475, Norway Maple : remove girdling tree tie.

The meeting considered the mature oaks, trees and hedgerow were a significant feature of the woodland character of the village and in particular the treescape of West Hill Road.

Councillors thanked the applicant for the provision of a detailed arboricultural report. Councillors supported the proposed works subject to confirmation of land ownership and the decision of the Tree Officers.

197 Planning decisions received for information (*denotes WHPC differed): **Noted**

- a. **26/1325/PRETDD** Thrushes Anvil Windmill Lane West Hill EX11 1JP Status: Approved
5 day notice: Cherry: removal Replacement planting: Whitethorn or Aspen
- b. **24/1761/MFUL** Land at Higher Metcombe, EX11 1SL Status: Appeal Dismissed
Appeal Ref: 6005405

Other Matters

- 198** To receive a report from the Chairman and decide actions/costs as appropriate (urgent matters only)

None

- 199** To receive a report from the Clerk and decide actions/costs as appropriate (urgent matters only).

The Clerk's report included:

- The Chairman and Clerk had recently attended a Local Government Reorganisation webinar led by Exeter City Council.
- The report from annual RoSPA playpark inspection had been received and would be reported in full to the next WHPC meeting. All equipment was assessed as LOW/VERY LOW risk. Minor maintenance issues would be referred to the Lengthsman for action.

A member of the public left the meeting.

200 Councillor questions, reports and items for future agenda: Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.

No matters raised

201 Next meeting: To confirm arrangements for the upcoming WHPC meeting on **Tuesday 1st September 2026** 7.00pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting ended 7.40pm

Signed

Date

Signed: *Anne Oliver*, Clerk to the Council, 5th August 2026

DRAFT