ZEAL MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Zeal Monachorum Parish Council on Thursday 30th July 2026

MINUTES

Present - Councillors: Rob Peck (Chair), Ken Hogg, Mike Russell, Sally Rowden, Peter Heal, Steve Keable (County) & Natalia Letch (District) + The Clerk. 5 MOP
Apologies - Cllr A White (District), Alison Birchwhite & Jocelin Birchwhite

1.	**Declarations of Interest** No declarations were provided by Members.
2.	**To approve and sign Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 28th May 2026** The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by all members. **Proposed** – Cllr Hogg **Seconded** – Cllr Russell
3.	**Open Forum** – an opportunity for the Electors to address the Parish Council. The Parish Council encourages the use of an Open Forum. **a.** A resident spoke regarding a Clay Pidgeon Shoot that had taken place on the 18th July 2026. The land involved was connected to the timber store near Broom Hill Copse, and Hayne Bridge. They are upset as a buzzard was found in a nearby field that had been injured and died from an injury. It was unknown if it had been hit by pellets. The bird had not undergone a postmortem. The way in which to shoot was organised raised suspicion that the bird may have been hit by stray pellets. This cannot be proven. The Clay shoot does not seem to have been run properly. The clays would be intermittent and disorganised and the bird was found close in time to the shoot. Further issues arise when the proximity and layout of the footpath is considered as the shoot did not operate any warnings to walkers using the footpath. Clays were also being aimed at open woodland. It is felt that the shoot was not following proper procedures and any legislation about firearms and shoots. The land seems inappropriate for such a shoot. The Parish Council were concerned about the Footpath Issue as well as the Buzzard as a protected species and offered to consider this further. Cllr Peck would speak with the landowner informally prior to informing the Police. Public safety is paramount. **b.** A volunteer has offered to decorate the bus shelter with a mural as it looks in need of tidy up. The Parish Council do not own the shelter but would be willing to supplies materials for the project. Further views on this would be sought but the Parish Council welcome initiatives to clean up the village. The subject of the cleanliness and visual impact the village has. It needs a little work to smarten up some areas. Many residents leave their bins out on the pavement permanently. It was felt that this would improve the aesthetics of the village. MDDC can consider this and Cllr Letch has asked for addresses of properties that do this. **c.** Weeds on the roadside. This is highways responsibility but they do not undertake this. Often groups are formed to informally work on the road but regulations state that this would have to go through the road warden scheme at DCC.
4.	**County / District Council report** **Cllr N. Letch (District)** – The Road Warden Scheme can progress now through MDDC. ZMPC have missed out on this and it will be considered again. **Cllr S. Keable (County)** **Devolution** By the middle of August 2026, wards will be set out and exact numbers of councillors for these areas are unknown.

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Chairman to Zeal Monachorum Parish Council

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	Exeter has run out of building land and will have to take over Crediton. As the new boundary between Exeter and Devon Coast and Countryside has significantly altered, Exeter can take advantage of this to build houses. Devolution will cost £70 million. This will be funded by Council Tax. 200 council staff will be taken of their job to concentrate on devolution. 103 Councillors are also seeking a meeting venue that is large enough for everyone. This has not been considered at all. 20% of consultees supported this, nobody else did and it is of the view that the project is entirely political. The geography of the new Devon authorities is vast; the new Devon Coast and Countryside authority stretches from Holsworthy to Axminster. Devolution is political, urban areas with labour support have been favoured in this exercise. Further updates will be provided through Cllr Keables monthly update. Information can also be found on DCC's website - https://www.devon.gov.uk/devolution-and-lgr/ Other matters were raised below. The Road Warden Scheme has been updated. We can progress this as best as we can and DCC are working through all requests for this. Recycling – doing very well. Renewing the recycling line is being improved. Leisure centres are offering discounted membership for the summer break. New Social housing is being considered. Planning permissions are being approved for housing. From May 2027, there will be a shadow council. MDDC will continue for 1 yr and then be dissolved. Roundabout at Tesco – This was all funded by Tesco. The work will also improve the road to the Station. This will benefit the train usage. Electrified trains are forecast to come by 2035.
5.	**Property / Environment** **a. Allotment provision for Zeal Monachorum Parish** – To consider the current position on land nr Bow Football Fields and to implement any actions required. At present, there is not enough persons who have requested allotment that forces the Parish Council to carry out their duty of allotment provisions. **b. Parish Council Notice Board –** To receive an update on a new Notice board and to agree on further action to replace the board. Cllr Hogg reports that a metal notice board cannot be provided. Other options are closed and an off the shelf notice board is required. Cllr Hogg will look at these to agree on at the September Meeting. **c. Footpath Access Issues.** To receive any reports on Footpath Issues. There were no issues to report on. Members did comment on work being reported and never being undertaken. The Clerk is asked to contact a DCC officer to consider the old request made and get them actioned at DCC.
6.	**Den Brook Windfarm Fund Report** There is a new RFO and they are working well. New applications are to be considered on the 31st July. No applications from Zeal have been made. New applications can be submitted from 31st July onwards. This funding will again be advertised in the magazine for the next two months.
7.	**s.106 Applications -** To consider any s.106 applications - There were no application for consideration. A resident asked if money from s.106 could be used for bird boxes within the village. This is a good example of s.106 funding being available for open spaces.
9.	**Planning** **a. MDDC Local Plan Timetable.** This is forthcoming but no public consultation has occurred yet. This maybe in flux due to devolution.

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	b. To agree on dates for Planning Training. Anytime in October was generally acceptable. The cost would be £250. IT was thought that nearby parishes would be invited to attend or share the cost. This was approved by all members. **Proposed** – Cllr Heal **Seconded** – Cllr Hogg
9.	**Finance** **Balance Instant Access** - £14,536.99 **Savings** - £2,110.75 **a. Payments to be made.** Village Hall Rent – July 2026 - **£16.00** Clerks Salary – **£990.90** Clerks Expenses Home working allowance - **£102** Mileage replacement defibrillator battery - **£5.75** **Other Payment made** Defibrillator Battery - **£244.79** These payments were agreed by all members present. **Proposed –** Cllr Rowden **Seconded –** Cllr Hogg **b. Funding Request** Zeal Monachorum PCC, churchyard donation. To agree a donation amount to the PCC for upkeep of the churchyard. A figure of £600 had been discussed and agreed by all members present. **Proposed** – Cllr Heal **Seconded** – Cllr Russell
10.	**Member Statements** Cllr Heal has been appointed and Honorary Alderman of Devon. He gave an overview of the role to all members. Congratulations were passed on from the Council on this appointment. Cllr Rowden - Con Agri has a new building at the site. Work is undertaken and this can investigate as we have not received any planning applications for consideration.
11.	**There were no further topics for consideration within the Ordinary Meeting which concluded at 20.10 pm.** **Members approved moving into Part 2 as per the agenda.**
12.	**Part 2 -** To resolve that under section 1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, The public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting. During consideration of items of business if publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted as it involves the likely disclosure of personnel, commercially sensitive or legal matters. **A Part 2 was held to discuss the following general points:** a. Planning enforcement. b. Clerking. **This meeting concluded at 20.25pm**
	Date of next meeting –24th September 2026

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