

INWARDLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL.

Clerk to the council: Inwardleighpc@gmail.com

Minutes from the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Inwardleigh Parish Council on:- Wednesday 30th April 2025 at Folly Gate Parish Hall.

In attendance:	Cllr. Dennis (Chair)	Cllr. Timms	Cllr. Piddington
	Cllr. Henderson	Cllr. Ions	Cllr King
	Clerk: Mrs. Clarke		
	WDBC Leach	WDBC Dexter	

Village Hall Committee members:

Mr. P. Dennis	Ms. S. Ellacott	Ms. T.
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Minutes.

01/04/25 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hooper

02/04/25 There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda:

03/04/25 Due to no Public attendance there was no need for a public participation period

04/04/25 Village Hall

Meeting Purpose: An extraordinary meeting was requested of the Parish Hall Committee to address the deteriorating condition of the Hall roof and to clarify responsibilities regarding its maintenance and associated legal and insurance implications.

It was noted that the Parish Hall Committee is effectively operating as trustees under Charity Commission guidance, even though they refer to themselves as committee members. There was consensus that the Committee is responsible for the day-to-day operation and minor repairs of the Hall. The Committee's current remit does not clearly extend to large capital projects such as the replacement of the roof.

The Hall is currently insured under the Parish Council's policy with limited liability cover. Historical records indicate the Hall Committee previously had its own insurance before the Parish Council took over. The lack of trustee-specific insurance poses a significant liability risk to individual members. It was proposed that trustee insurance be arranged.

The Discussion highlighted a need for clarity regarding the Committee's authority to undertake structural work and enter contracts. A suggestion was made to seek independent legal advice to confirm legal responsibilities and protect both the Parish Council and Committee members.

Since the Parish Council owns the Hall, options such as leasing the Hall to the Committee under a "peppercorn" arrangement were considered to formalise responsibilities and enable independent insurance.

There was an acknowledgment that current circumstances require more formal governance. Members expressed strong support for continuing the volunteer-led operation of the Hall, provided proper protections are in place.

Actions Agreed/Next Steps:

- Review and circulate the existing Constitution of the Hall Committee.
- Explore the establishment of a formal trustee agreement.
- Investigate appropriate trustee insurance policies.
- Seek legal advice on the governance and authority of the Hall Committee.
- Consider the feasibility and implications of leasing the Hall from the Parish Council to the Committee.

The meeting was constructive and cooperative, with a shared goal of ensuring the future sustainability and compliance of the Parish Hall operations.

05/04/25 Planning - 1186/25/HHO 4 The Grove Folly Gate EX20 3FT -Conservatory application. No objections or comments received the decision made was to remain neutral on the application.

06/04/25 Matters for consideration at the next meeting:

A recent road accident occurred between the pub and the garage near Elmy Cross. No fatalities, but injuries were reported. Concern raised about the lack of official accident data, which hinders efforts to argue for reduced speed limits or speed control measures. The clerk agreed to contact local police, to seek official records and explore further action through SCARF (Speed Compliance Action Review Forum).

Road Markings and Maintenance

Concern was expressed over missing central road lines and inconsistent repainting. Priority appeared to be given to other markings like disabled bays. It was suggested to follow this up with local highways to address road safety and visibility issues.

Police and Community Engagement, Cllr Leech indicated that there was positive feedback on community policing and engagement, particularly with Inspector Dan Jones, who has shown a proactive attitude. The informal public-police engagement meetings as noted was a valuable opportunity for residents.

07/04/25 Date of next meeting: 21st May 2025 at 8pm

08/04/25 Meeting closed: 21:12

Signed.....

Date.....