

Ordinary Meeting of Harberton Parish Council
Tuesday 8 September 2026

11. Correspondence

- 11.1. E-Circulars for information Cllrs are informed that the Clerk receives the following regular e-circulars, that can be forwarded on request: Citizens Advice South Hams, Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency, Devon Communities Together, Devon County Council Community News Round-up, Devon Home Choice, Emergency Planning newsletter, Friends of the Dart, Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM), Harberton Village Email, Healthwatch Devon, Information Commissioners Office, National Association of Local Councils Events newsletter, One Devon NHS Integrated Care Board, Parish Online, Rural Services Network, SLCC Membership, South Hams Society
- 11.2. Items of correspondence for information
- 11.2.1. 20260716 DALC LGR bulletin #5 Cllrs are advised this bulletin includes a link to Central Government's Announcement Local Government Reorganisation in 13 areas across England. The announcement relevant to Devon, Plymouth and Torbay follows: *"11 councils being reorganised into 4 unitaries. This will align boundaries with economic geography to unlock housing and infrastructure growth, supporting Plymouth's defence sector and Exeter's expansion as key urban engines"*.
- 11.2.2. 20200716 Government confirms four unitary council model for Devon A newsletter from Devon County Council provides a link has been provided to a statement made by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with the following reference to the preferred option for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay: *"Four unitary proposal submitted by Exeter City Council and Plymouth City Council. I will exercise the power to modify the proposal to achieve the boundary change Exeter City Council and Plymouth City Council requested alongside the proposal"*. The Bulletin notes that Government's announcement marks the next stage in the reorganisation process. Work will now continue nationally and locally to develop detailed implementation plans, and the arrangements required to establish the new authorities. Devon County Council will work with partners, stakeholders and government to support the transition process.
- 11.2.3. 20260717 An update on Local Government Reorganisation in Devon A bulletin from South Hams District Council advises on the Government's announcement on plans for LGR, noting that the Government's preferred option will result in a substantial part of the South Hams incorporated into Plymouth (in the West), Torbay (in the East) with the remainder of the district incorporated into the new Devon Coast and Countryside council, and with a quote from the Council Leader commenting on the Government's *"failure to understand or appreciate the needs of Devon's rural towns and villages or our coastal communities"* and criticising the Government's *"flawed obsession with economic growth solely in urban areas, it demonstrates a lack of understanding for what matters for our residents and businesses, and what will actually support growth and prosperity for our area"*. The District Council's priority is to ensure a smooth, well-managed transition that protects essential services.
- 11.2.4. Queries and concerns about gravel on Morleigh Road (Harbertonford) post resurfacing Cllrs are informed of worries raised by a local resident about the potential for excess gravel to be washed down Morleigh Road and into the drains and putting the houses at the foot of the hill at a higher risk of flooding. At the resident's request, the Clerk forwarded the query to Devon County Highways to ask for reassurance as to whether a flooding risk assessment was done and how Highways plans to manage the excess gravel. A reply from Highways was received to comment that The loose chippings will be compacted the more they are driven over. There will be a sweep undertaken to pick up the loose chippings that are not compacted by vehicular movement. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer can carry out a check on the drains in a few weeks and if required raise tasks for DCC contractors to attend. The Clerk has asked for an update.
- 11.2.5. 20260722 Scoping Consultation: South Hams and West Devon Joint Local Plan Cllrs are advised that the Councils are seeking views on: the vision and objectives for the new Joint Local Plan; the key issues for the new Joint Local Plan to address; and, how the Councils should engage with people throughout the plan-making process. The best way to read and respond to the local plan scoping consultation is on the council's online consultation platform 'Commonplace.' Representations must be received by the Councils by 11.59pm on Thursday 24 September 2026.
- 11.2.6. 20260730 #34 2026 e-bulletin Cllrs are informed that the senior responsible officer and deputy senior responsible officer for local government reorganisation in Devon, will provide an update on the reorganisation programme at DALC's annual conference on 7 October 2026. The bulletin also advises that the Revised National Planning Policy Framework has been delayed until September.

- 11.2.7. 20260804 Update on Natural Flood Management (NFM) delivery in Harberton Cllrs are informed of an update from the **Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) Project Officer** that the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team has been working with the landowners in the catchment to finalise NFM plans across three fields. Land drainage consent has been approved for two of these and are just waiting on the third. Officers will then work with the landowners to find contractors and aim to deliver the schemes late summer/early autumn whilst it is still dry. An Expression of Interest will then be submitted into the Environment Agency's new NFM fund, with the aim of delivering a phase two of works in the remaining fields across the catchment. The deadline for this is 7 September, with decisions on successful bids expected in the new year. If unsuccessful, alternative funding streams will be sought to deliver these works. The Parish Council will be kept informed on delivery of NFM in coming months. Any questions are welcomed.
- 11.2.8. 20260807 Temporary Traffic Order OLD ROAD, Harberton TTRO2671668 and TTRO2671671 On Site Notices Cllrs are informed that there were two road closure notices, the first covering the period 17 – 21 Aug, and the second from 22 Aug to 12 Sept 2026 in order to enable a sewer connection.
- 11.2.9. 20260809 Agenda and papers for TRAYE Project AGM Saturday 15th August 2026 Cllrs are informed of the invitation to attend the AGM. The agenda for the meeting together with the annual Statement of Accounts and the minutes of last year's 2025 AGM were attached and can be forwarded to interested cllrs. please consider standing for election as a Trustee. The elections for Trustees and project officers would take place at the AGM.
- 11.2.10. 20280814 TAPs update - LGR in Devon Cllrs are informed via a Town and Parish Council update from South Hams District Council, the Senior Responsible Officer for Devon has developed new warding arrangements for the 4 new unitary authority areas on the request of Central Government. These are interim/temporary warding arrangements to intended to enable safe, lawful and deliverable elections for the new shadow authorities in May 2027. A [presentation providing a full update on the details is available here](#) (HTML). The decision to accept these rests with the Secretary of State who will set out the final arrangements as part the draft Structural Change Order, expected in the autumn.
- 11.2.11. 20260820 DALC e-bulletin #37 2026 This bulletin provides further information on interim warding arrangements for Devon, providing links to [DCC Cabinet papers for the special meeting of the Cabinet on 14 Aug 2026](#) (HTML), and [a YouTube recording of the meeting here](#) (HTML).
- 11.2.12. 20260903 Temporary Traffic Notice PLYMOUTH ROAD Harberton TTRO2672617 Cllrs are informed of the road closure notice between 9:30am – 3:30pm on Sun 22 Nov 2026 affecting Plymouth Road, Totnes, Outside Hay Hill to between Prospect Place and Elwell Gardens. The closure is in place to enable cabling work. No alternative route is in place.
- 11.3. Items of correspondence for consideration
- 11.3.1. 20260707 All Town & Parish Council Briefing: Planning Decision-Making Process Cllrs are informed of an online meeting via MS Teams at 5pm on Thursday, 24 September to provide information on changes Central Government is making to how planning applications will be determined, with the objective to *'introduce greater clarity and consistency in the role of planning committees in Development Management (DM) decision-taking'*. A meeting link will be provided for any cllrs or officers who wish to attend.
- 11.3.2. 20260903 All-Town & Parish Council Briefing: UPDATE In addition to the email above, an update has been provided informing cllrs that SHDC is going to take the opportunity to add a second discussion item (Local Government Reorganisaion (LGR)) on to the 'agenda'. For absolute clarity (and with indicative timings), this Briefing will now take the following form: 5:00pm to 5:45pm: LGR; and 5:45pm to 6:30pm: Revised Planning Decision-Making Process.
- 11.3.3. 20230903 Autumn DCRF Forum and Hub Workshops Cllrs are informed of a day long workshop taking place between 10am – 4pm on Thurs 22 Oct at Totnes Civic Hall focused on Emergency Planning, Skills Mapping and Networking. The session will be interactive and practical and designed to help communities strengthen their emergency preparedness through structured mapping and skills auditing activities. During the session, attendees will have the opportunity to: Define and understand your community in an emergency planning context; Identify and map local strengths, assets and risks; Assess existing skills and capabilities within your community; Highlight gaps and develop initial actions to improve local resilience. Participation is free, and includes a light lunch and refreshments. A booking link can be provided.