

Ordinary Meeting of Harberton Parish Council
Tuesday 13 October 2026

13. Correspondence

- 13.1. 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
- 13.2. Items of correspondence for information.
- 13.2.1. 20260907 DAAT Landing sites - annual re survey - Thursday 10th September 2026 Cllrs are informed that Devon Air Ambulance were due to undertake a site survey on 10 Sept to check that nothing has substantially changed that would affect safety of helicopters, staff or patients. This includes resurveying for potential obstacles or height of trees, access etc.
- 13.2.2. 20260913 Your data protection fee Upcoming Direct Debit payment Cllrs are informed that the Parish Council's annual data controller's registration fee with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as is due for renewal. The annual fee amount is £52, minus £5 fee reduction for paying by direct debit, and will be debited from the Parish Council's account on or around the expiry date of on or around the expiry date of 25 Oct.
- 13.2.3. 20260914 Temporary Traffic Notice - ROAD FROM FORE STREET TO TRISTFORD ROAD, Harberton (TTRO2672763) Cllrs are informed of the road closure notice in place from 2 – 5 Dec 2026 to enable a blockage clearance. A signed diversion will be in place.
- 13.2.4. 20260917 #41 2026 DALC e-bulletin Cllrs are informed that this e-bulletin includes a helpful summary of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, now that the new framework has been approved and published. Those considered noteworthy by DALC include the following: a) A strengthened presumption in favour of development within settlement (it also includes a new national definition of a settlement). b) Expanded the geographical coverage of 'well connected' train stations to those in the top 80 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) by Gross Value Added from the top 60. Within 'well connected' stations there will be 'default yes' for development. The top 80 TTWAs can be found [here](#). c) Permits local plans to set higher energy efficiency standards than national building standards. d) Greater protection of 'key community assets' such as pubs, recreational facilities and music venues. e) Strengthened protection for National Parks and National Landscapes. f) Stated neighbourhood plans must 'have regard to' national decision-making policies, not 'accord with' them as in the previous draft. g) Strengthens support for proposals promoting good health, preventing ill-health or reducing health inequalities (such as the provision of new recreation facilities, meeting places and opportunities to grow or purchase healthier food). h) Explicitly recognises need to consider the safety of women and girls in design.
- 13.2.5. 20260924 Taxi Fare Review Cllrs are informed that South Hams District Council is undertaking a review of taxi fares and is inviting comment on the consultation. More information can be found [here https://shtaxifares.commonplace.is/](https://shtaxifares.commonplace.is/) Responses should be made before 22 Oct 26. The Parish Council is encouraged to share the consultation with any groups it believes would be affected.
- 13.2.6. 20260926 #42 2026 DALC e-bulletin Cllrs are informed that this e-bulletin includes a link to the invitation to share views on the proposals for Plymouth City Council to become a constituent member of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) and the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority. Anyone is invited to [submit your views](#) on whether Plymouth should join, the benefits and opportunities you think it could bring, any concerns you have, the move to a directly elected mayor and the priorities you think a larger authority should pursue.
- 13.2.7. 20260929 South Hams Town and Parish Council Update Cllrs are informed that this update also provides links to the open consultation on Plymouth joining the CCA and on whether the CCA should seek to become a Mayoral Authority. The bulletin continues to provide information that a Mayoral Strategic Authority would be led by a directly elected Mayor, with responsibility for devolved strategic powers and funding relating to areas such as transport, skills, economic development, housing and strategic planning. Local councils would continue to operate as they do now, retaining responsibility for local services and decision making. The consultation seeks views on both the potential benefits and any concerns associated with this change. A link is provided: <https://devolutionindevon.commonplace.is/> The bulletin also advises that a call for sites for the new Local Plan has been extended until 14 November. The Local Authority asks cllrs to encourage any landowners in the area that might be interested in proposing sites to get in touch. The Local Authority is looking for land that could potentially be used for housing, Gypsy & Traveller sites,

- employment, retail and leisure, renewable energy, or nature and biodiversity. Those interested should follow this link: <https://cfs.plymouth-swdevon.urbanintelligence.co.uk/events>
- 13.2.8. 20260927 River Hub is live Friends of the Dart is circulating news that a new section of its new website site, 'River Hub' has been launched. The site brings together all available data on storm overflows on the River Dart, how often it spills, whether its treatment works has the capacity its permit allows for the people it serves, the spills that happen in dry weather with no rain to excuse them, and whether an improvement is planned. Where there is a known problem and no clear plan to fix it, River Hub shows that gap. Information is freely available here: <https://riverhub.friendsofthedart.org/explore/spills>
- 13.2.9. 20260929 Town & Parish Council Briefing: Recording and Presentation Slides SHDC has circulated a recording of the 1.5hr briefing on '*Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution Update*' and '*National Scheme of Delegation*' along with presentation slides. The clerk can forward to cllrs on request.
- 13.2.10. 20261008 A new guide for your home, and a new website Cllrs are informed that Friends of the Dart has launched a new website www.friendsofthedart.org and published the 'Household River Care Manual', a new guide to what every home can do for the Dart. Water companies and farming carry much of the responsibility for pollution in the Dart, but some of it starts in ordinary homes; none of it is done on purpose, and most of it is easy to change. The new manual goes room by room, from the kitchen and bathroom to drains, the garden and the dog, with the evidence behind every action. There is a page for homes that aren't on mains drainage, with advice on septic tanks. If you only have a few minutes, start with ten things you can do this weekend: a fat jar by the cooker, a bin in the bathroom, old medicines back to the pharmacy. You can print a one-page fridge sheet or download the whole manual as a PDF. Residents are encouraged to make a pledge for your household. Friends of the Dart is also fundraising for River Guardians, a network of local volunteers who each look after their own stretch of the Dart or one of its tributaries, with training in spotting and reporting pollution. If you would like to be one, the page explains how it will work. Testing results, reports and responses to government consultations are now in one place under Resources
- 13.2.11. 20261008 #44 2026 DALC e-bulletin Cllrs are informed that this bulletin includes information about a Security and Safety Presentation that was made by Devon and Cornwall Police at September's 'Connect' event for members. Officers gave an insightful presentation providing advice, guidance and reassurance on personal, physical and cyber security matters - not just for councillors' work life but also their day-to-day life. The e-bulletin shared a couple of top tips which DALC thought might be particularly helpful to members:
- SOS options: did you know that you can set up your phone and smart watch to give off an SOS alarm if you find yourself in a challenging situation
 - Campaigning: particularly useful given the 2027 elections - always campaign in pairs and do not enter anyone's home.
 - Seating at council meetings: always ensure that the council is facing the public (do not sit with your back to them) and ensure there is sufficient distance between members and the public.
- 13.3. Items of correspondence for consideration
- 13.3.1. 20260917 Dogs on a lead The Parish Council is asked to clarify whether dogs could be let off the lead at the bottom of Woodcourt Road as it is their understanding that the lane is not classified. This follows discussion on social media about places in which dogs could be walked off the lead in Harbertonford, so to avoid the parks and other areas that are closed to dogs.
- 13.3.2. 20261018 Harberton Parish crisis planning Cllrs are informed of correspondence asking if the Parish Council has a community crisis plan in place to manage instances such as wildfires or flood events. The enquirer asks questions such as: Do we know where our water supply comes from, is it vulnerable to power cuts, and how long might a supply of fresh water last? (Is it stored in a reservoir?) Is there scope for generating and storing electricity locally? Do we have first responders in the parish for any given crisis? The Clerk has responded providing an update on the flood resilience workshop held in 2025, the intention to hold a secondary workshop and that an application has been made for Emergency Hub kits for both Harberton and Harbertonford halls and asks the enquirer if they'd be interested in volunteering to join an effort to co-ordinate work.
- 13.3.3. 20260920 People's Emergency Briefing Cllrs are informed of an invitation from Sustainable Harbourne Valley (SHV) to attend a screening of the of the People's Emergency Briefing film on the threats to British life from ongoing damage to nature and to our climate. Following the 50-minute film, SHV will host a structured local discussion on what this means for our community, including implications for local preparedness, resilience and long-term planning. The Parish Council has been forwarded a carbon footprint impact report for Harberton Parish, that provides local information to contribute to that discussion. As the screening event has been arranged to take place on the same date and time as the November meeting of the Parish Council, the Parish Council may wish to send a delegation to watch the film and participate in local discussion, or

alternatively, may wish to pursue its own screening on an alternative date. The carbon footprint impact report for Harberton Parish has been circulated to cllrs for information.

- 13.3.4. 20260922 Harbertonford Cllrs are informed of correspondence from a resident commenting that the pavements in Harbertonford are becoming very overgrown. It was commented that this was reported to South Hams DC, who the resident believes use to someone who drove a sweeper Machine and when he did the village kerbs he always carried a broom/ shovel etc and cleaned back the weeds from pathway. As those pathways are now halfway across covered with vegetation, is there any way we could ask for village volunteers to help in a tidy up. It was noted that with cuts to budgets several villages and towns run regular community clean ups to pick up some of these jobs.
- 13.3.5. 20260930 Community Litter Picking Groups in Your Parish South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council are reviewing and updating records of community litter-picking groups operating across both districts. The councils are seeking to establish a directory of community litter picking groups should other volunteers be interested in joining them. The Parish Council is therefore asked to provide any information about active groups known to them, to confirm if there aren't any, or to share information if there has been interested in establishing a group in the area. Information will help district councils understand where additional support, promotion or community engagement may be beneficial.