

DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal and Coombe
Monthly meeting Wednesday 1 April 2026

Item 18 Correspondence and contacts summary

To note:

- 20260313 Temporary Traffic Notice THE LEVEL, Dittisham TTRO2668670 Cllrs are informed of the road closure on The Level from Middle Meadow to Pump Cottage on June 3 and 4 2026 to enable an Openreach pole replacement.
- 20260319 Oil Heating Payments Cllrs are informed that Central Government has allocated money to the County Council to distribute to low-income households affected by increased oil heating costs through a new 'Crisis and Resilience Fund' (CaRF). The District Council is in the process of proactively establishing those eligible through census and EPC data and cross referring this with benefits data. The team is working at pace to get the funding distributed as quickly as possible.
- 20260325 Minutes of the Dart Harbour Communities Group Cllrs were informed that minutes have been circulated to Parish Clerks. The results of the Environment Agency's water testing for summer 2025 was included with minutes, showing poor water quality at Totnes Steamer Quay & Stoke Gabriel and bathing not advised, and 'excellent' water quality at Dittisham, Warfleet Creek & Castle Cove. Based on these results, Dart Harbour strongly recommends that you do not swim in the upper reaches of the Dart Estuary, north of Higher Gurrew Point / Sandridge Boathouse. The Harbour Master's (HM)'s report included news that: the Dart 10K will be taking place this year with competitors swimming up river as this will allow organisers to manage issues around water quality; a project called 1 River, 8 Destinations is underway to encourage visiting yachts to explore the river, spending more time in the Dart, thus spreading the commercial benefits to the communities living alongside; the HM is working to find a provider of a ferry taxi service to operate between the riparian towns and parishes. The Group was also informed that litigation lawyers are investigating litigation against water companies following a change in UK law that could make water companies liable under the law of "nuisance".

To consider:

- 20260306 'Slippery lane' A member of the public has written to the Parish Council to comment that the path/ lane which leads down to Ditsum creek off lower street, has become treacherously slippery, especially nearer the bottom of lane, where the algae is particularly slippery and green. There is still quite a bit of water running down, but hopeful that something can be done.
- 20260313 Progress on campaign to buy community energy locally Having been a supporter of the nationwide campaign for legislation to enable people to buy power from local community-run energy schemes, the Parish Council has been provided with the update that 114 MPs have signed the Parliamentary motion in support of the campaign – Early Day Motion 2151 'Buying community energy locally', which can be seen here: <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/64572>. The Parish Council has been asked if it can ask people to forward an attached briefing to the local MP, to keep the momentum going.
- 20260323 First Aid The Parish Council has been asked if it will be running another First Aid Course soon.
- 20260324 Snow warden scheme Cllrs are informed that Devon County Council's (DCC's) Network Response & Winter Service Engineer has responded to draft proposals for a joint snow warden scheme. It has been suggested that the group of Parish Councils reconvenes to discuss the response, which is broadly supportive of shared voluntary efforts and makes proposals on next steps, but notes that the paid contractor element of the proposal could not form part of the voluntary Snow Warden Scheme and the Parish Councils would need to ensure any paid contractors would have appropriate insurance in place. Quantity of salt required for mechanical spreading may also be in excess of the free quantities available to parishes for hand spreading.
- 20260325 Community Asset Transfer Update Cllrs are informed that South Hams District Council has circulated its policy for the transfer of community assets and instructions on how to use a map to identify assets which the Parish Council may wish to apply to take ownership of, within the context of Local Government Reorganisation.
- 20260326 Meet to discuss BlackBerry Cottage works Cllrs have been asked for a meeting to discuss works at BlackBerry Cottage and access by workmen and equipment via Manor Street The Lane entrance.