

DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal
and Coombe

Monthly meeting Wednesday 2 September 2026

Item 9 Clerk's Update

- Parish Paths Partnership Grant The 2026/27 grant request has been submitted and processed. Waymarker discs will be posted once Devon County Council has replenished its stocks.
- South West Water (SWW) Trial Hole Survey SWW required access to The Ham on 14 July 2026 for a trial hole survey to support a scheme to reduce the use of storm overflows by taking storm water out of the sewerage network. The trial hole was dug in order to confirm the diameter of the pipe, and to ensure current records on its location are correct. The surveying team needed to return on 5 August 2026 to carry out another trial hole as they weren't able to locate the main sewer in the first survey.
- Letter of Support to Friends of the Dart A letter was drafted by the Clerk in support of a grant application being made by Friends of the Dart for funding for the River Guardians programme. The letter drew on matters discussed at July's meeting, where the Parish Council agreed to work in co-operation with Friends of the Dart.
- Devon County Highways matters:
 - Hedge Cutting The Clerk had been approached by two residents, one with a complaint about a hedge on the route from Dittisham to Brambletor that, in their view, needed to be cut back for safety reasons, and another from a hedge owner with a complaint that their hedge had been badly cut without being advised in advance, asking if the Parish Council had contracted this work. Highways confirmed that these hedges had been cut as part of DCC's cyclic maintenance programme to ensure that visibility on bends, sightlines, and the approaches to warning signs are kept clear, in line with safety policy. DCC does not have definitive information on individual hedge ownership, and in many cases landowners delay cutting until later in the summer due to bird-nesting considerations. For safety reasons, DCC carry out these essential visibility cuts earlier in the season.
 - 20mph and SLOW markings In response to the Parish Council's request that the 20mph and SLOW markings were refreshed in Dittisham and Capton, DCC Highways has advised the Clerk that these markings are usually renewed under a Parish Remark Programme. Following receipt of the Parish Council's request Dittisham Parish (including Capton) has been added to the county wide list. The Officer is unable to advise when this work might be undertaken as, due to costs, only a few parishes in the County get their lining refreshed each year. The route from Brambletor to Higher Street is due to be patched shortly in preparation for surface dressing next year. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer has requested the Surface Dressing is not carried through Higher Street as this is more a residential area. If there are markings within the Higher Street site, then the Officer will ask if they can be remarked when the patching is completed.
- Landing light repairs The repair due in mid-August has been delayed until a bespoke bracket can be manufactured.
- Bin Emptying It was reported to SHDC that bins on The Ham had not been emptied as per the summer agreement. This was then passed on to the depot supervisor, who was reminded of the request to increase collections over the summer. There was no reason given for why this was missed, so hopefully collections have happened as normal now the crew has been reminded.
- Payroll arrangements Due to a change in HMRC requirements, the Parish Council's PAYE scheme has now been formally registered as an authorized client on South Hams District Council's HMRC Agent Account.