

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

Monthly meeting Wednesday 7 October 2026

Item 18 Correspondence and contacts summary

To note:

- 20261007 Notification of Road Closure The parish council has received a notice that South West Water (SWW) has applied for a road closure to undertake utility works in Manor Street Dittisham. These works, subject to approval, will take place between 25th January to 25th March 2027. A Temporary Traffic Order (TTO) reference TTRO2773997 was received on 23 November, notifying the parish council the traffic restriction will be in place in order to lay a new surface water pipe, 2 manholes and existing gully connections. The official road closure notice is dated 4 Jan – 25 March 2026. See request for a meeting from Network Plus under correspondence 'to consider'.
- 20261008 A new guide for your home, and a new website Cllrs are informed that Friends of the Dart has launched a new website <http://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. 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. You can print a one-page fridge sheet or download the whole manual as a PDF. If you only have a few minutes, start with ten things you can do this weekend. 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.
- 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.
- 20261014 Notification of Road Closure – Work Ref LM180NP50040701LS The Parish Council has been informed that South West Water has applied for a road closure to undertake utility works in Lower Street Dittisham. These works, subject to approval from Dorset Highways, will take place between 5 January to 25 March 2027. See request for a meeting from Network Plus under correspondence 'to consider'.
- 20291014 Annual Premises Report The Village Hall Management Committee has sent the parish council an annual premises report for the village hall, along with a condition survey for the village hall roof. The clerk will circulate for interest. It is noted that the Finance Working Group is reviewing this, alongside the grant request for the 2027/28 financial year.
- 20261015 Devon Highways Update W262021664 Cllrs are informed that following reports made of a defective/missing sign on The Level, that occasionally, street furniture has to be removed from telegraph poles for safety reasons (to allow for the pole to be tested for example), and so the sign may not be returned to the telegraph pole. If this happens to be the case, then a new steel pole will be erected close by to fit the advisory sign to instead. This is not always a quick process, but it is in hand and will be actioned as soon as practicable.
- 20261028 Award The Dart Harbour Communities Group has shared news that the Dart Harbour & Navigation Authority has received the SME Port of the Year Award. In a press release the Harbour Master is quoted as saying "It is absolutely fantastic to be recognised by this prestigious award at national level. We constantly work hard to improve the River Dart and give access to the water for everyone, from leisure users to our vital commercial partners who use the port for trade and innovation. This award means a great deal to the whole team and we are all very proud. We will continue to nurture and develop the harbour with enthusiasm and drive."
- 20261030 #47 2026 e-bulletin This bulletin includes a note that in the Budget it was confirmed that the Government will be minded to approve a bid for a Mayoral Strategic Authority for Devon. Devon's first Mayor, in Spring 2028, will have devolved spending powers to shape transport, housing, training and planning policies.

To consider:

- 20261019 The Ham and The Level, Dittisham: an alternative at review, with a profit share for the parish; LDK Group The Parish Council has received a marketing email from a parking management company asking cllrs to consider entering into an agreement with them at a time when current arrangements with South Hams District Council are under review. Their parking solution is based on number plate recognition with no coin machines. There no capital cost to the parish council for installation of the equipment, as the car park would operate as a profit share with the installing company.
- 20261022 #46 DALC 2026 e-bulletin Cllrs are informed that this bulletin includes information about a new training course that provides guidance on practical steps that a parish council can realistically take to make a difference to wildlife in the local community. The first part of the session looks at complying with the new Biodiversity Duty. This would be important information in order for the parish council to draft a biodiversity policy, as agreed. The online session will take place from 4:30 – 8:30pm on 19 November, at a cost of £42.
- 20261026 Blocked Gully top end of Riverside Road [and request for the spare bus to be parked elsewhere] A member of the public has reported that the gully in the hedge under the "Spare Bus" is blocked. It was also queried whether it would be possible to locate the bus somewhere else and give parking to people who live in Higher St. and Lower St. As it is never used. The correspondence continues to comment that it is a hazard in the road when driving up Riverside road and when the school bus has to turn.
- 20261026 Dittisham Road Notice [Request for a meeting with Network Plus] A meeting has been requested with Network plus to consult with members on the designs in process for the works due to take place in Dittisham from January -March 2027. Cllrs are asked for a suitable date for a daytime meeting, that could be held in person or via Teams. This meeting with councillors would precede an opportunity for members of the public to attend a 'drop in' event in Dittisham where plans/designs will be made publicly available. The 'drop in' event is to be arranged at the Village Hall sometime in November/December.