WOODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Your Parish Council

Woodbury Parish Council normally consists of 13 Members who volunteer their time for the benefit of the community. They run drop-in sessions, attend our monthly Full Council meetings, Committees, various Sub Committees and Working Groups, also are representatives of the Parish on outside bodies. They also represent the community in dealing with District / County Council and national matters and are involved in helping organise events, as well as other initiatives in the Parish. Together they assist in the efficient smooth running of the Council.

From our Parish Council Office in Woodbury, the Clerk to the Council and her Assistant provides full administration for the day-to-day running of the Council, including all financial matters, Health, and Safety, and makes sure the Council is working legally and within their remit. They also provide a service to the community giving information to residents in person, via our noticeboards, website; https://woodburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/ and Facebook and X, please follow us.

The Parish Council has many assets and maintains numerous footpaths, allotments, play and open spaces across the villages in the Parish.

Report by the Chairman of Woodbury Parish Council

Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting. I would like to begin by thanking all my fellow Councillors for their dedication over the past year. It has been demanding at times, and they have given many hours of their time volunteering in representation of this Parish. I am also grateful to all our volunteers, who help provide facilities and services to those living in and visiting our parish.

Our Clerk, Anne-Marie Bates, and her newly appointed assistant, Wendy Gillings, have provided invaluable support and worked alongside us to ensure the Council remains modern, dynamic, and forward-thinking, delivering a high standard of service to residents.

We currently have one vacant seat, for the Woodbury Salterton Ward, which we hope to fill shortly.

Planning and Development

This year has been exceptionally busy, particularly with the four proposed developments in Woodbury along with the emerging East Devon District Council (EDDC) Local Plan. We have also ensured that residents' views are heard by speaking at numerous EDDC Strategic Planning and Planning meetings. Unfortunately, due to Government pressures and housing targets, some development in the parish has been and will continue to be approved. However, we can assure you that we will continue to fight for the best possible schemes. We have met with developers to raise local concerns and suggest improvements that benefit both existing villagers and new residents. Our guiding principle is "build for benefit," and through these discussions we have sought to try and secure good connectivity, thoughtful design and layout, usable open spaces, and additional community assets.

We have also been instrumental in pursuing enhanced traffic calming measures along Broadway and Globe Hill. This stretch of road is seeing increased use, particularly with new housing in Exmouth, and the volume of traffic along with heavy loads is affecting the road's infrastructure.

Neighbourhood Plan

Considerable work has been undertaken this year towards the adoption of our long-awaited Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan has now been examined, the findings have been considered, and it has been submitted to East Devon District Council for the final stage before a referendum.

Exton: Flooding and Emergency Planning
In Exton, we continue to raise the issue of flooding. The three Ward councillors have been instrumental in arranging meetings and pursuing a flood mitigation scheme, particularly for Mill Lane and Station Road. An Emergency Plan has now been adopted, and equipment purchased, these have been used a few times this year.

Local Government Reform
Local government as we know it is set to change, with the two-tier system (Devon County Council / East Devon District Council) due to be replaced. Exactly how this will look for Devon is still under negotiation. Parish and Town Councils may also see changes, with more services and assets potentially being devolved to them.

As a Parish Council, we have responded to the Government's consultation and have been clear with Devon County Council, East Devon District Council, and Exeter City Council about our expectations. We believe the relationship between principal authorities and local councils must be set out formally and conducted constructively. It is essential that this framework ensures clarity of purpose and demonstrates that Parish councils are capable and valued partners. Only through a formally established working relationship can our contributions be taken seriously, allowing us to play a full part in shaping future service delivery for our residents.

Maintenance and Improvements
During 2025–2026, the Parish Council has continued to maintain our assets. We have also:

- Provided new fencing at both our allotments and noticeboards
- Installed the Woodbury Salterton bus shelter and completed works to the footpath to improve pedestrian flow and made adjustments to improve this area.
- Added an information board explaining Miss Marianne Pidsley's contribution to Woodbury Salterton and the history of the Old Plantation Well
- Replaced the Exton Speed Sign with a solar-powered version.

Looking Ahead
We look forward to another productive year. Several projects are underway, and we will continue to fight our corner and do our utmost to protect this Parish from overdevelopment. We remain committed to retaining our green wedges and open spaces, and to ensuring each of our Wards receives the facilities and infrastructure they so urgently need along with working with our neighbouring Parish and Town Councils regarding the cumulative impact.

Cllr Richard Ball, Chairman

Your Parish Precept

2026/27

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Woodbury Parish Council's Budget for 2026/7 is £174,715

For an average Band D property per year, it equates to £ 118.02, which is an 35 pence per week increase.

The Members of YOUR Council are working for you the ratepayer to give you "Best Value" for money

Staffing / Finance / Policy Committee
The Parish Council strives to achieve "Best Value" for all its expenditure, whilst abiding by our financial regulations ensuring we get good value for money and obtain the most competitive prices.
Our budget for 2025/2026 was £146,080 and this was spent on a number of services and responsibilities.

Income & Expenditure
Income & Expenditure Accounts will be ratified in the next month or so. The accounts will be published, also residents will have an opportunity to view the accounts in detail; dates will be displayed.
All our finances can be found on our website.

Grants & Financial Support
The Parish Council continues to provide financial support to a number of organisations including Exmouth & District Community Transport, Exe Estuary Management and Exeter Port Authority.

Every year, we award grants to Parish organisations and groups. (Applications are required to be be submitted to us by January of each year next round being January 2027. Please see our website for more information or contact the office.)
For 2025-2026 we are pleased to have been able to provide grants to;

Community Grant;

- Woodbury History Society £275
  (To assist with conserving data and providing public access to Parish records).
- Exton Drama Club £150
  (2 backdrops cloths).
- Friends of Woodbury Salterton £120.
  (Art Exhibition banners)
- Friends of Woodbury Surgery £400.
  (Community Support)
- Woodbury Village Hall, £3k.
  (Feaseability Survey to construct a new community hall).

Coombe Solar Farm Community Benefit has provided grants to;

- Friends Woodbury Salterton £120
  (Art Exhibition banners)
- Woodbury Primary School PTFA £600
  (Wellnesss Garden)
- Woodbury Village Hall £3k (New Doors)
- Churchlands Trust £5k
  (Church Rooms – render and external repairs)
- Exton Village Hall £300
  (Energy heating controller)

Assets & Estates Committee

Under this Committee's remit it looks after the Parish Council's assets, which includes bus shelters, public seating, notice boards, bins, War Memorial, Parsonage Cross, village signs, also our play equipment, open spaces, allotments, footpaths, car park and toilets.

Allotments

We have two sites within the Parish of 25+ plots on each, they are all enjoyed with a wealth of grown crops.
We thank Graham Joyce, and Brian Duff as our representatives who are conduits between the sites and Parish Council and oversee the day-to-day running of them.
Last year, we saw the launch of the Woodbury Community Allotment which is evolving to be of real benefit to the community. We thank all those involved and for reaching out to various members of our community.
If you are interested in helping or being involved with the Community Plot or having a plot at either of sites, then please contact the Parish Office.

Community Playing Fields

The Playing fields are a great asset to the Community, and we thank Martin Goddard and the rest of the Committee for managing it. We have been collaborating with the Committee to enhance this area, so it can continue to be a popular facility and enjoyed by many residents and visitors.

Parish Volunteers – Footpath/ Tree / Park Wardens

Thank you to our Footpath Wardens Judy Green and Paul Hannon. The wardens regularly walk the footpaths to make sure that access continues, the footpaths are in good condition and maintained.
Thanks to our play park warden for Woodbury Salterton, Ngaio Southard who checks the village play park weekly.
If you are interested in being a Parish Warden, please contact the Parish Council Office.

Streetlight / Highway / Footpath Issues

The Parish Council only manages the streetlights in Flower Street carpark; please report any issues to the office. All other streetlights damaged or faulty or highway and footpath issues, please report it to Devon County Council via their "Report It" page.
https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/
Or if it is an emergency call 0345 155 1004.

Flood Resilience / Emergency Plans / DRIP Project

Exton Ward Councillors continue to work with the Flood Resilience Group and local landowners as well as Devon County Council who leads the Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP). The group are looking for ways of slowing the flow and reducing the downstream flood.

Gulliford Cemetery

Friends of Gulliford Cemetery help to maintain the Cemetery with the joint council committee (Woodbury & Lympstone Parish

Councils) who fund the upkeep of the Cemetery to ensure our historic asset is there for future

Flower Street car park and toilets
The car park remains free to use, as are the public toilets. Both these assets are well used but unfortunately this year we have seen some anti-social behaviour and damage to the toilets. This area is being monitored.

Litter / Dog Fouling
Please help keep "Woodbury Parish Tidy" Litter has been left and a substantial increase of dog mess left on pavements, grass verges and in our open spaces. Please use litter bins and dog bins which are throughout the villages. Please note that doggy bags can be put in normal rubbish bins.

Defibrillators
The Parish Council owns and maintains three defibrillators, one in each village. The defibrillators are located at the Puffing Billy in Exton, the Parish Office in Woodbury, and Diggers Rest in Woodbury Salterton.

Parish Meetings
Our website provides more information regarding our meetings.
https://woodburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council/council-business/council-meetings
Full Council meetings are held usually on the 2nd Monday of each month (excluding August) mostly at "The Church Rooms" Greenway, Woodbury starting at 7.30pm.

We have one Full Council meeting each year at Exton and Woodbury Salterton.
Residents across the Parish are welcome to attend to forward their ideas and concerns.
All Committee meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month if there is business to conduct.
Documents for meetings can be found on our website, noticeboards or at the office.

Member of Parliament
David Reed MP

County Councillors 2025-2026
Cllr Jeff Trail
Cllr Helen Brown

District Councillors 2025-2026
Cllr Ben Ingham
Cllr Geoff Jung

Parish Councillors 2025-2026

Cllr. R. Ball (Woodbury)
Chairman

Cllr Mrs. S Knighton
(Woodbury) **Vice-Chairman**

Exton
Cllr Mrs. S. Cole
Cllr S. Parks
Cllr C. Hoar

Woodbury
Cllr. Mrs. C. McGauley
Cllr J. Pyne
Cllr R. Parr
Cllr A. Wills
Cllr K. Perry

Woodbury Salterton
Cllr I. Hunt
Cllr. Mrs. M. Wright
Vacancy

Parish Staff
Anne-Marie Bates
Clerk to the Council / RFO
Wendy Gillings
Admin Assistant

Woodbury Parish Council

Parish Office
Greenside, Greenway,
Woodbury EX5 1LP
01395 233791

Normally OPEN
Monday/ Tues/ Wed/Thurs
9.30am -12.30pm

Email: Clerk@woodburyparishcouncil.gov.uk