

Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 12 August 2024

Present:

Mr T Dezell - Chair
Mrs J Wardle - Clerk

Cllr C Brown – EDDC
Cllr Y Levine - EDDC

Together with 24 local government electors of the Parish:

Mr D Staff	Mr I Downs	Mrs E Downs	Mr C Padget	Mrs G Jackson
Mrs C Selway	Mr S Thompson	Mr D Rosewell	Mrs C Padget	Mrs V Brabrook
Mrs R Mapleston	Mrs M Hall	Mr A Hall	Mr S Wooldridge	Mrs M Joules
Mr L Clarke	Mrs L Clarke	Mr J Palmer	Mrs C Kemp	Mr J Brabrook
Mrs J Edwards	Mr M Edwards	Mr C Kemp	Mr A Joules	

28/2025 Apologies for Absence

Mrs S Sexton – Vice Chair	Mr R Sexton	Mr B Churchill	Mrs K Churchill
Mr M Moran	Mrs V Moran	Mrs M Rickson	Mrs G Compton
Mrs J Horne	Mr M Horne	Mrs Å Bylander	Mr D Jackson

Cllr I Chubb – DCC	Mr E Lazarus	Mrs C Lazarus
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29/2025 Visit by PCSO Darren England

PCSO Darren England briefed the meeting on the composition and role of the Honiton Town Police team in which he is the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). The team has responsibility for Honiton and 14 parishes.

Following a complaint about speeding vehicles through the village, he has visited on two occasions to assess the situation which appears to worsen during school term time and if there are problems on the Langford Road. The jump between the 30mph village limit and the 60mph limit is also unhelpful. He suggested a range of options to gather a body of evidence about the problem including:

- Community Speed Watch - a community led activity supported by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. It involves members of the local community and aims to educate drivers rather than prosecute.
- Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) - a permanent or temporary sign that flashes a sign or message if a vehicle is travelling at speed. This is for education rather than enforcement.
- Speed Indicator Device (SID) - a type of VAS that displays the speed a driver is travelling at. This often immediately prompts the driver to reduce their speed.

He will continue to monitor the situation, and he requested that parishioners pass any concerns and evidence to him through the Clerk. He also recommended the DCC Highways website for information. He confirmed that EDDC do have a Dog Warden in post (see <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/environmental-health-and-wellbeing/dogs/>)

The Chair thanked PCSO for his advice and continuing support.

30/2025 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 17 July 2024

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 July 2024, which had previously been circulated, were proposed by Mr A Joules and seconded by Mr C Padget to be an accurate record of the meeting. They were approved by the majority of those present.

31/2025 Matters arising

- a) Edwards Close – the Chair reported that discussions are ongoing with a potential contractor and that he hoped that the work could be undertaken before the winter.
- b) EDDC Local Plan Member Working Group – Cllr C Brown reported on the meeting held on 2 Aug 2024 which discussed a number of potential development sites in Dunkeswell, Upottery and Honiton for inclusion in the emerging Local Plan which is currently going through the council as a matter of priority (as explained below).

As background, Cllr Brown explained that one of the campaign mandates of the new Labour Government was to increase house building across the country, taking advantage of green belt, certain grades of agricultural land and new grey field sites. The new government has overturned the previous Dec 2023 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) with new directives for major house building changes and increases in application fees. The new changes have gone out for consultation to all Councils, with a deadline date of 24 Sep 2024. When these have been assessed the new policies will come into effect.

For East Devon, the new standard method for calculating housing requirement figures would increase the housing requirement figure from 893 homes pa to 1,146 homes pa. It also seeks to reintroduce a 5% buffer to this for the purposes of demonstrating a 5-year housing land supply. The proposed transitional arrangements would however present an opportunity to progress the Local Plan on a figure of 946 homes pa without a 5% buffer provided the plan progressed to a certain stage (publication draft) within 1 month of publication of the new NPPF. Under this scenario the plan would be examined under the NPPF of December 2023 rather than the new NPPF.

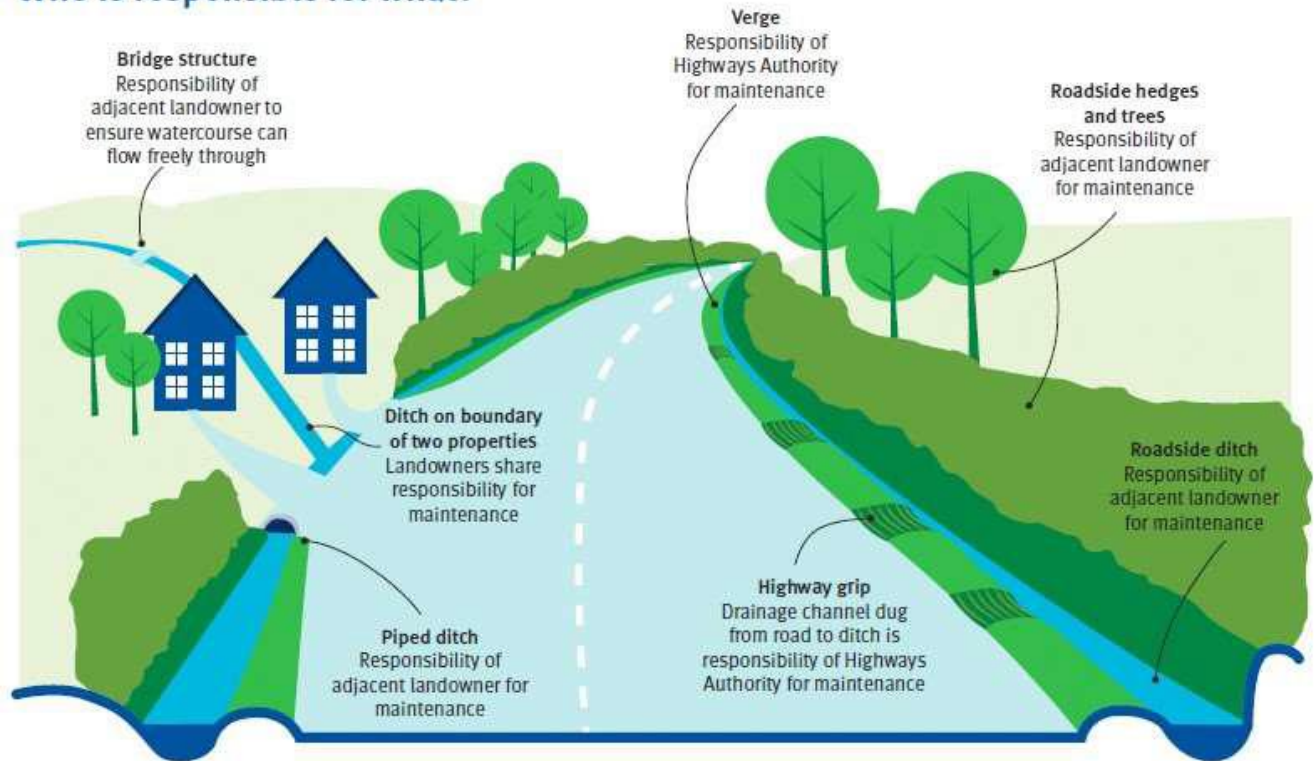
- c) Parish Meeting Powers – the Clerk reported that she has requested a meeting with EDDC to obtain additional powers/functions for the Parish Meeting.
- d) Lloyds Bank and Skipton Building Society – the Clerk reported that a Lloyds Bank application has been made (expected waiting time is 6 weeks); and an application to the Skipton Building Society for savings account will now be submitted.

32/2025 Roadside hedge and verge maintenance

The Chair reported that David Rosewell had kindly cut the verges between Clapper Lane and the village as they were badly overgrown and being reported as a danger to all road users. He had done this work by his own volition and without prior consent by the Parish Meeting.

DCC Highways have provided the diagram below. Only public highway verges owned by DCC will be the responsibility of Highways to cut, and then they will only undertake cutting in line with their grass cutting/vegetation cutting policy. DCC inspected Clapper Lane through to the village on two occasions this year and advised that the vegetation that had grown did not meet the criteria for intervention by them. They also confirmed that the verge at Combe Wood is private (National Trust), therefore the cutting of this vegetation will be the responsibility of the landowner. The Clerk has contacted the National Trust Ranger to make him aware of the problem.

Who is responsible for what?



To clarify this situation for the future and, more importantly, to improve safety along the road, the Chair explained the options for verge cutting:

- Rely on DCC Highways and the National Trust to cut the verges for which they are responsible.
- Employ a contractor to undertake DCC and National Trust verge maintenance with their agreement noting the consequential public liability issues.
- Join the Road Warden Scheme which is a formal agreement between DCC and Parish Meeting which enables the latter to deliver minor works in or around the public highway. The benefits of the scheme are:
 - Communities can carry out minor works which DCC are no longer able to resource and do not have a legal responsibility to carry out.
 - DCC provide third party insurance for the works.
 - Free training on DCC arranged courses.
 - Priority status for Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement (HMCE) Fund applications.

Under the scheme, work can be done on pothole repairs (when they do not meet DCC intervention criteria); clearing weeds; cleaning signs and drainage (gully grating); cutting grass; repairing finger posts; cutting hedges; and managing verges for wildlife. The parish would have a nominated Road Warden who is supported by local trained volunteers.

The Chair thanked David Rosewell for his work and confirmed that further investigation was required to present the options for future verge clearance to the Parish Meeting for agreement.

33/2024 Planning

Notice of an Appeal to the refusal to grant planning permission for 23/1496/FUL - Change of use from kennels to 3 dwellings including associated works and parking - Barn Close Kennels.

The Chair asked if the Appellant or his legal representative were present – they were not. The Chair then explained that the original application was refused by EDDC on 6 Sep 2023 for five reasons; and that the Parish Meeting, both District Councillors, and the Blackdown Hills AONB Project Partnership had previously voted against the application. At this time, the Parish Meeting cannot comment further. The appeal to the Secretary of State will be heard in Bristol and is likely to take between 9-12 months for a decision.

34/2025 Questions and items for the next meeting

a) A request was made for a discussion about grants to charities. The Clerk noted this for a future meeting also explaining that, until s137 power was obtained, no grants could be made. The Clerk also explained that, along with Standing Orders, a Grant Awarding Policy is being prepared for agreement by the Parish Meeting.

35/2025 There being no other business the meeting closed at 1936.

Tony Dezell - Chair