

Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 3 October 2024

Present:

Mr T Dezell - Chair
Mrs S Sexton – Vice Chair
Cllr C Brown – EDDC
Mrs J Wardle - Clerk
Cllr I Chubb – DCC – part of the meeting

Together with 21 local government electors of the Parish:

Mr D Jackson	Mr I Downs	Mrs E Downs	Mr C Padget	Mrs G Jackson
Mr A Slade	Mr S Thompson	Mrs C Padget	Mrs R Mapleston	Mrs M Joules
Mr J Palmer	Mr C Kemp	Mr A Joules	Mr B Churchill	Mrs K Churchill
Mr M Moran	Mrs V Moran	Mrs M Rickson	Mr M Horne	Mrs Å Bylander
Mr D Staff				

36/2025 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Y Levine - EDDC	Mrs G Compton	Mr R Sexton	Mr D Rosewell	Mrs L Clarke
Mrs V Brabrook	Mr J Brabrook	Mrs C Kemp	Mr L Clarke	N Salter

37/2025 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 12 August 2024

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 August 2024, which had previously been circulated, were proposed by S Sexton and seconded by A Joules to be an accurate record of the meeting. They were approved by the majority of those present.

38/2025 Matters arising

- a) Edwards Close – the Chair reported that consultation with contractors showed that to reinforce the bank opposite would cost tens of thousands of pounds and therefore was beyond budget. An alternative (subject to gaining additional Parish Meeting Powers) may be to purchase land to the NE of the properties to build a parking area adjacent. This option will be investigated further.
- b) Noting that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds (£3820) within the budget should be used by Apr 2025, other options for using the money were discussed including traffic speed signs. The Clerk confirmed that CIL Money can be used for a variety of infrastructure projects including physical infrastructure (eg highways, energy supply, flood alleviation, waste management) and social infrastructure (eg health, social care, art and culture, community halls).

39/2025 Financial Report

- a) **Resolution: to approve the Financial Report.** Proposed by J Palmer; seconded by D Jackson; approved by the majority of those present.

40/2025 Powers of the Parish Meeting

- a) The Chair recapped that at the Parish Meeting on 16 May 2024 requests for grant funding (under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 [the 1972 Act]) were made by two local charities. Additionally, St Nicholas Church requested funding for maintenance of the church building. The subsequent discussion agreed that advice should be taken from the National and the Devon Associations of Local Councils (NALC and DALC) on the ability of the Parish Meeting to make grants to charities and to the church. NALC/DALC confirmed that the Powers of a Parish Meeting are very limited and do not include Section 137. However, additional Powers can be sought from EDDC.

- b) The meeting discussed the draft submission to EDDC which requested:
 - (i) Support (subject to a majority vote at a Parish Meeting) Section 137 payments including Section 137a grant applications (eg from the parish church and local charities which provide benefit to the residents of Combe Raleigh).
 - (ii) Recognising just how limited a Parish Meeting's powers are, additional powers are sought to enable current and future funds to be spent on the village community. These are requested to fund existing items (eg public (church) clock; newsletter) and potential future issues (eg traffic calming).
- c) It was confirmed that the selection (and wording) of the Powers is from the full list provided by NALC from the 1972 Act. Should additional Powers be required in the future, it is possible to seek EDDC agreement for these. Obtaining the Powers does not absolve other local authorities of conducting necessary works. It was noted that Section 137 spend has a financial cap. **Resolution: to approve the draft submission to EDDC requesting additional Powers.** Proposed by B Churchill; seconded by D Jackson; approved by the majority (23 for, 0 against, 1 abstention) of those electors present. *Action: Clerk to submit the request for additional Powers to the EDDC Monitoring Officer for consideration by the EDDC Full Council.*

41/2025 Parish Meeting Standing Orders

- a) The Chair explained that currently the Parish Meeting only has two Standing Orders:
 - (i) A quorum of ten is required
 - (ii) No person shall obstruct the transaction of business at a meeting or behave offensively or improperly. If this Standing Order is ignored, the Chair shall request such person(s) to moderate or improve their conduct.
- b) Using the NALC Standing Orders template (over 17 sides in length), a draft set of Standing Orders has been prepared. The Chair explained each section of the draft and asked for comments and questions. The key queries concerned the following:
 - (i) Paras 3a, c and e and 5 a and b – concern was expressed about the frequency of meetings; the ability and timescales for electors to raise motions for inclusion on an agenda (noting that a new motion cannot be raised during a meeting); and the likelihood of the wording or subject of a motion being rejected as improper. The Chair sought to reassure the meeting that any items raised in advance will be considered for inclusion on the agenda and that additional meetings will be held as needed for issues requiring urgent attention. Given the strength of feeling on this issue, the Chair agreed that a revision to provide more clarity in the wording in the paragraphs listed will be prepared for the next meeting.
 - (ii) Paras 3g and i – the use of the term 'Electoral Role of Combe Raleigh' was queried. The Clerk agreed to check the title of the confidential listing provided to her by EDDC and amend para 3g as required.
 - (iii) Para 3n – concerns were raised that 'a person who attends a meeting is permitted to report on the meeting whilst the meeting is open to the public' (subject to certain constraints). The Vice Chair noted that this is normal practice in Local Government meetings to ensure openness and transparency in the way meetings conduct their decision making. The Chair agreed that the paragraph should be reworded to refer to prior approval being sought, and notification being given to the meeting.
- c) **Resolution: To approve the draft Standing Orders subject to amendments to paras 3a, c, e, g, i, n, and 5a and b being prepared and submitted to the next Parish Meeting for approval.** Proposed by Serena Sexton; seconded by A Joules; approved by the majority (21 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions) of those electors present. *Action: Clerk to redraft Standing Orders paras 3a, c, e, g, i, n, and 5a and b.*

42/2025 Planning

- a) The meeting noted the 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 at Barn Close Kennels) had been allowed.

43/2025 Village website and logo

- a) The Clerk explained that the existing Combe Raleigh website www.comberaleigh.org is owned by the Village Hall charity. It has free hosting because of the charitable status but the domain name costs £13pa (paid for by the Parish Meeting). A current Government initiative offering grants of £100+VAT to move to a *.gov.uk* domain name for websites has been investigated but this would result in hosting fees of £100s pa. Michelle Kennedy wishes to stand down from her role in managing the VH website. Chris Kemp has kindly agreed to take over the updating of the existing VH website. The Clerk will also be able to access the website to update it for Parish Meeting publication requirements.
- b) A competition has been announced in the Oct 2024 Raleigh Rag to design a logo for the Parish Meeting – this will be used on formal communications and on the website. Any submissions will be brought to the Parish Meeting for a decision.

44/2025 Getting ready for bad weather

- a) The Clerk reported that fifty empty sandbags will be collected on 10 Oct 2024 from the EDDC depot in Sidmouth. The availability of sand to fill the bags was discussed with an offer being made by residents in St Nicholas Rise to provide some sand. Further details on availability of the bags and the sand will be publicised shortly. It was noted that, unless the filled bags are stored in dry/dark conditions, they will degrade within a year.
- b) The problem of blocked drains was reported on the top Dunkeswell road and down the main street of the village. The Clerk advised that the best way to report this on the Devon County Council website at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/maintaining-roads/managing-the-network/flooding-and-drainage/report-standing-water-flooding-or-blocked-drains/>.

45/2025 Village flower troughs

- a) Thanks were recorded to D and G Jackson, and A and M Joules who tend the beautiful flower planters at the village edge and outside the church throughout the year.

46/2025 Questions and items for the next meeting

- a) It was reported that some of the village flower planters are now in need of replacement at a cost of £150. Cllr Brown offered to ask Cllr Chubb for this to be funded from the DCC Locality Budget. (After-meeting note: Cllr Chubb agreed this and the Clerk will submit a bid to the Locality Budget).
- b) The revised Standing Orders will be submitted to the next Parish Meeting.

47/2025 There being no other business the meeting closed at 2035.