

Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 6 March 2025

Present:

Mr T Dezell – Chair
Cllr C Brown (EDDC)

Mrs S Sexton – Vice Chair

Mrs J Wardle – Clerk

Together with 13 local government electors of the Parish:

Mrs K Churchill	Mr M Horne	Mr J Palmer	Mrs V Moran	Mr B Churchill
Mr C Kemp	Mrs C Kemp	Mr M Moran	Mrs R Mapleston	Mr I Downs
Mrs E Downs	Mrs J McCorkindale	Mr W Rosewell		

79/2025 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Y Levine	Cllr I Chubb			
Mr R Sexton	Mr C Padget	Mrs C Padget	Mrs G Compton	Mr J Brabrook
Mr A Joules	Mrs M Joules	Mrs V Brabrook	Mrs G Jackson	Mr D Jackson

A minute of silence was observed in memory of John Hatch who died on 23 February 2025 after a short illness. John had lived in the village for 48 years before moving away in 2021. He is fondly remembered by many in Combe Raleigh.

80/2025 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 9 January 2025

- a) Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 January 2025, which had previously been circulated, were proposed by J Palmer and seconded by B Churchill to be an accurate record of the Meeting. They were approved by the majority of those present.

81/2025 Matters arising

- a) Issues on Clapper Lane and in Combe Woods: letters regarding concerns over the loose cattle and the dogs roaming/chasing cars have been sent out to the possible owners. No replies have been received to-date. The rough sleeper in Combe Woods was asked to leave the woodland by National Trust personnel and the Police. Any further issues will now be resolved through the contacts established with the National Trust and EDDC.

82/2025 Reports by County Councillors and District Councillors

- a) Cllr Brown gave an update on the ongoing discussions regarding Unitary authorities. Devon councils must submit their proposals to Government by 21 March 2025; a decision by Government is expected by 28 November 2025.
- EDDC is now one of the first district councils in the country to acquire fully electric recycling vehicles. The purchase was made following recent trials of the Romaquip RQ-E lorries, which will now be used to service the increasing number of properties in the Cranbrook, Tithebarn, and West Clyst areas. While the vehicles will mainly be used in these areas, they will also be trialled across various collection rounds throughout the district.

EDDC has seen a huge increase in its recycling rates since the implementation of an improvement scheme in 2016/17. Since then, EDDC has jumped from 141st place to 5th place in the recycling rate league table for England. This equates to an increase in recycling and composting rates from 46% in 2016/17 to 61% in 2021/22. EDDC has announced plans to bring

waste and recycling services under council control starting in 2026. The current contract with Suez comes to an end in June 2026. To ensure long-term cost-effectiveness and adaptability, EDDC has decided to establish a new Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) to manage recycling and waste services.

83/2025 Powers of the Parish Meeting, CIL funds, and works adjacent to Edwards Close

- a) The Chair reported that following positive discussions with the CIL officers at EDDC, he had hoped to give good news that the CIL monies were given the go ahead to spend on Edwards Close and any surplus could be retained. Sadly, this is not the case as the EDDC legal department has stopped it again.
- b) They have advised that they have been looking into the legal powers of a Parish Meeting and trying to understand how Combe Raleigh has ended up in the position where it has finances it legally cannot spend. They have confirmed that a Parish Meeting is able to claim a Precept, and that there are limited legal powers that a Parish Meeting has already. They have found some information suggesting that a Parish Meeting should only ask for monies that it has the legal power to spend, which would not make it necessary then for additional powers to be sought. They haven't been able to tie this information down to anything in the legislation, so they are seeking further clarity and advice.
- c) In respect of the CIL monies, however, EDDC have advised that these were in fact paid in error as their planning records incorrectly noted Combe Raleigh as a Parish Council. CIL monies are not paid to a Parish Meeting as they do not have the legal power to spend it. This also fits with the fact that neither EDDC, nor other districts (as far as EDDC are aware) are receiving similar requests from Parish Meetings unable to spend CIL receipts. On this occasion, EDDC have suggested that the CIL monies are returned to them together with a suitable costed project which they would agree to fund from the EDDC CIL pot using the same money. Whilst this proposal would address the immediate issue, it does not resolve the matter of future CIL funds relating to development in Combe Raleigh.
- d) Following a discussion of the options for the Parish Meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Brown would speak with the EDDC Monitoring Officer and arrange an urgent meeting. Meanwhile, the CIL funds would be retained. In parallel, further investigation of other Parish Meetings will be conducted and consideration will be given to involving the EDDC CEO and the MP; and taking legal advice.

Action: Cllr Brown, Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to liaise with EDDC officials on Parish Meeting powers and CIL funds and escalate if needed.

84/2025 Planning and Consultations

- a) Allerbeare Farm Planning App 24/2375/AGR – the Planning Committee conducted a site visit to Allerbeare Farm on 22 January 2025 to consider the change in structure. They unanimously agreed to recommend the approval. Following the site visit, an email was sent to the village asking for any comments regarding the recommendation for approval; this had a closing date of 31 January 2025. There were no comments, so EDDC Planning have been informed that the Parish Meeting supports the application.
- b) EDDC Consultation on the East Devon Local Plan – previously circulated. Consultation closes at 0900 on 31 March 2025. The East Devon Local Plan allocates sites for development for new homes, employment and other uses and contains policies for the determination of planning applications. Representations can be submitted through an online consultation portal [Have Your Say Today - East Devon Local Plan - Regulation 19 - Commonplace](#).
- c) EDDC Consultation on varied Public Spaces Protection Orders – EDDC has three existing Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) which apply across the district. These include the 2024 Dog Control PSPO, 2023 Seashores and Promenades PSPO, and the 2023 Control of Anti-Social Behaviour & the Consumption of Intoxicating Substances in Exmouth PSPO. These are being

reviewed, and comments can be submitted by 28 April 2025 at <https://publicspacesprotectionorderfullreview.commonplace.is/>.

- d) DCC Consultation on the future of the Blackdown Hills National Landscape – previously circulated – now closed. See [Management plan - Blackdown Hills National Landscape](#).

85/2025 Public Path Diversion

- a) Proposed diversion of part of public Footpath No. 5, Combe Raleigh in the vicinity of Woodhayne Farm. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the diversion – around the field and away from the farm – made sense. However, it was noted that the original footpath is reported to have been blocked for some time and the new route is in place ahead of official approval.
Action: Clerk to respond to Devon CC re footpath diversion stating no objection but advising that the diversion appears to have been in place for some time.

86/2025 Blackdown Hills Parish Network (BHPN)

- a) The Blackdown Hills Parish Network (BHPN) was formed in 2011 to represent and act for the benefit of the parishes wholly or partly within the Blackdown Hills National Landscape. It aims to identify, address and promote issues of common concern for Parish Councils/Meetings and work for cohesion among the local authorities responsible for the National Landscape. There is no membership fee. The Parish Meeting confirmed that it was happy to join the network.

87/2025 Financial report

- b) A cheque for £5k from the Lloyds Bank current account into the Skipton saving account was rejected because the signatures were deemed incorrect. This was because Lloyds had not updated the mandate for information supplied when the new Treasurer's account was opened in Nov 2024. They have apologized and will credit the account with £25 as an apology. The transfer to the Skipton of an appropriate amount will now be redone online.
- c) A letter received from Lloyds Bank on 6 March 2025 advised that the free Treasurer's account will change to a new Community account wef 13 May 2025. This will incur a £4.25/month fee plus some charges (eg £0.50 per cheque). If business is conducted online or using self-service in the bank, charges are unlikely to be incurred.
- d) **Resolution: to retrospectively approve the payment of £180 to Combe Raleigh Village Hall for room hire between May 2024 and Jan 2025.** Proposed V Moran; seconded M Moran; approved unanimously by those present.
- e) **Resolution: to approve the Financial Report.** Proposed by J Palmer; seconded by R Mapleston; approved unanimously by those present.

88/2025 Website and Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting Logo Designs

- a) The Chair thanked C Kemp for updating the website <http://comberaleigh.org> for the village. It looks very professional and covers many subjects: Village Hall; Parish Meetings (Agenda/Policies/Planning); Raleigh Rag (Historic back to 2020); Village History; Church: Contact List; What's On event List.
- b) Five options for the Parish Meeting logo depicting Harold, the cockerel on the church weathervane, have been kindly prepared by G Belben. A vote by village email for the preferred design resulted in design E (see below) being chosen by 16 votes. Design A received 5 votes; B 8 votes; C 3 votes; and D 1 vote. The design will now be used on official Parish Meeting correspondence and documentation. The Chair thanked G Belben again for his work.



89/2025 Friends of St Nicholas Church

- a) R Mapleston, a Church Warden of St Nicholas Church, reported that the recent launch of a fund to support the maintenance of the church had received no regular subscribers. She confirmed that some donations had been received. There was a discussion about the failing state of repair of the listed building, with whom responsibility lies for the building, and the difficulty of securing funds. It was noted that the recent Snowdrop Tea raised over £1k but that this coincided with a maintenance bill of over £4k. The next fundraising event is the Plant Sale on Sunday 11 May 2025 starting at 1300.
- b) V Moran reported that two new flags for the church had been purchased through individual donations.

90/2025 Questions, items for the next meeting agenda, and general village information

- a) There have been reports of dog mess in the churchyard and around the village. The meeting agreed that this perennial problem could be from dogs running loose as well as inconsiderate owners.
- b) The Annual Parish Meeting is planned for Tuesday 13 May 2025.

91/2025 There being no other business the Meeting closed at 2015 hours.

Tony Dezell - Chair