

## **Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2025**

Present:

Mr T Dezell – Chair  
Cllr C Connor (DCC)

Mrs S Sexton – Vice Chair  
Cllr C Brown (EDDC)

Mrs J Wardle – Clerk  
Cllr Y Levine (EDDC)

Together with 24 local government electors of the Parish:

Mrs G Jackson	Mr J Palmer	Mrs Å Bylander	Mr C Padget	Mr D Jackson
Mr J Brabrook	Mrs V Brabrook	Mr A Joules	Mrs M Joules	Mrs K Churchill
Mr B Churchill	Mr R Sexton	Mr M Moran	Mrs V Moran	Mrs L Holding
Mr J Holding	Mr W Rosewell	Mr C Kemp	Mr M Horne	Mrs C Kemp
Mrs R Mapleston	Mrs G Compton	Mr D Rosewell	Mr T Lynne	

and one non-electors S Butler Evans.

#### **01/2026 John Blackburn (JB)**

A minute of silence was observed in memory of John Blackburn who passed away on 23 April 2025 after a short illness. John had lived in the village for over 10 years during which time he met and married Michelle. He was a great personality and was very kind and helpful in the village. He will be fondly remembered by many in Combe Raleigh.

#### **02/2025 Apologies for Absence**

Mrs C Lazarus      Mr I Downs      Mrs C Padget      Mrs E Downs      Mrs H Trim      Mrs E Guinness

#### **03/2026 Election of Parish Meeting Chair**

- a) The Chair explained that the meeting would comprise the formal business of the annual meeting of the Parish Meeting (eg elections, annual accounts) together with usual Parish Meeting business, and reports from village organisations.
- b) As per the Standing Orders, the Chair and Vice Chair would stand-down, but both were willing to stand again if nominated, proposed and seconded.
- c) The Vice Chair then took the Chair for the election of the Chair. T Dezell was nominated and proposed by R Sexton; seconded by D Jackson. Votes: for 27; against 0; abstentions 0.

**Resolution: to elect T Dezell as Chair.** Having been duly elected T Dezell took the Chair.

#### **04/2026 Election of Parish Meeting Vice Chair**

- a) S Sexton was nominated by V Moran, proposed by J Palmer, and seconded by A Joules. Votes: for 27; against 0; abstentions 0.

**Resolution: to elect S Sexton as Vice Chair.**

#### **05/2026 Appointment of Parish Meeting Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

- a) The Chair thanked the Clerk for her work during the past year and asked if she was willing to continue in the role. She confirmed that she was and was duly reappointed.

**Resolution: to reappoint J Wardle as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.**

#### **06/2026 Appointment of Parish Meeting Auditor**

- a) I Downs, the Meeting's current internal auditor, was thanked for acting in this role. As he had confirmed that he was willing to continue in the role he was duly reappointed.

**Resolution: to re-appoint I Downs as auditor for the year 2025/2026.**

### **07/2026 Other Appointments**

- a) Chris Padget (Tree Warden) and D Rosewell (Emergency Committee Chair) were thanked for their work and support in the past year. They both confirmed that they were willing to stay in post.

**Resolution: to reappoint Chris Padget as Tree Warden and D Rosewell as Emergency Committee Chair.**

- b) The support provided by the Planning Sub-Committee had worked effectively in the past year and the Chair proposed that it should continue.

**Resolution: to reappoint the Planning Sub-Committee comprising the Chair, Vice Chair and B Churchill.**

### **08/2026 Confirmation of Standing Orders**

- a) The Standing Orders previously approved at the Parish Meeting on 7 November 2024 were confirmed.

### **09/2026 Arrangements for insurance**

- a) The insurance policy including Public Liability, which is a 3-year contract with Zurich Municipal expiring on 31 May 2026, was noted.

### **10/2026 County Councillor and District Councillors' reports**

- a) The Chair welcomed newly appointed County Councillor Cathy Connor who has replaced Cllr I Chubb. Cllr Connor introduced herself and said that she looked forward to attending future meetings. Cllr Connor then left the meeting.
- b) The most recent report from Cllr Levine had been previously circulated. Cllr Levine commented on the difficulties of the past year in trying to resolve the Government's house-building requirements in East Devon. Cllr Brown advised that EDDC has a new Chief Executive Tracy Hendren.

### **11/2026 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 6 March 2025**

- a) Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 March 2025, which had previously been circulated, were proposed by V Moran and seconded by B Churchill to be an accurate record of the Meeting. They were approved by those present.

### **12/2026 Matters arising from the Minutes**

- a) The confirmation by Devon County Council of the diversion of Footpath No 5 (Woodhayne) was noted.

### **13/2026 Powers of the Parish Meeting**

- a) The Chair provided an update on the ongoing saga with EDDC: as an email sent to the Monitoring Officer on 31 March 2025 had received no response, a registered letter with a timeline report was sent to the EDDC Chief Executive on 18 April 2025. This letter asked for a meeting and, if that didn't produce a workable solution, advised that we would contact our MP for assistance. This letter received no response until 7 May 2025 when an email from the Monitoring Officer offered an online meeting. This meeting is planned for 21 May 2025 and will be attended by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk. The objective will be to put the Parish Meeting in the best position to have our request for additional Powers approved. Indications are that the matter will be raised at next full Council meeting on 16 July 2025.
- b) Through NALC/DALC, a Parish Meeting (Barningham) in County Durham has been found that has been granted additional Powers whilst remaining as a Parish Meeting. Further advice and documentation are being sought from the Barningham Clerk. He has advised that it took them 2 years to get approval.
- c) A report, referring to the Barningham precedent and explaining what and why additional Powers are requested by Combe Raleigh in order to operate effectively, will be sent to EDDC before the online meeting on 21 May 2025.
- d) The Chair noted the Parish Meeting's frustration and disappointment with EDDC's lack of response. He asked that individuals refrain from contacting EDDC until the results of the July meeting are known.

- e) The Chair then invited comments from the meeting. V Moran reiterated her dissatisfaction with the lack of response and action from the Monitoring Officer in this matter. R Sexton advised that, should there be the suggestion from EDDC that Combe Raleigh should have a Parish Council, this should be strongly argued against. The subject has been discussed previously with the village believing that a Parish Meeting (regularly attended by 20-30 electors) provides better opportunity for discussion and democracy than a Parish Council would. He urged that Cllrs Brown and Levine be called to support any discussion on this point.

#### **14/2026 Financial Report (correct to 6 May 2025)**

- a) The Financial Report correct to 6 May 2025 shows a balance of £20,246.55.  
**Resolution: to approve the Financial Report.** Proposed by R Mapleston; seconded by D Jackson; and approved by those present.
- b) **Resolution: to approve retrospective subscription payment to Devon Association of Local Councils of £26.31.** Proposed by S Sexton; seconded by A Joules; and approved by those present.

#### **15/2026 Report of the Village Hall Committee**

- a) B Churchill, the Chair of the Village Hall Committee, thanked all the existing Committee members and volunteers. He welcomed Chris Kemp as Secretary and thanked J Palmer for continuing to manage bookings. Thanks go to the Edwards family for use of their field for events such as the Fun Day and Bonfire Night. New members on the committee and volunteers are always welcome. The results of a questionnaire on what events people want are being factored into event planning.
- b) The hall has had a tidy recently including the entrance hall and cupboards being cleared and cleaned, and the toilets painted. Quotes to repair a hole in the roof, and possibly to replace the whole roof, are being sought. A card payment terminal is now available.

Cllrs Brown and Levine left the meeting.

#### **16/2026 Report of the Emergency Committee**

- a) D Rosewell reported that the mild winter had presented few problems. One grit bin had been replaced but one is still missing despite it being reported to DCC.

#### **17/2026 Report of St Nicholas Church**

- a) R Mapleston reported that three services and a 'Come and Sing' event are held each month. There has been a baptism, two funerals and an interment of ashes. Some outstanding repairs identified in the last quinquennial inspection have been completed but the church fabric continues to drain monetary resources. Another five-yearly inspection is due later this year. The relaunch of the 'Friends of St Nicholas' resulted in only three positive replies. She asked that anyone who considers the historic church worth preserving, make a donation however small. For similar reasons, plans for a memorial window in memory of the late Queen have been temporarily set aside.
- b) The two main fund-raising events of the past year – Snowdrop Tea and Plant Sale - were amazingly successful. In particular, she thanked Ruth and Trevor Hitchcock, Sue Farrell, and Val and Mark Moran for their enthusiasm and commitment in the front line of organization. Also, thanks to the thirty or so people who give invaluable support in the background.
- c) The Waterfolk concert in April was enjoyable but not well attended. This lively singing group will be making a return visit in April 2026. On 7 September 2025, Harvest weekend, Sean Tucker, the gifted and accomplished organist at Wimborne Minster will be giving an organ recital in the church.
- d) 37 responses to the church survey have been received and replies can still be submitted. A summary of the results is planned for the August 2025 Raleigh Rag.
- e) The church APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) is on 20 May 2025 at 6pm in the church. Everyone is welcome.

### **18/2026 Report of Combe Raleigh Newsletter – Raleigh Rag**

- a) V Moran reported on the Rag annual accounts and commented that the balance at the bank is currently £200.39. Assuming an average production cost of at least £90 per issue, funds are available to cover the costs of the June/July and August/September issues. It should be noted that the printing costs include occasional print runs for the Parish Meeting, and the occasional flyer advertising village events. Despite the limitations on the Parish Meeting's ability to make payments, she asked on behalf of the Rag Committee to request a payment to finance the production of the Rag for the forthcoming year.
- b) She acknowledged that whilst some people, perhaps the majority, read the Rag online, she asked that the Parish Meeting should not lose sight of the fact that discontinuing the printed edition will disadvantage those to whom the online edition is not available, sometimes for reasons of health as well as those who still prefer to read a booklet, and keep it to hand for easy reference.
- c) D Jackson noted that the age and heavy use of the printer for Rag print runs mean that failure and lack of replacement parts may become a serious problem.
- d) Noting that the situation may be resolved if additional Powers are granted by EDDC, various financing suggestions were made by the meeting: asking people to make a monthly donation to the Rag bank account; ask the Village Hall for a loan; print in black/white only with full colour online; and reduce the frequency of publication. It was agreed that the matter will be discussed further when it is clearer if the Power to fund the newsletter will be granted.

### **19/2026 Bench on Clapper Lane between Honiton and Combe Raleigh**

- a) C Padget reported that a suggestion had been made by walkers of placing a bench on the lane between Honiton and Combe Raleigh. No further suggestions of location or funding were made.

### **20/2026 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/2025**

- a) The Clerk reported that the Annual Accounts had been examined by I Downs the Parish's Internal Auditor. He had also signed off the Internal Audit Report. The accounts (previously circulated) showed a balance of £20,172.86 with £3,820.42 being attributable to the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund.
- b) The Annual Governance Statement (AGAR Section 1) was reviewed and recommended for approval by S Sexton, seconded by T Dezell.
- c) The Annual Accounting Statement (AGAR Section 2) was reviewed and recommended for approval by V Moran, seconded by B Churchill.
- d) The Certificate of Exemption (from a limited assurance review) was recommended for approval by R Sexton, seconded by M Moran, and approved for submission to the external auditor.
- e) The exercise of public rights to inspect financial records for 2024/2025 will be available 3 June 2025 to 14 July 2025. This will be advertised on the website.

### **21/2026 Community Infrastructure Levy [CIL] report 2024/2025**

- a) The 2024/2025 Community Infrastructure Levy report, as circulated, was recommended for approval by T Dezell, seconded by J Palmer.

### **22/2026 Questions, items for the next meeting agenda, and general village information**

- a) Nil.

**23/2026** There being no other business the Meeting closed at 2020 hours.