

**Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 18 December 2025**

Present:

Mr T Dezell – Chair

Mrs J Wardle – Clerk

Together with 21 local government electors of the Parish:

Mr J Brabrook

Mrs V Brabrook

Mrs K Churchill

Mr B Churchill

Mr R Sexton

Mr M Moran

Mrs V Moran

Mr C Kemp

Mr M Horne

Mrs C Kemp

Mr O Williams

Mr T Lynn

Mr I Downs

Mrs E Downs

Mr D Coombes

Mr S Thompson

Mr T Trim

Mr J Palmer

Mrs M Joules

Mrs A Rickson

Mr S Dunne

and one member of the Public.

**46/2026 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr C Connor (DCC)

Mrs S Sexton – Vice Chair

Mr C Padget

Mr A Joules

Mrs Å Bylander

Mrs C Padget

Mrs C Lazarus

Mrs G Compton

Mrs G Jackson

Mr D Jackson

Mrs R Mapleston

**47/2026 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 20 November 2025**

- a) Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2025, which had previously been circulated, were proposed by T Lynne and seconded by B Churchill to be an accurate record of the Meeting. They were approved by those present.

**48/2026 Matters arising from the Minutes**

- a) Ref Min 36/2026: a request for additional Powers under S112 (to appoint and pay a Clerk) and s140 (to pay insurance premiums) has been submitted to EDDC and is awaiting their consideration.

**49/2026 County Councillor and District Councillors' reports**

- a) County Councillor Connor's report will be circulated after the meeting. East Devon District Councillor Levine's report had been circulated before the meeting.

**50/2026 Financial Report**

- a) The Financial Report correct to 11 December 2025 shows a balance of £20,190.

**Resolution: to approve the Financial Report.** Proposed by V Moran; seconded by J Brabrook; and approved by those present.

**51/2026 Edwards Close**

- a) The Chair explained the progress on how to widen the gap at Edwards Close:
- Site meeting held with Mr Ed Polding (Devon County Council Community Highways Officer), M Edwards and B Churchill. Mr Polding was very helpful and sympathetic to resolving the problem; he mentioned that if the Gigaclear cable wasn't deep enough he could instruct them to come out and reset it at the correct depth.
  - It was agreed with Mr Polding that the Parish Meeting would infill with reinforced concrete a gully next to the bank adjoining M Edward's land. Highways would then tarmac up to the gully. The Parish Meeting must use licensed contractors operating to a standard set by Highways for the gully

work. The fee (c£190) for the road closure will be waived. When the work is complete Highways will take on ownership of the gully and be responsible for any ongoing works/repairs.

- On the opposite side of the road, M Edwards would cutback the hedgerow in front of the bungalows. Several sapling trees would be removed from the hedgerow above the bungalows.

The Chair recorded his thanks to Mr Polding for helping to resolve the problem; and to M Edwards and B Churchill for their input over the last eighteen months.

*Action: Chair to get quotes from licensed contractors to undertake gully work at Edwards Close.*

- b) During the site visit, Mr Polding had indicated that the long awaited repair work on the Dunkeswell Road to Langford Bridge has been deferred until FY26/27.

### **52/2026 Purchase of an additional grit bin**

- a) The Clerk explained that there is a grit bin missing on the lane leading up to the Dunkeswell Road. An enquiry has been made to DCC about funding for a replacement – assessment by 9 Jan 2026. If DCC do not fund this, the cost (c£250) may be covered by a bid to the DCC Locality Budget but not until April 2026. The meeting agreed that the bin was required as soon as possible. **Resolution: if DCC will not replace the grit bin, to approve the purchase of a grit bin.** Proposed by J Brabrook; seconded by B Churchill; and approved by those present.

### **53/2026 FY26/27 Precept**

- a) The Clerk introduced the discussion by explaining the draft estimated budget and resulting provisional Precept calculation (£2000) that had been circulated before the meeting.
- b) The Chair then opened the discussion:
- Funding for the Raleigh Rag: noting the recent Locality Budget funding of £450 for the Rag, it was proposed by M Horne and seconded by T Trim to allocate £300 (c50% of the total costs) in the budget; agreed by the majority of those present. The question of how print and postage costs could be reduced was discussed. When asked for a show of hands, over 50% of the meeting agreed that they would be happy to receive the Rag online rather than a printed copy. *Action: V Moran to investigate options to reduce costs and specifically to ask readership if they would still require a printed copy if printing was limited to on-request.*
  - Funding for maintenance of the public clock (on St Nicholas Church): the Chair noted that he had received an estimate of £180-£260 (exc VAT) from Gillet & Johnson who could do the work in January or November 2026. *Action: Clerk to contact Honiton Town Council for details of who they use for maintenance of the clock on St Paul's Church.* It was proposed by J Brabrook and seconded by M Moran to allocate £450 in the budget; agreed by the majority of those present.
  - Funding for Burial Ground Maintenance at St Nicholas Church: it was noted that costs could increase in the future as additional support may be required. It was proposed by J Palmer and seconded by I Downs to allocate £550 in the budget; agreed by the majority of those present.
  - Funding for gully, drain and verge clearance: it was proposed by R Sexton and seconded by T Trim to allocate £1000 in the budget; agreed by the majority of those present. The regular flooding across the road near the edge of Combe Woods was discussed. *Action Chair to ask DCC Community Highways Officer about ownership of, and solutions for, overgrown ditches and possibly blocked drains near Combe Woods.*
  - Having updated the draft estimated budget for the four expenditure items above, and retained a Precept of £2000, the budget showed a deficit of £554.
  - I Downs then asked why a much smaller Precept should not be raised given the funds (c£16k plus £3.8k CIL funds) held by the Parish Meeting. The Chair explained that the need to retain a Reserve of £5k (including a possible Clerk salary); the potential costs for the work at Edwards Close; and the

'wish list' of other items that had been discussed at the meeting 20 November 2025 could easily use the funds held by the Parish Meeting. Whilst the ability to spend in the past has been limited leading to an accumulation of money, the newly acquired Powers mean that, if it so chooses, the Parish Meeting can use the money to enhance the village. After a lengthy debate, two proposals for the Precept were made: £2000 proposed by V Moran and seconded by B Churchill; and £1000 proposed by I Downs and seconded by M Horne. The £1000 option received 8 votes and the £2000 option received 11 votes. Therefore, the requested Precept will be £2000 giving a Band D charge of £18pa and a Band H charge of £36pa. There will be a deficit of £554 against the estimated budget.

**54/2026 Questions, items for the next meeting agenda, and general village information**

- a) None raised.
- b) Please note that the Annual Parish Meeting is planned for Thursday 7 May 2026.

**55/2026** There being no other business the Meeting closed at 2040.

Tony Dezell - Chair