

Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 18 March 2026

Present:

Mr T Dezell – Chair

Mrs S Sexton – Vice Chair

Mrs J Wardle – Clerk

Together with 10 local government electors of the Parish:

Mrs K Churchill

Mr B Churchill

Mrs V Moran

Mr C Kemp

Mrs C Kemp

Mrs E Downs

Mrs M Joules

Mr A Joules

Mrs G Jackson

Mr D Jackson

Cllr C Connor (DCC)

Cllr C Brown (EDDC)

Cllr Y Levine (EDDC)

56/2026 Apologies for Absence

Mrs C Padget

Mr C Padget

Mr J Palmer

Mrs Å Bylander

Mr M Horne

Mr R Sexton

Mrs J Horne

Mr O Williams

Mr I Downs

Mrs R Mapleston

Mrs G Compton

Mr T Lynn

Mrs R Lynn

Mr J Brabrook

Mrs V Brabrook

Mr M Moran

57/2026 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 18 December 2025

- a) Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 November 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 with one abstention.

58/2026 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. *Action: Clerk to chase EDDC re additional Powers.*
- b) Ref Min 52/2026: grit bins – it was agreed that the purchase of a new grit bin should await the possibility of FY26/27 Locality Budget funding. *Action: Clerk to note for Locality Budget application to fund new grit bin in May 2026.*
- c) Ref Min 53/2026: Raleigh Rag – given the diminishing funds for printing and the lack of feedback on future print requirements, it was agreed that the April 2026 issue would be the last with colour pages (except in special circumstances). After April 2026, the printed copy would be in black and white with a full colour version being available online. This change will be announced in the April Raleigh Rag.
- d) Ref Min 53/2026: Maintenance of Church clock – two very similar quotes have been received. Both quotes are below the budgeted allowance. Further details of the specifics of the quotes will enable the PCC to decide on the choice of provider.
- e) Ref Min 53/2026: Overgrown ditches and blocked drains - the large puddle which has persisted for several weeks by the A30 bridge on Clapper Lane has been reported several times to DCC Highways and was investigated by them. Further rains still caused flooding. This was queried again DCC Highways as this is not only potentially damaging for vehicles when deep, but it also stops pedestrians when it is across the road. A leaking manhole in Pale Gate Close which causes the slope down Clapper Lane to be continually wet (and dangerously icy in cold weather) has been reported to South West Water. They have replied that as it is land drainage it is not their responsibility. There is also reported pollution on the West side of the lane with an orange liquid collecting in puddles in drier weather. *Action: Clerk to*

write to Cllr Connor detailing the flooding/water/pollution issues on Clapper Lane. Action: Chair to contact DCC Highways (copied to Cllr Connor).

59/2026 County Councillor and District Councillors' reports

- a) County Councillor Connor's report was circulated after the meeting. The meeting expressed its strong concerns regarding the state of the local roads particularly the busy road between Dunkeswell and Honiton which is in a very bad and dangerous condition in its lower part.

60/2026 Financial Report

- a) The Financial Report correct to 11 March 2026 shows a balance of £20,177. **Resolution: to approve the Financial Report.** Proposed by the Chair; seconded by A Joules; and approved by those present.

61/2026 Planning

a) 26/0338/AGR - Higher Wadhayes Farm - a dual pitch portal framed building with a mono-pitch lean to - application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed Erection, Extension or Alteration of a Building for Agricultural or Forestry use. The Chair explained that, once again, the necessary plans had not been provided by EDDC Planning with the initial consultation. The plans have now been submitted and examined and the Chair proposed that the meeting should recommend approval of the application. This was seconded by B Churchill and approved by those present. *Action: Clerk to notify EDDC Planning.*

62/2026 Edwards Close

- a) The Chair explained that a quote has been received to form the concrete channel between the two road gullies, construction would in ST4 concrete. ST4 is designed for both domestic and commercial projects, commonly used for garage floors, shed bases, and workshop floors, and it is suitable as a wearing surface. The quote including VAT, road closure and road works licences is £7539.74 with 50% required as a part payment two weeks before work commences. Whilst it would be prudent to obtain more than one quote, it has been impossible to find anyone else to provide one. The Chair recommended approval.
- b) The Chair explained that a quote (£850) to undertake work clearing various trees adjacent to Edwards Close and to coppice the hedge at bank height had been received. Only one quote has been received from a local company. The Chair recommended approval.
- c) The project to widen the road would be completed in three phases:
- (i) Tree and hedge work – as soon as possible
 - (ii) Gully construction – during the summer
 - (iii) Tarmacing the road up to the gully and the hedgerow, and subsequent adoption by DCC Highways – to be completed after the concrete has matured (at least 30 days).
- d) The Chair recommended acceptance of two quotes (total £8389); the Vice Chair seconded; and the proposal was approved by those present. The Chair will contact EDDC re how the CIL monies (£3820) will be released and utilized to part-fund the project. *Action Chair to liaise with EDDC re CIL monies, and with the companies authorized to undertake the works.*

63/2026 Dog fouling

a) Dog fouling particularly on the roadside grass in the vicinity of the St Nicolas Rise carpark has been reported. A notice has been installed by the land owners reminding dog owners that failing to clean up after your dog in a public place is a criminal offence under [The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005](#). It can result in a £100 "on-the-spot" fixed penalty notice (FPN), or a fine up to £1,000 if

prosecuted in court. Being unaware of the fouling or not having a bag is not a valid excuse. Fouling was also reported near the flower trough at the village entrance and on private property. *Action: Clerk to research cost of small signs to remind dog owners of criminal offence.*

64/2026 Exposed sewer pipe

a) The cast iron (inflexible) sewer pipe has been exposed where it crosses a tributary of the River Otter at Coryhill. This has been reported twice to Southwest Water by a resident. The original problem was reported in Nov 2023. Given the amount of erosion this winter, the pipe may become wholly exposed and supporting a large concrete block. If the pipe cracks, raw sewage will enter the River Otter which is within half a mile. A second report was made in Feb 2026; the response was another visit by Southwest Water and another promise to do something whenever time permits, or when there is a crisis.

b) The meeting agreed that the lack of immediate action by Southwest Water was completely unacceptable given the pollution risk and the implications for properties served by the pipe. The following action was proposed by V Moran, seconded by E Downs, and approved by the meeting: a letter will be sent to EDDC Environment Health (copied to the local MP) explaining the situation and requesting a response within two weeks after which time the matter will be raised with DCC Environmental Health (again copied to the MP). *Action: Chair to write to EDDC Environmental Health (copied to Richard Foord).*

65/2026 Questions, items for the next meeting agenda, and general village information

- a) The hedge and fencing debris which moved into Clapper Lane during recent flooding has not been cleared by the landowner. It can present an obstruction to passing traffic. The matter has been raised with DCC Highways, but no action has been taken. *Action: Chair to contact DCC Highways.*
- b) Please note that the Annual Parish Meeting is planned for Thursday 7 May 2026.

66/2026 There being no other business the Meeting closed at 2025.

Tony Dezell - Chair