

Combe Raleigh Parish Meeting
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7 May 2026

Present:

Mr T Dezell – Chair	Mrs S Sexton – Vice Chair	Mr C Kemp – Vice Chair
Mrs J Wardle – Clerk	Clr Y Levine (EDDC)	

Together with 20 local government electors of the Parish:

Mrs G Jackson	Mr J Palmer	Mr C Padget	Mr D Jackson	Mrs K Churchill
Mr B Churchill	Mr M Moran	Mrs V Moran	Mrs M Blackburn	Mr M Horne
Mrs C Kemp	Mrs R Mapleston	Mr I Downs	Mrs E Downs	Mrs H Trim
Mrs E Guinness	Mrs L Clarke	Mr S Thompson	Mr O Williams	Mrs E Twaddle

01/2027 Apologies for Absence

Clr C Connor (DCC)	Clr C Brown (EDDC)	Mrs Å Bylander	Mr J Brabrook	Mrs V Brabrook
Mr R Sexton	Mrs G Compton	Mr T Lynne	Mrs C Padget	Mr A Joules
Mrs M Joules	Mrs R Lynne	Mr A Slade	S Holloway	

02/2027 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. The Chair is willing to stand again if nominated, proposed and seconded.
- c) The Vice Chair then took the Chair for the election of the Chair. There were no other nominations. T Dezell was nominated and proposed by S Sexton; seconded by D Jackson; Votes: for 23; against 0; abstentions 0.
Resolution: to elect T Dezell as Chair. Having been duly elected T Dezell took the Chair.

03/2027 Election of Parish Meeting Vice Chair

- a) S Sexton advised the meeting that she did not wish to stand for a further year. She thanked the Chair and the Clerk for their support during her two-year tenure. The Chair thanked her for her service. Mr C Kemp was nominated by T Dezell, proposed by S Sexton, and seconded by B Churchill. There were no other nominations. Votes: for 23; against 0; abstentions 0. **Resolution: to elect Mr C Kemp as Vice Chair.**

04/2027 Appointment of Parish Meeting Clerk

- 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.

05/2027 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 2026/2027.

06/2027 Other Appointments

- a) Chris Padget (Tree Warden) and Ollie Williams (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 O Williams 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.

07/2027 Confirmation of Standing Orders

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

08/2027 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. Discussions with EDDC are ongoing as the Parish Meeting (which does not have a corporate identity) cannot have insurance in its own name. Only the Chair and Proper Officer (currently the EDDC Monitoring Officer) could have insurance. *Action: Chair to liaise with EDDC re insurance requirements.*

09/2027 County Councillor and District Councillors' reports

- a) The most recent report from DCC Cllr Connor had been previously circulated.
b) The most recent report from EDDC Cllr Levine had been previously circulated.

10/2027 Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 18 March 2026

- a) Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 March 2026, which had previously been circulated, were amended to include:

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 with 12mm Re-bar.

The amended minutes were proposed by S Sexton and seconded by B Churchill to be an accurate record of the Meeting. They were approved by those present.

11/2027 Matters arising from the Minutes

- a) Additional Powers – discussions are ongoing with EDDC re Powers to pay a Clerk (if required) and to buy insurance (see also Min 08/2027).
- b) New grit bin – it was agreed that a 200-litre bin should be purchased for the crossroads at the top of the hill; and that an application should be made to the DCC Locality Budget. *Action: Clerk to apply to DCC Locality Budget for the new grit bin.*
- c) Church clock maintenance – the two quotes were discussed, and it was agreed to accept the quote from Gillett & Johnson. *Action: Clerk to write to PCC re maintenance contract for church clock.*
- d) Clapper Lane – water and debris issues
- (i) The large puddle / small lake which has persisted for several weeks by the A30 bridge on Clapper Lane. This site was attended by Highways in February and was rodded to improve the flow. On this visit they were successful on allowing the water to flow away however it was noted that the flow was likely restricted. At the time they concluded this was likely due to elevated river levels covering the outlet of the system. A jetting request has been logged also for the system and will be attended to when resource and priority allow. The Chair had contacted Highways: the drain in question runs some distance through the field before entering the river and was blocked, the land is owned 50/50 between National Highways and Government Treasury Department (GTD). Highways want to contact GTD before entering land to jet clean. Highways would like to replace with a shorter pipe however they are not sure if there's available budget.
- (ii) 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 Southwest Water. The leaking manhole was reported by Cllr Connor to the DCC Network Enforcement Team. They are going to chase up BT again as BT have accepted that there is an issue.
- (iii) Reported pollution in Summer 2025 on the West side of the lane with an orange liquid collecting in puddles in drier weather. The Clerk requested that if this happens again that photos be taken and sent to her so that she can report it to the environmental health team at EDDC.

- (iv) The Chair stated that he contacted Highways re the hedgerow debris following recent floods; this was cleared within a few days.
- e) Edwards Close – the Chair explained that quotes for work were approved at last meeting and that the timescale would be Tip Top Trees to thin and cut back hedge ASAP; Glendinning to start verge/gulley works during school summer holiday with a road closure for 2 days and a parking restriction for approx 10-12 days (while the concrete sets). The Chair is negotiating with EDDC and the CIL team so that the CIL monies can be allocated to Glendinning as the part payment to commence the work, the balance would come from Parish Meeting funds.
- f) Dog fouling - the pros and cons of putting up signs were discussed and it was agreed not to purchase signs.
- g) Exposed sewer pipe – the response from the Environment Agency was discussed and agreed to be totally inadequate and unacceptable given the pollution risk should the pipe rupture. *Action: Chair to write again to the Environment Agency (copied to Southwest Water and the MP) emphasizing the serious nature of the situation.*

12/2027 Devon Highways Road Warden Scheme

- a) The Parish Handbook supplied by Cllr Connor had been circulated and volunteers sought for undertaking minor road repairs in the village to help prevent the formation of more serious potholes. There had been one volunteer. *Action: Clerk to review the details of the Scheme including the role of the coordinator.*

13/2027 Financial Report (correct to 31 March 2026)

- a) The Financial Report correct to 31 March 2026 shows a balance of £20,173.
Resolution: to approve the Financial Report. Proposed by J Palmer; seconded by S Sexton; and approved by those present.
- b) **Resolution: to approve retrospective subscription payment to Devon Association of Local Councils of £26.32.** Proposed by E Guinness; seconded by S Sexton and approved by those present.

14/2027 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/2026

- a) The Chair 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 £20,173 with £3,820 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 V Moran and approved by those present
- c) The Annual Accounting Statement (AGAR Section 2) was reviewed and recommended for approval by V Moran, seconded by S Sexton and approved by those present
- d) The Certificate of Exemption (from a limited assurance review) was recommended for approval by S Sexton seconded by V Moran and approved for submission to the external auditor.
- e) The exercise of public rights to inspect financial records for 2025/2026 will available 3 June 2026 to 14 July 2026. This will be advertised on the village website <https://comberaleigh.org/parish-finance/>.

15/2027 Community Infrastructure Levy [CIL] report 2025/2026

- a) The 2025/2026 Community Infrastructure Levy report, as circulated, was recommended for approval by S Sexton, seconded by D Jackson.

16/2027 Report of the Village Hall Committee

- a) B Churchill reported on the activities during the last 12 months and thanked all the Committee members and other volunteers who have helped to improve the facilities and deliver enjoyable events.

17/2027 Report of the Emergency Committee

- a) The Chair thanked O Williams for stepping into the role at short notice. He noted that many bad weather incidents had been dealt with by Highways.

18/2027 Report of St Nicholas Church

- a) R Mapleston reported that a new Rector has been appointed and that the Friends of St Nicholas Church has been established to raise funds for the maintenance of the fabric of the church building.

19/2027 Report of Combe Raleigh Newsletter – Raleigh Rag

- a) V Moran reported that as a decision has been made to revert to black and white printing except in exceptional and celebratory circumstances, it is anticipated that the current available funds, together with any contributions from the Parish Meeting to cover the distribution of official Parish Meeting information, will be sufficient to cover production costs for 2026/27.

20/2027 Questions, items for the next meeting agenda, and general village information

- a) The annual Plant Sale will be held in the garden at the Barton on Sunday 7 May 2026 2-4pm to raise money for St Nicholas Church.

21/2027 There being no other business the Meeting closed at 2040 hours.

Tony Dezell - Chair