EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

These minutes will be agreed at the next Parish Council meeting on 11th November and might be subject to slight amendment

The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th September 2026 in the Hall, East Anstey Primary School at 7.30pm

Present: Miss L Moore (Chair), Miss J Gannon and Mrs C Warne.
In attendance: the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

37/09/26. To receive apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Fasham. Apologies were received from County Cllr R Hopley and District Cllr R Milton.

38/09/26. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda. Cllr Mrs Warne declared that a number of parishioners purchase eggs from her business.

39/09/26. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th July 2026 as an accurate record. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and were duly signed by the Chair.

40/09/26. Matters arising from the minutes, not included on the agenda. No matters arising.

41/09/26. Democratic period. No members of the public present.

42/09/26. Planning

a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received by the council before the meeting. No applications received.

b) To note any decisions made on planning applications by NDC. No decisions received.

c) To report that an alleged planning breach raised by a member of the public has been referred to NDC Planning Enforcement. The Parish Council has been informed of concerns that a concrete pad has been laid at Melcoe but no planning application has been submitted**.** This could be for a new chicken house and NDC Enforcement have been made aware. Concern was also raised about a sign for Wild Woods which is on the highway.

d) New National Planning Policy (NPPF) and the implications. A 130 page document about the new National Planning Policy Framework is available and there is a lot of information to take in. There appears to be a change to the security of the settlement boundary and more planning decisions will be made by officers.

e) Any other planning matters. None.

43/09/26. Highways:

a) To receive a report from Cllr Mrs Warne, Parish Council Highways representative. Melanie Mckenna, DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO), is checking that the fingerpost at Rhyll Gate Cross is in Devon and not Somerset. Local residents believe it is in Devon. Waddicombe residents have

requested that East Anstey Parish Council review this matter and get a replacement made and erected. They would like the left arm worded West Anstey - Yeo Mill; the right arm worded East Anstey – Hawkridge – Dulverton and the arm facing towards Rhyll should be signposted Waddicombe. A quote for a new sign will be requested.
A Temporary Traffic Restriction Order has been received for Rhyll Gate Cross for 2nd and 3rd November and local residents have been informed.
DCC Highways have cleared the entrance of the ditch on the road from Rhyll Manor to Henspark but only for a short section and to a poor quality. The ditch will be monitored and when the ditch is no longer working efficiently photos will be sent to the NHO and a site meeting requested.
The resurfacing of Broomball Lane is still awaiting funding.
Water is ponding on the road from Tregarn to Woodburn Cross and the NHO is waiting for funding for a water diversion scheme.
The height of the vegetation on the verges at Woodburn Cross was causing poor Visibility and a concerned local farmer has cut back the vegetation as he was concerned there would be an accident.
Information about road safety issues at the Jubilee junction is still awaited.
b) Any other highways issues. None.

44/09/26. Reports

a) District Cllr. No report.
b) County Cllr. No report.

45/09/26. Finance

a) To approve invoices for payment and receive details of any payments made since the last meeting. It was resolved to approve the following payments:

2627/13	Mr D Passmore	£390.00	Grass cutting
2627/14	Low Carbon Products	£807.44	New bench
2627/15	Mrs J Larcombe	£23.50	Salary – details do not have to be provided to the public (UKGDPR) Amount listed is for expenses
2627/16	HM Revenue & Customs		PAYE – details do not have to be to provided to the public (UKGDPR)

Since the last meeting a payment of £660.00 has been paid to J Poole Plant Hire & Groundworks for creating a hard surface in the field shelter (Payment reference; 2627/11 and a payment of £60.00 has been made to Ken White Signs Ltd (Payment ref: 2627/12)
Bank charges of £7.00 were taken from the Current Account on 31st July and 31st September 2026. Bank charges of £7.00 will be taken on 30th September 2026. An internal transfer will be made from the Instant Account to the Current Account to return the balance to £500.00

b) To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank balance.

A receipt of £50 was received from Cllr Mrs C Warne for the sale of the phone box which has now been refurbished.
The Current Account balance is £500.00 and the Instant Access Account balance is £14,822.18.

c) To receive the bank reconciliation for 31.07.26 and 31.08.26. The bank reconciliation was checked and signed by the Chair who is not a bank signatory.

46/09/26. Play Area

a) Any issues arising from playground inspections. No issues reported.

b) To agree who will carry out inspections until the next meeting. Cllr Mrs Warne will continue to carry out inspections.

c) To receive an update on the work to the floor of the shelter. The work has been completed and the contractor has been paid (see item 49/09/26 a).

d) To receive an update on the ordering of a picnic table. The picnic table has been delivered but will need to be put together. Cllr Miss Moore will arrange this.

e) To agree to order a plaque to commemorate the donation of the Village Green to the parish by Charles Gillett. This has been put up

f) Any other matters. . It was agreed to order a second sign to replace the one on the bench which marked East Anstey winning the Television South West Village Green Competition in 1992.

47/09/26. To agree the specification for the grass cutting contract for 2027. The 2026 specification was reviewed and amended. The first cut to be in the first week of April and the last cut in November. Contractors will be asked to quote to cut the area around the East Anstey sign at Hawkswell Cross once a month; the area around the Oldways End sign once a month and the verges at Woodburn Cross three times per year. They will have to have undertaken Chapter 8 training to allow them to work on the side of the highway. Efforts will be made to obtain three quotes.

48/09/26. To finalise arrangements for the Bring and Share Afternoon Tea on the Village Green on 13th September. Cllr Mrs Warne has arranged for the Church bells to ring a peal at 3.15pm. At 4.00pm the telephone box, book swap and information hub will be officially opened by two of the oldest and two of the youngest residents of East Anstey. If dry refreshments will be served on the village green but if it is wet they will be served in the Church. The decision will be made on the morning of the 13th by Cllr Miss Moore and Cllr Mrs Warne. Permission has been given for cars to park on the field next to the Village Green. Arrangements have been made to borrow chairs and tables from the school and electricity will be provided via an extension lead from a neighbouring property.

49/09/26. Update on recruitment of three councillors to fill the vacancies. No update.

50/09/26. Correspondence

a) To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated. No correspondence for consideration at the meeting.

b) To note items of correspondence received by the Clerk and deemed appropriate to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council. None.

51/09/26. Any other matters raised by councillors (For information only. No decisions to be made). Cllr Miss Moore explained her concern about plans for a data centre and battery energy storage system (BESS) on an 850-acre rural site near Great Torrington and questioned whether the Parish Council should lend support to the campaign against the plans and spread the word. Concerns include the environmental impact of over industrializing working farmland and disrupting the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve; the impact on wildlife; worries about high water usage for server cooling during ongoing regional water restrictions (hosepipe bans); massive electricity demands which will need new cables and the

impact on power locally; visual pollution with opposition to 40-metre-tall industrial structures looming over rolling green hills; traffic; light and noise pollution. An item will be added to the agenda for the November meeting for discussion.

52/09/26. Date of the next meeting. 11th November 2026

Signed: Date:
Chair