

# EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at East Anstey Primary School at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr's Ms L Moore (Chair), R Gibson, R Milton (also District Cllr) and Mrs H Warne.  
**In attendance:** County Cllr J Yabsley, one member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

**57/02/25. To receive apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Ms J Gannon.

**58/02/25. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda.** Cllr Milton declared an interest as the Ward Councillor.

**59/02/25. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th December 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chair.

**60/02/25. Matters arising from the minutes, not included on the agenda.** None

**61/02/25. Public Questions.** The member of the public had no questions.

**62/02/25. Planning**

**a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received by the council before the meeting.**

**79634** Retrospective application for an extension to an agricultural storage building at Land at Oaklands Poultry Farm West Anstey. Grid Ref: 285529; 12448. Comment: no objections.

**79640** Retrospective change of use for temporary rural workers dwelling with associated parking at Land at Oaklands Farm, West Anstey. Grid Ref: 285527; 124394. Comment: East Anstey Parish Council question whether this is the correct siting for the mobile home as it is 2 fields away from the calf unit which is spreading development in the open countryside. A site visit is requested. Should the Planning Officer be minded to approve this application the Parish Council ask for the following conditions:

1. That the mobile home is removed if the calf rearing business ceases and the site reinstated to open countryside
2. That information to support the viability of the business must be submitted on time.

The agricultural statement does not mention that approximately one third of the acreage is bog and not suitable for silage making.

**79649** Erection of temporary rural workers dwelling with associated parking (Lodge style mobile home) at Land at Oaklands Poultry Farm West Anstey South Molton. Grid Ref: 285529; 124478. Comment:

Should the Planning Officer be minded to approve this application the Parish Council ask for the following conditions:

1. That the mobile home is removed if the calf rearing business ceases and the site reinstated to open countryside

2. That information to support the viability of the business must be submitted on time.

The agricultural statement does not mention that approximately one third of the acreage is bog and not suitable for silage making.

**79788** Alterations to dwelling to include the raising of a section of roof to provide additional headroom together with associated works at Oak Cottage, East Anstey. Grid Ref: 285901; 127004. Comment: no objections

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

**c) Any other planning matters.** It was reported that there is a mobile home at Melcoe Park Farm. As planning permission doesn't seem to have been applied for it will be reported to planning enforcement.

**63/02/25. Highways: Any highways issues.** Six, 6-wheeler lorries a day are travelling to and from Hill Farm where a barn is being converted.

The condition of the road from Lower Oakford was reported to be beyond a joke. South West Water has applied for a road closure to complete utility works from near Blackerton Cottage to near Hilvera Farm. These works, subject to approval from Devon Highways, will take place on 27/05/2025.

#### **64/02/25. Reports**

**a) County Cllr.** Cllr Yabsley reminded councillors to report highways issues online on the DCC website. He gave an update on the DCC County Farms Estate and noted the estate would not be viable if it was broken up into unitary units. Councillors were briefed on the Governments plans for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation and the tight timeline for putting forward proposals. This is very much a political decision. DCC is putting together proposals as are the District Councils. If Devon isn't in the first tranche of councils chosen by the Government to become unitary it will have to bear the estimated £30million cost. Cllr Yabsley wasn't sure of the timeline but it is likely to be at least 2 years. An election for a shadow council could take place in 12 months. The Torridge and North Devon Local Plan should be in place before the reorganisation. There is also discussion about a combined group of unitaries with a mayor, a strategic authority for the south-west. The Police and Crime Commissioner role would go. DCC owns the Knowstone picnic site and the leases have come up for renewal. The Property Committee has made the decision that it should be sold. People want DCC to keep it. As it is designated open space it cannot be used for anything other than serving the public. The first stage is consultation, followed by assessment and then the sale stage if appropriate.

**b) District Cllr.** Cllr Milton had nothing further to add.

#### **65/02/25. Finance:**

**a) To approve invoices for payment.** It was resolved to make the following payments: Mrs J Larcombe - £194.38 Clerk's salary for January and February plus expenses (Payment ref: 2425/20)

HM Revenue & Customs - £45.20 PAYE (Payment ref: 2425/21)

Exmoor Creative Ltd - £75.00 website hosting & domain name (Payment ref: 2425/22).

Bank charges of £6.00 were taken from the Current Account on 31<sup>st</sup> December and 31<sup>st</sup> January.

An internal transfer will be made from the Instant Access 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.**

Since the last meeting the grant of £30,000 has been received from the Batsworthy Wind Farm Community Fund. Bank interest of £78.95 was received at the end of December.

The Current Account balance is £30,480.50 and the Instant Access Account balance is £12,882.77,

**c) Bank reconciliation 31.01.25.** The bank reconciliation was noted.

**d) To review the Business Risk assessment.** The document was reviewed and approved.

**e) To review the Policy Statement of Internal Control and Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Control 2024-25.** The document was reviewed and approved.

**66/02/25. Defibrillator report.** Someone tried to use the defibrillator but they were unable to open the cabinet. Councillors agreed there was no need to have the defibrillator in a locked cabinet. The school might be able to provide details of where to apply to in order to get a cabinet without a lock. Cllr Miss Moore will take over the responsibility for carrying out regular checks on the defibrillator from Cllr Mrs Warne. It was noted that there hasn't been a recent training session on using the defibrillator.

**67/02/25. To agree to adopt the new NALC Model Financial Regulations personalised for East Anstey Parish Council.** It was agreed to adopt the new Financial Regulations with effect from February 24<sup>th</sup> when the Procurement Act 2023 replaces the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

**68/02/25. To review Standing Orders to ensure they agree with the Financial Regulations.** It was agreed to adopt the reviewed Standing Orders with effect from February 24<sup>th</sup> when the Procurement Act 2023 replaces the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

**69/02/25. Play Area**

**a) Any issues arising from playground inspections.** Apart from a couple of garden chairs being left on the field everything else was alright.

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

**c) To discuss the grass cutting contract for 2025.** It was agreed to extend the contract with Dan Passmore. The cost will be £115.00 per cut.

**d) To note the receipt of the grant from the Batsworthy Wind Farm Community Grant Fund.** The £30,000 grant has been received.

**e) To discuss the quotes for the new play equipment and agree which to accept.** Three quotes had been received. It was agreed to delegate power to Cllr Miss Moore, Cllr Mrs Warne and the Clerk to decide which quote to accept. Arrangements need to be made to remove the old piece of equipment. New quotes will be obtained to replace the gate and fencing at the entrance to the field.

**70/02/25. To discuss a request from Anstey YFC to hold a village fete on the Village Green on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and whether the Parish council would like to be involved/have a stall.** It was agreed to give Anstey YFC permission to hold a

fete on the Village Green. Councillors will help if any help is needed.

**71/02/25. Feedback from the 'Smaller Councils' Zoom meeting with DALC.** Cllr Miss Moore was unable to attend.

**72/02/25. Parish Council vacancies update.** Still no interest. Councillors will keep asking people.

**73/02/25. Correspondence.** There was no further correspondence.

**74/02/25. Date of the next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on 26th March 2025.

Signed:  
Chair

Date: