

# **EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday  
6th May 2026 in the Hall at East Anstey Primary School at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr's Miss L Moore, I Fasham, R Gibson and Mrs C Warne.

**In attendance:** Seven members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

**01/05/26. Election of:**

**a) Chair.** Cllr Miss Moore was proposed by Cllr Gibson and seconded by Cllr Fasham. There were no other nominations. Cllr Miss Moore was elected as Chair and signed the Acceptance of Office form when elected.

**b) Vice-chair.** Cllr Mrs Warne was proposed by Cllr Miss Moore and seconded by Cllr Gibson. There were no other nominations. Cllr Mrs Warne was elected as Vice-chair.

**02/05/26. To receive apologies.** Apologies were received from Cllr Milton and Cllr Hopley.

**03/05/26. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda.** None.

**04/05/26. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 as an accurate record of the meeting.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**05/05/26. Matters arising from the minutes, not included on the agenda.** None.

**06/05/26. Democratic period.** The agenda included wording to say that this item would be limited to members of East Anstey parish who would be allowed to speak on items on the agenda for no more than three minutes each.  
A member of the public who wanted to raise a different matter expressed his displeasure. It was explained that it could be covered under item 11.

**07/05/26. Planning**

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

**b) To note any planning applications received between meetings.**

**81500** Demolition of stable building and barn and erection of a dwelling (utilising fallback position of appeal approval APP/X1118/W/25/3370468). Location: Maybank Farm, East Anstey. No comment.

The applicant asked what 'no comment' meant and it was explained the Parish Council did not comment on this application. The applicant queried a comment Cllr Mrs Warne had made and it was explained that she had made that comment in a personal capacity and not as a councillor.

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

**d) Any other planning matters.** None.

**08/05/26. Highways:**

**a) Any highways issues.** Cllr Mrs Warne gave the following report:

Rhyll Gate Cross Finger post rotten with fingers missing (W261952939)  
Cllr Mrs Warne was told it was the responsibility of the Parish Council to pay for a new sign. The Highways Department can provide a new sign if the Parish Council pays. Cllr Mrs Warne has asked Melanie McKenna, Neighbourhood Highways Officer for a quote.

The Clerk explained that highways signs are the responsibility of the highways authority but they have decided they will not replace signs because they have not got the money. Town and Parish Councils have the power to pay for highways signs and can decide to pay for replacement signs or repairs to signs.

Rhyll Gate to Five Cross Ways (W261982381). Potholes reported but highways responded that no action was deemed necessary.

Rhyll Manor to Henspark. The ditch is filled with mud and debris and requires cleaning out to prevent surface water running downhill into April Cottage. Highways has said it is the responsibility of the landowner. There are two landowners involved, the owner of Rhyll Manor and the owner of Waddicombe Farm. Cllr Mrs Warne has spoken to owner of Waddicombe Farm who explained it was a more complex issue as the debris washed down the ditch had formed heaps in his field which prevented drainage and caused the land to be sodden. He has had to remove heaps of debris in the past, and wants to review the problem with the Highways Department. Cllr Mrs Warne has contacted the Landowner and she is waiting for a reply.

Scratchyface Lane corner (W26198383). The pot hole has been repaired but the repair is not expected to last long.

Barton Cross to Rhyll Gate Cross (W26198383). Potholes to be filled by 25<sup>th</sup> May.

Broomball Lane. Surfacing repairs are now on the list to be done when there is funding.

Hawkwell Cross Signpost (W261952936). Repaired by a local, no further action required.

Hawkwell Cross to Willow Lodge (892622). This is Somerset Council responsibility and they have put on their list to review the poor standard of road surface.

Little Hawkwell to Threadneedle. BT plate was exposed but has been repaired.

Whitemoor/Tuckers Moor Cross (W261986005). The surface water running down the road is from a mains water leak on Whitemoor land. South West Water have logged the leak.

Tregarne to Woodburn Cross (W26195294). The Neighbourhood Highways Officer has investigated the water pooling in the road and has raised a drainage scheme for gullies to catch the water and to pipe to the B3227 system if the fall allows and when funding is available.

Woodburn Hill/Swineham. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer will inspect the road.

**b) Appointment of Parish Council Highways representative.** It was agreed to appoint Cllr Mrs Warne to liaise with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer on highways matters within the parish.

## **09/05/26. Reports**

**a) District Cllr.** No report.

**b) County Cllr.** No reports.

## **10/05/26. Finance**

- a) To approve invoices for payment.** It was resolved to pay the DALC Annual Subscription of £117.30 (Payment ref: 2627/01)
- b) To approve insurance renewal.** It was agreed to renew the insurance with Zurich Town and Municipal. The Clerk had not been able to find a more competitive quote. The renewal premium is £370.90 (Payment ref: 2627/02). Since the last meet bank charges of £7 were paid on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> April.
- c) To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank balance.** Since the last meeting bank interest of £72.54 has been received. £3,575, the first half of the precept has been received from NDC. The Current Account balance is £507.00 and the Instant Access Account balance is £13,200.67.
- d) Accounts for 2025-26.** These are ready for internal audit.
- e) Bank reconciliation 31.03.26 and 30.04.27.** Presented at the meeting.
- f) To agree an additional bank signatory.** It was agreed to add Cllr Mrs Warne and Cllr Fasham as bank signatories.
- g) Appointment of internal auditor.** Carried forward to obtain quotes.

## **11/05/26. Play Area**

- a) Any issues arising from playground inspections.** Cllr Mrs Warne gave the following report:

Rabbits have dug up the earth floor of the shelter. She suggested digging it out and inserting a thick layer of hardcore. Councillors will have a site visit to decide the best way of preventing the rabbits digging up the floor and the best surfacing for the floor of the shelter.

The graffiti on the shelter needs to be painted over.

No one is interested in having the old piece of multi-play equipment. Cllr Mrs Warne suggested removing the climbing parts and converting the main section into a den using the wooden materials from the old bench and old picnic table at present in the shelter.

Two new benches and picnic tables made of recycled plastic need to be ordered. One of the picnic tables needs to be suitable for wheelchairs. Quotes to be obtained. A memorial plaque will be added to one bench, in memory of Charles Gillett who gave the land for the village Green. A plaque commemorating when East Anstey won the TSW TV, Village Green competition was also suggested. The plywood back of the parish noticeboard is rotten and needs replacing and the front doors need re-staining. It was questioned whether it was worth spending money on.

A decision needs to be made on what to do with the old telephone kiosk which is missing panes of glass and the door. Four options have been suggested

- Sell for scrap
- Move and re-position on village green, refurbish and put seat inside
- Leave in situ and repaint, have door made from toughened plastic (Omega, South Molton)
- Leave in situ and use as notice board by fixing marine ply to the front and either painting mural showing Exmoor landscape scene or paint to look like original kiosk door. Likewise on the left wall. A door to be made from toughened plastic or wood for right side of kiosk.

A notice will be put on the telephone box asking for people's views so a decision can be made.

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

Warne will continue to carry out inspections.

**c) To report on the grass cutting contract for 2026.** Dan Passmore will continue to cut the grass for 2026 at £130 per cut. Grass cutting needs to start earlier next year.

**d) Any other matters.** Cllr Mrs Warne had a suggestion for a tea and chat community event on the Village Green at the start of September. A member of the public has suggested organising an event such as a fete on the Village Green on 30<sup>th</sup> August, the day of the Froude Run. Councillors agreed to support this. Cllr Mrs Warne agreed to speak to the member of the public to discuss the format of the event. Councillors were willing to consider some funding to pay towards the costs of organising the event.

**12/05/26. Update on recruitment of two councillors to fill the vacancies.** No expressions of interest.

**13/05/26. Correspondence.** It was reported that twice, flowers have been pulled out of the flower box at the entrance to the village. It was suggested that there should be a rota to keep the flower box tidy.  
It was reported that a commemorative Oak tree had died following damage caused by Open Reach.

**14/05/26. Date of the next meeting.** A date will be arranged for the Annual Parish Meeting. This will be followed by a short Parish Council meeting.

Councillors passed a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press for discussion of the following agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**15/05/26. To discuss a staffing matter raised by the Clerk.** Members of the public left the room and the meeting moved into Part 2.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.