EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th July 2026 at East Anstey Primary School at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr's Miss L Moore (Chair), Miss J Gannon, R Gibson, I Fasham and Mrs C Warne.
In attendance: District Cllr R Milton (Part of meeting), four members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

22/07/26. To receive apologies. No apologies received.

23/07/26. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda. Cllr Mrs Warne declared a personal interest as a number of parishioners purchase eggs from her business.

24/07/26. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27th May 2026 and the Part 2 minutes of the meeting held on 6th May as accurate records. The minutes were agreed as accurate records and were duly signed by the Chair.

25/07/26. Matters arising from the minutes, not included on the agenda. None.

26/07/26. Democratic period. A parishioner complained about a local farmer leaving dollops of muck on the road when dung spreading and not cleaning the road as he should do. Grass is also being left on the road.
There was also a complaint about vehicles being parked on the road by the bridge.

27/07/26. 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) Any other planning matters. None.

28/07/26. Highways:
a) To receive a report from Cllr Mrs Warne, Parish Council Highways representative. DCC and Somerset Council disagree over who owns the fingerpost sign at Rhyll Gate Cross.
Gullies/ditches on the road from Rhyll Manor to Henspark are scheduled for one a year cleaning in August. Further to that it is the responsibility of the landowner.
Repairs to the surface of Broomball Lane is waiting for funding. The installation of a drain on the road from Tregarn to Woodburn Cross is also waiting for funding.
b) Follow up on highways matters raised at the Annual Parish Meeting. No details have been provided about safety concerns at the junction by the Jubilee Inn. There are advertisement signs on the junction which could be questioned. This was deferred until the autumn.
c) Any other highways issues. The verge at Woodburn cross is overgrown which is affecting visibility. Highways are not cutting this verge enough.
Everyone was encouraged to report potholes online on the DCC website.

29/07/26. Finance

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

2627/08	Community Heartbeat Trust	£151.20	Defibrillator annual support cost year 10
2627/09	Mrs J Larcombe	£38.00	Salary – details do not have to be provided to the public (UKGDPR) Amount listed is for expenses
2627/10	HM Revenue & Customs		PAYE – details do not have to be to provided to the public (UKGDPR)

Since the last meeting a payment of £714.47 has been made to Gate Huts Ltd for a wheelchair access recycled plastic picnic table and delivery (Payment ref: 2627/06).

A payment of £50 to Dorchester Town Council has been set up for Managing Conflict in meetings training for the Clerk and Chair (Payment ref: 2627/07)

Bank charges of £7.00 were taken from the Current Account on 31st May and 30th June 2026. Bank charges of £7.00 will be taken on 31st July 2026.

An internal transfer will be made from the Instant Account to the Current Account to return the balance to £500.00.

b) To receive a report on budget v actual for 1st April to 30th June 2026. The report, which included details of the Council's general and earmarked reserves, was noted. There were no areas of concern at this early stage in the financial year.

Cllr Milton joined the meeting.

c) To agree a grant towards the upkeep of the Churchyard. The completed grant application form and the PCC accounts were circulated to councillor prior to the meeting. It was resolved to award a grant of £550.00 towards the upkeep of the Churchyard (Payment ref: 2627/11).

d) To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank balance. On 30th June 2026 bank interest of £64.18 was received.

The Current Account balance is £488.00 and the Instant Access Account balance is £14,106.23

e) To receive the bank reconciliation for 31.05.26 and 30.06.26. The bank reconciliations were checked the Chair, who is not a bank signatory, and she signed the bank statements and bank reconciliations.

30/07/26. Reports

a) District Cllr. Cllr Milton reported that under new planning legislation pretty well every application will be delegated to officers to decide. Only major applications will be decided by committee. Large development such as battery centres are likely to go to the government to be rubber stamped.

NDC has started the process to produce a new Local Plan which will have to be produced within eighteen months, by which time the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) will have started. The new Local Plan will be fed into the new administration. It is basically an urban based plan. There are only two rural based councillors on NDC. People are being encouraged to register land they wish to put forward for development under the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA). HMRC might tax this land on hope value if it is in the local plan.

Some things have been re-budgeted but very little is happening outside of this. Riding stables are going to need to have the same licence as a zoo.
A decision on LGR is expected this month or possibly August. Representations from Councils in Devon have gone forward. The decision is likely to be politically driven and how representative it will be is anyone's guess. A shadow authority will be elected next spring and there will be a twelve month changeover. Seven NDC meetings planned to be held over the next month have been cancelled. NDC will hand over a loan of £17million for new housing to the new authority. The picnic area at Knowstone has been sold. The toilets are being kept open and someone will run the café. There could possibly be a farm shop.
Exmoor National Park (ENP) are starting work on their new local plan. ENP crosses the boundary of two different local authorities which operate differently. They will continue to be the planning authority for the area they cover. Brushford has been included in their Housing Needs Survey. ENP core funding from the government has been cut again for 2026/27 but a £7million one of payment for nature has been received.
Councillors raised concerns about the noise from a music event at WildWoods and Cllr Milton advised raising this with the licensing department at NDC.
b) County Cllr. No report.

31/07/26. Play Area

a) Any issues arising from playground inspections. No issues.
b) To agree who will carry out inspections until the next meeting. Cllr Mrs Warne will continue to carry out the inspections.
c) To receive an update on the work to the floor of the shelter. An order has been placed with Jonathon Poole for the work to be carried out and he will be contacted to try and get the work carried out while it is still dry.
d) To receive an update on the ordering of a picnic table. An order has been made in conjunction with Oakford Parish Council which has given a 5% saving.
e) To agree to order a plaque to commemorate the donation of the Village Green to the parish by Charles Gillett. It was agreed to place an order with Ken White Signs Ltd for a 2 ft by 1 ft cream and dark green sign with the inscription 'This Village Green was gifted by Charles Gillett in 1992. Please respect our Village Green'.
f) Any other matters. The flagpole is going to be re=erected just inside the small gate from the car park.
It was agreed to remove the rubbish bin and put up signage asking people to take away their rubbish to dispose of.
Cllr Mrs Warne has a young Oak tree which she is giving to the parish council to plant in commemoration of the coronation of king Charles III.
Plans to convert the old piece of multi play equipment into a den were discussed.
A South West Water Van is being parked outside of the entrance to the Village Green. It is believed to belong to a resident of one of the Froude Cottages.

Cllr Milton and the member of the public left the meeting.

32/07/26. To discuss arrangements for the Bring and Share Afternoon Tea on the Village Green on 13th September. The date has been updated in the parish magazine. Tables and chairs will be set up by the gate for the less mobile. The Church will be used if it is wet. Residents are being asked to bring their own

plate and cup. Cllr Miss Moore will provide the equipment for water to be heated and Cllr Mrs Warne will provide a horse box and generator. The Parish Council will pay for tea, coffee, milk and sugar. Donations of food have been requested. A volunteer has produced posters for display.

33/07/26. To report on the phone box consultation and decide whether to sell or refurbish. Cllr Mrs Warne organised the consultation and twenty seven responses were received. Twenty two were in favour of doing up the phone box and keeping in the current location. Cllr Mrs Warne has purchased nine sheets of perspex which have been used to replace the missing glass panels. A fabricator can make a similar door to the one that has been lost. There was concern about the future of the phone box if councillors change following the parish council elections in May 2027. Cllr Mrs Warne offered to purchase the phone box for fifty pounds, do it up, put it on the heritage list and give it to the village. She declared an interest and left the room while councillors discussed her offer. It was agreed to accept her offer. Cllr Mrs Warne returned to the room.

34/07/26. Update on recruitment of three councillors to fill the vacancies. No applications received.

35/07/26. Correspondence

a) To consider any correspondence received that Councillors wish to raise that has already been circulated. None.

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

c) Other matters brought forward by councillors (For information only).

A contractor trimmed the verge at Hawkswell Cross for DCC Highways but made a poor job of it. Councillors will discuss paying for this piece of verge to be cut by the contractor who cuts the village green. The Clerk advised that the contractor would need to have Chapter 8 accreditation to carry out work on a verge next to the highway,

Councillors were disappointed to hear that the flower bed on the verge had been vandalised and although people suspect they know who did this there was a discussion on how the flower bed could be monitored and proof obtained if it happens in the future. Fortunately the volunteer who looks after it is happy to continue to look after it.

36/07/26. Date of the next meeting. Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 910pm.

Signed: Date:
Chair