

February 2026 newsletter from county councillor Henry Gent for parishes in the Broadclyst Division (Brampford Speke, Upton Pyne, Rewe, Stoke Canon, Poltimore, Broadclyst, Clyst Hydon, Clyst St Lawrence, Clyst Honiton, Bishops Clyst, Clyst St George, Faringdon, and Cranbrook)

Boniface Trail

The creation of good quality cycle route from Crediton to Exeter would be a benefit for the residents all along the way, as well as a much wider benefit. As a result of dedicated lobbying over many years, this project is gradually moving up the agenda for DCC. At the present level of funding for cycle routes, it is likely to be years before work could start but at least DCC have been working on the scheme and the Cabinet of DCC resolved to progress the scheme, albeit dependent on government funding. For residents in the Upton Pyne and Cowley parish, and Brampford Speke, this cycleway will be an important development, when – and if – it eventually comes. It may also be a political point of contention, as not all Councillors think it would be a good use of government funding.

[Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 14th January, 2026, 10.30 am - Democracy in Devon](#)

[Minutes Template](#)

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

For the latest update from DCC at any time go to the web address below. With LGR due to lead to new elections in May 2027 for the new authority, the government decided to allow local government authorities to call off elections which were due in May 2026. This did not have any impact on DCC and EDDC, as no elections were due, but it allowed Exeter city council to call off their May 2026 elections, which, in my opinion, they were likely to lose.

[LGR hub - Home](#)

Storms

At the time of writing DCC had received reports of thousands of fresh potholes, and more than 80 properties with confirmed flooding across over 30 locations. Emergency closure of major roads included the A30 near Ottery, and the A3052. The Clyst St Mary and Sandygate roundabouts were affected by flooding.

Serious damage has been done to the A379 between Torcross and Slapton. The road will be closed for the foreseeable future.

In my opinion the county, the country, and indeed the world are not thinking enough about adaptation to climate change. Admitting that we have to adapt to climate change is painful, but failure to think about it could be worse.

Holiday Activities and Food for children

If a child aged 5 to 16 receives benefits-related Free School Meals, then they should be eligible for government-funded nutritious meals and fun activities during holidays. There's going to be a pilot extension of this into the spring half-term between 14th and 22nd February, which can be booked online:

[*Eegu · After school. In place of school. Beyond school.*](#)

Devon has been delivering Holiday Activities and Food since 2018, and many families who do not meet the Free School Meals criteria have been able to access places through extended criteria. To learn more, visit

[*Information for parents and carers - Children, families and education*](#)

Or email haf@devon.gov.uk

Interested in Fostering?

For anyone interested, there is an “interactive” recruitment event showcasing the experiences of foster carers and care-experienced young people, at the Future Skills Centre at Exeter Airport on 20th March. Please see the attached publicity or contact members.services@devon.gov.uk

[Hearts & Homes: A Fostering Devon Conference.](#)

Clyst Vale Community College is exploring joining Blackdown Education Partnership MAT (Multi Academy Trust)

On December 8th the principal, Sara Jacobs, wrote to parents and staff to confirm that the College is exploring this option.

Night Bus

We now have another Night Bus on Saturday nights in our area. The 4 bus service to Cranbrook via Tithebarn has now been added to the 1Bus to Cullompton via Broadclyst.

The service is part funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and runs from about midnight on Saturday to 4 am on Sunday.

[Night buses now all year round as new route for Cranbrook added - News](#)

Exe Valley Monthly Report, January 2026 – EDDC Cllr Fabian King

*Some of these topics below continue from previous reports, which see.
Please note the URLs may have to be cut and pasted into your browser.*

As if the Christmas break should have been a quiet period, we have had a couple of stern wake-up calls for our communities with emergency risks and violent weather which has exercised considerable resourcefulness and quick reactions. Meanwhile, for the longer term, the reorganisation of local government continues.

Local Government Reorganisation

We know that LGR is meant to reduce costs. But is there anything we should look out for? Does local democracy matter so much?

There are two important forces at play within LGR. One is centralisation to reduce costs. The other is to protect local democracy. It is only logical that, as local government and resources are drawn towards ever more concentrated or centralised areas, those resources are drained from less populated, rural areas.

It is in the concentrated, centralised areas where demand is rationalised and economies of scale win the day, because the higher concentration of need and the greater efficiency of action is the formula for impressive results – significantly greater than in less populated and sparsely located rural communities.

I cannot help but feel that local government attention will be lacking in these rural communities leading to a dilution of local democracy's effectiveness. While small outlying communities may retain their franchise of local democracy, they will have a lower share in the fortunes of local government.

The only chance we have in Exe Valley is to ensure the following key provisions in the requirements of LGR are fully exercised. These key provisions are:

- Neighbourhood Governance Duty: The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill introduces a statutory duty on new councils to make "appropriate arrangements for effective governance" of neighbourhood areas.
- "Locality" Model of Delivery: Proposals for new unitary councils (such as in Devon) often include creating "Neighbourhood Area Committees" with devolved budgets and dedicated support teams to maintain local knowledge and decision-making.
- Strengthening Parish/Town Councils: The government has committed to "rewiring" the relationship between town/parish councils and new, larger principal authorities to ensure community voices are heard.

It is for Parish Councils to press hard to develop the above. Some existing of Unitary models that are now firmly established have had mixed results in succeeding to fulfil the above aspirations. Some of the new “Neighbourhood Area Committees”, and “Community Boards” failed to obtain the scope of agency originally envisaged.

Bomb in Exmouth Docks

EDDC councillors and staff have been extremely busy in January, first with the very large WWII bomb that was found during the dredging of Exmouth Docks and secondly with Storm Chandra which caused severe flooding over many days across significant parts of Devon.

The 250kg Exmouth bomb was pulled up by a dredger and placed on its deck, on top of its 20,000 litre fuel tank, which was unfortunate! As a result, Emergency Services promptly evacuated 2,500 households within 500 metres and the uncomfortable operation continued over the next two days.

All in all, the emergency services and local government personnel plus the residents and local businesses pulled together magnificently and everyone has celebrated how well the operation was conducted.

Floods

The Exmouth bomb scare was quickly followed by flooding from the appalling weather surrounding Storm Chandra. Exe Valley suffered severe flooding in Stoke Canon as well as in more local areas where ditches, streams and drains just could not take the water away.

Many houses have been inundated with considerable water damage, while some roads collapsed due to waterlogged foundations. Trees also have suffered from waterlogged root plates failing and high winds taking them down. Rivers and streams have taken away some banks, and local landslips have been reported.

Road drainage

During the period of austerity after the 2009 banking crisis, the routine maintenance of roadside drains ceased and now only occurs on demand. One route to reporting blocked drains giving rise to flooding is to use <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>

Library services

There is a public consultation open for contributions over the next few weeks. Please share far and wide!

https://devonlibraries.commonplace.is/?utm_source=dcc_newsletter&utm_medium=external_comms&utm_campaign=Libraries_Consult_2025

Fabian King, 8th December 2025

**REWE PARISH COUNCIL
PAYMENTS SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2026**

PAYMENTS

Unity Trust Bank Account fee (01/01/26 - 31/01/26)	£6.00	Will be debited from current account 28/02/26
Contribution to maintenance of the Parish Hall	£275.00	
Parish Council websites (website hosting and support 21/02/26 - 20/02/27)	£273.60	
Clerk Salary & Expenses - February 2026	£213.29	
HMRC PAYE - February 2026	£50.60	

TOTAL ALL PAYMENTS

£818.49

To protect files documents are stored in PDF format.
For accessibility any resident requiring a document in Word format please contact the Parish Clerk

**REWE PARISH COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF TRANSFERS FEBRUARY 2026**

Transfers

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Unity Trust Bank Savings Account ending 1948	Unity Trust Bank Current Account	Transfer money to cover February 2026 Payment Schedule	£818.49
<u>TOTAL ALL TRANSFERS</u>			<u><u>£818.49</u></u>

REWE PARISH COUNCIL

Budget Monitoring - 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

	Budget 2025/2026	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Total	Difference to budget
RECEIPTS													
Precept	£11,700.00	£5,850.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,850.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£11,700.00	£0.00
Interest	£120.00	£0.00	£0.00	£128.53	£0.00	£0.00	£124.32	£0.00	£0.00	£129.38	£0.00	£382.23	£262.23
VAT reclaimed	£737.50	£783.68	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£783.68	£46.18
Car Park Rent (01.04.20-31.03.30)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
CIL Payment	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Other receipts (Network Rail)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Receipts	£12,557.50	£6,633.68	£0.00	£128.53	£0.00	£0.00	£5,974.32	£0.00	£0.00	£129.38	£0.00	£12,865.91	£308.41
PAYMENTS													
Clerk's Salary	£2,350.00	£192.00	£192.00	£192.00	£192.00	£0.00	£413.84	£249.35	£213.29	£213.29	£213.29	£2,071.06	£-278.94
PAYE & NI to HMRC	£585.00	£45.20	£45.20	£45.20	£45.20	£0.00	£98.00	£59.60	£50.60	£50.60	£50.60	£490.20	£-94.80
Clerk Expenses	£50.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-50.00
Councillor Expenses	£50.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-50.00
Insurance	£230.00	£0.00	£203.94	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£203.94	£-26.06
Assets	£866.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-866.00
Subscriptions (DALC)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Parish Hall upkeep	£275.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-275.00
Poppy Wreath	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00
Website hosting and maintenance	£310.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£127.20	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£127.20	£-182.80
Audit fee	£265.00	£0.00	£120.30	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£120.30	£-144.70
Grass cutting	£5,842.20	£0.00	£600.00	£600.00	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	£600.00	£600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,600.00	£-2,242.20
SC to Rewe Footpath	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-500.00
Pothole repairs	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-100.00
Maintenance contingency costs	£1,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£220.00	£0.00	£0.00	£220.00	£-780.00
S137	£250.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-250.00
Unity Bank admin charges	£72.00	£6.00	£6.00	£6.00	£6.00	£6.00	£6.00	£6.00	£6.00	£6.00	£6.00	£60.00	£-12.00
Data Protection fee	£0.00	£0.00	£52.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£52.00	£52.00
Total Payments	£12,765.20	£243.20	£1,219.44	£843.20	£843.20	£6.00	£1,245.04	£914.95	£1,109.89	£269.89	£269.89	£6,964.70	£-5,800.50
Total Receipts - Payments	-£207.70	Taken from savings											

REWE PARISH COUNCIL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR TWO YEARS FROM 2026/27

Introduction

Rewe Parish Council employs a Grounds Maintenance contractor to cut grass in several locations within the Parish, and the current contract comes to an end on 31 March 2026.

The Council agreed to have a two year contract which would come into effect from 1 April 2026.

A number of Grounds Maintenance suppliers were contacted by the Clerk and asked if they would be interested in quoting for the works. The current and previous contractor were contacted as well as other contractors found on the Check a Trade website.

Proposals and Quotations

To avoid going into confidential session and to be as transparent as possible, the suppliers are listed as suppliers 1 to 4 and listed below with a summary of the price being quoted. If councillors wish to discuss the individual quotations in more detail, it is recommended that a resolution is passed to move into confidential session (excluding the press and public) on the grounds of commercial sensitivity.

Supplier 1

2026/27 - £600 per cut
2027/28 - £630 per cut

Based on 7 cuts per year the total cost would be:

2026/27 = £4,200
2027/28 = £4,410

Supplier 2

No quotation received. Understand that the contractor is no longer operating.

Supplier 3

Two year contract £21,055 plus VAT

Supplier 4

£51,320 plus VAT per annum. Price fixed for the duration of the contract.

Recommendation

That the Council awards the two year Grounds Maintenance Contract to supplier 1.

REWE PARISH COUNCIL TREE AND HEDGE TRIMMING QUOTATIONS

Introduction

Rewe Parish Council has asked local contractors to quote for tree and hedge trimming alongside the A396.

Proposals and Quotations

To avoid going into confidential session and to be as transparent as possible, the suppliers are listed as suppliers 1 to 3 and listed below with a summary of the price being quoted. If councillors wish to discuss the individual quotations in more detail, it is recommended that a resolution is passed to move into confidential session (excluding the press and public) on the grounds of commercial sensitivity.

Supplier 1

Side back boundary hedge. Crown raise multiple hard wood trees. Chip and remove all waste.

Price £4,250

Supplier 2

Trim back growth along road hedge. Trees to be crown raised. Brambles to be brush cut. All waste to be chipped and removed.

Price £4,100

Supplier 3

No quotation received

Recommendation

That the Council award the tree trimming contract to Supplier 2.

Rewe Parish Council - Forward Plan

Meeting Date	Items for agenda
Monday 9 March 2026 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 3 February)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule for March 2026 • Transfer Schedule for March 2026 • Bank reconciliation to 28 February 2026 • Budget Monitoring to 28 February 2026 • Asset Register review for 2025/26 • Planning applications (if appropriate)
Monday 13 April 2026 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 7 April)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule for April 2026 • Transfer Schedule for April 2026 • Bank reconciliation to 31 March 2026 • Budget Monitoring to 31 March 2026 • Planning applications (if appropriate) • Insurance Arrangements for 2026/27 • Internal Control Checklist – Quarter 4 Review • Risk Assessment – Quarter 4 Review
Monday 11 May 2026 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 5 May)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Chair • Election of Vice Chair • Payment Schedule – May 2026 • Transfer Schedule – May 2026 • Bank reconciliation to 30 April 2026 • Budget Monitoring to 30 April 2026 • Finance Report for 2025-26 • Planning applications (if appropriate) • Annual Governance Statement for 25/26 • Accounting Statements for 25/26 • Internal Auditor report on the 25/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) • Public Rights Notice (AGAR) • Standing Orders • Financial Regulations (incl procurement) • Statement on Internal Controls • Risk Management Strategy • Risk Assessment • Bank arrangements and signatories • Code of Conduct • Scheme of delegation • Councillor roles and responsibilities • Insurance quotations for 2026/27

Meeting Date	Items for agenda
Monday 8 June 2026 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 2 June)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule – June 2026 • Transfer Schedule – June 2026 • Bank reconciliation to 31 May 2026 • Budget Monitoring to 31 May 2026 • Planning applications (if appropriate)
Monday 13 July 2026 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 7 July)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule – July 2026 • Transfer Schedule – July 2026 • Bank reconciliation to 30 June 2026 • Budget Monitoring to 30 June 2026 • Planning applications (if appropriate) • Internal Control Checklist – Quarter 1 review • Risk Assessment – Quarter 1 review • Schedule of meeting dates up to the end of the 2027/28 Municipal Year
Monday 14 September 2026 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 8 September)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule – September 2026 • Transfer Schedule – September 2026 • Bank reconciliation to 31 July 2026 • Bank Reconciliation to 31 August 2026 • Budget Monitoring to 31 August 2026 • Planning applications (if appropriate)
Monday 12 October 2026 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 6 October)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule – October 2026 • Transfer Schedule – October 2026 • Bank Reconciliation to 30 September 2026 • Budget Monitoring to 30 September 2026 • Planning applications (if appropriate) • Internal Control Checklist – Quarter 2 review • Risk Assessment – Quarter 2 review
Monday 9 November 2026 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 3 November)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule – November 2026 • Transfer Schedule – November 2026 • Bank Reconciliation to 31 October 2026 • Budget Monitoring to 31 October 2026 • Planning applications (if appropriate) • Draft Budget for the 2027/28 financial year
Monday 14 December 2026 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 8 December)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule – December 2026 • Transfer Schedule – December 2026 • Bank Reconciliation to 30 November 2026 • Budget Monitoring to 30 November 2026 • Planning applications (if appropriate) • Budget and Precept for 2027/28 Financial Year

Meeting Date	Items for agenda
Monday 11 January 2027 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 5 January)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule – January 2027 • Transfer Schedule – January 2027 • Bank Reconciliation to 31 December 2026 • Budget Monitoring to 31 December 2026 • Planning applications (if appropriate) • Internal Control Checklist – Quarter 3 review • Risk Assessment – Quarter 3 review
Monday 8 February 2027 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 2 February)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule – February 2027 • Transfer Schedule – February 2027 • Bank Reconciliation to 31 January 2027 • Budget Monitoring to 31 January 2027 • Planning applications (if appropriate)
Monday 8 March 2027 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 2 March)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule – March 2027 • Transfer Schedule – March 2027 • Bank Reconciliation to 28 February 2027 • Budget Monitoring to 28 February 2027 • Planning applications (if appropriate) • Asset Register review for 2026/27
Monday 12 April 2027 <i>(agenda published on Tuesday 6 April)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment Schedule for April 2027 • Transfer Schedule for April 2027 • Bank reconciliation to 31 March 2027 • Budget Monitoring to 31 March 2027 • Planning applications (if appropriate) • Insurance Arrangements for 2027/28 • Internal Control Checklist – Quarter 4 review • Risk Assessment – Quarter 4 review