

# Minutes of Rewe Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday 9 February 2026 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr Andrew Baker (in the chair)  
Cllr John Stroud  
Cllr Levon Stephan  
Cllr Anju Newcombe  
Cllr David Roberts  
Cllr Mike Dobson

**Also Present:** Amy Tregellas (Parish Clerk)

There was one member of the public present.

Cllr King was present to provide his District Councillor report and left the meeting after that item of business.

## **175. Apologies for absence**

Devon County Councillor Vanstone sent his apologies.

## **176. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Roberts declared a Personal Interest for agenda item 11 – Grounds Maintenance Contract as one of the potential contractors is his daughter. He left the room during that item of business.

## **177. Open Session**

Mr Colin Riddler spoke to the council regarding the cutting of grass verges between Latchmoor Cross and Rudway Barton. Mr Riddler confirmed that Latchmoor residents are unhappy with the lack of cutting and want it to be reinstated to the Council's Grounds Maintenance contract. Mr Riddler (previously a Rewe Parish Councillor) outlined the history surrounding this matter. The ditches on the same stretch of road are cleared once a year by Highways (this was agreed with the former Highways Neighbourhood Officer, Helen Selby), but they advised that they didn't have the resources to cut back the grass verges. It was agreed that this work would be undertaken by Rewe Parish Council. This arrangement had worked well for 10 years with the verges being regularly cut. The residents of Latchmoor are upset as they, along with other residents a few years ago, agreed that the Parish Council precept should increase significantly to cover some of the items of work no longer being carried out by Devon County Council (DCC) Highways.

Councillors confirmed that the verges have not been cut in the last couple of years due to the actions of DCC Highways. When they clear the ditches, they do not remove (from site) the waste and detritus cleared from the ditch, instead leave it on the grass verge. Councillors previously advised DCC Highways that the Council would not cut the verges if the waste was left on top of them. There is an added problem that when it rains the waste dumped on the verge runs off and back into the ditch. This results in the ditches having to be cleared out more often.

Councillors confirmed that they would:

1. Ask the Grounds Maintenance contractor to trim the verges

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2. Write to the new Highways Neighbourhood Officer and two divisional DCC Councillors to highlight the issue regarding ditch clearance and to point out the responsibilities of DCC Highways.

Councillors also asked that a number of other previously discussed issues are included in the letter to DCC. This includes the tarmac ripples on the A396 between the old Ruffwell pub and the Chitterleigh Business Park.

**178. Report from County Councillors**

Devon County Councillors Nat Vanstone and Henry Gent were not in attendance but had sent updates.

Cllr Vanstone's update confirmed that he would speak to colleagues to ascertain if the cabling works being carried out in Stoke Canon (relating to broadband installation) would continue up the A396 to Rewe. Cllr Vanstone also confirmed that he would like to arrange a site visit to Rewe with the new Highways Neighbourhood Officer and parish councillors. Councillors asked the Clerk to liaise with all parties to arrange a date and list of items to discuss.

Councillors didn't have any comments on Cllr Gents report.

**179. Report from District Councillor**

East Devon District Councillor Fabian King was in attendance and provided an update to his January report which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr King updated that due to the Exmouth Bomb scare and floods some Council meetings had been cancelled as a result.

Cllr King advised that the consultation on the future of Local Government in Devon was open and a useful website to look at is [www.devonlgr.co.uk](http://www.devonlgr.co.uk)

Cllr King left the meeting following this item of business.

**180. Minutes from the previous meeting**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the Council meeting on Monday 12 January 2026.

*(moved by Cllr Baker)*

Updates from the minutes:

Minute 157 - The Clerk advised that she had received a response from the Section 106 Officer at East Devon District Council (EDDC) confirming that the Parish Council has a balance of £1,412.50 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which can be spent as the Council wishes on infrastructure. CIL can be used on the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure. In terms of S106 Rewe Parish Council still has a balance of £6,734 which must be spent on an 'open space' project which could include play, sport, allotments, or open space for recreation.

Councillors asked the Clerk to follow up with EDDC as to whether:

1. The Council has already received the CIL monies
2. If the requirement for an 'open space' project could be changed as there is no open space in Rewe where the money could be utilised.

Minute 159 – The Clerk confirmed that Street Light 10 had been reported to DCC Highways as not working. Councillors confirmed that it is still not working.

Minute 162 – The Clerk confirmed that the collapsed manhole cover on the A396 and the collapsed manhole cover (likely due to the culvert collapsing) along Green Lane have both been reported to DCC Highways.

Minute 166 – The Clerk has been liaising with the new Internal Auditor regarding the 2025/26 Internal Audit

Minutes 164, 165 and 167 – The Clerk advised that the Internal Control Checklist, Risk Assessment and IT policies had been added to the Council website.

Minute 144.2 The website has been updated to reflect that Cllr Stephan is the Snow and Ice Warden.

Minute 146. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent the Precept information to EDDC on 30/12/25. An article is being drafted to go in the Forum magazine and on the website.

**181. Matters arising from the last meeting**

1. Rewe Footpath Phase 2 – No update. This will be discussed with Cllr Vanstone and the Neighbourhood Highways Officer when the site visit takes place as the footpath does not meeting legal requirements. If DCC don't take action, the Council will consider making an application under 130A of the Highways Act 1980, to hold DCC accountable for their legal responsibilities.
2. Anaerobic Digester – No update
3. Rewe bus stop – No update
4. Sandy Lane Railway crossing – Cllr Baker advised that this subject is still being championed by the Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF) as Network Rail has illegally closed 4 Railways Crossings over public footpaths in Devon. The representative from Network Rail did not attend the meeting,
5. Defibrillator training – Cllr Newcombe confirmed that she is liaising with the local Doctors Surgery to see if defibrillator training can be provided as part of a wellbeing event at the Parish Hall

**182. Ongoing Issues**

1. Footpath Warden update – Nothing to report at this time.
2. Broadband – nothing to report at this time
3. Local Government Reorganisation – The Clerk advised that the consultation of the options for Local Government in Devon going forward is now open. The closing date is 26 March 2026. The Clerk advised that she would put something on the website and do an article for The Forum magazine.
4. Rewe Parish Hall – Cllr Newcombe confirmed that the action plan for the Parish Hall is coming together. The insurance has been reviewed. A physical inspection of the Hall is taking place this week. A central repository of all information is being put together and a schedule of maintenance works is being put together.

**183. Maintenance**

1. Schedule of maintenance works within Rewe – Grounds Maintenance Contract. The Clerk advised that no grass cutting had taken place or is due.
  
2. Any other maintenance matters

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### Culvert concrete block

Councillors reported an issue relating to the concrete block that has been removed from the pipe going into the culvert just outside of Folley End Farm on the A396. The ditch has been cleared and the concrete blocks protecting the pipe have just been left nearby on the grass. Councillors asked the Clerk to report this issue to DCC Highways and advise that if they don't reinstate the concrete blocks that the Parish Council will do it and invoice them for the cost.

Councillors discussed the overgrown honeysuckle plant near the War Memorial. Councillors agreed to cut it off at the roots and spray the root base to enable the plant to be removed.

Councillors advised that someone has dug up and stolen the Jubilee Oak Tree. Cllr Baker confirmed that he would replace the tree.

## **184. Accounts and Finances**

1. Schedule of payments to the end of February 2026.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments for February 2026, which totalled £818.49, and consisted of the following payments:

- Unity Trust current account fee; 01/01/26 to 31/01/26 = £6.00
- Contribution to the maintenance of the Parish Hall = £275.00
- Parish Council Websites - website hosting and support for a year = £273.60
- Clerk Salary & Expenses February 2026 = £213.29
- HMRC PAYE February 2026 = £50.60

*(moved by Cllr Baker; seconded by Cllr Stroud)*

2. Schedule of transfers to the end of February 2026. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer of £818.49 from the savings account to the current account.

*(moved by Cllr Baker; seconded by Cllr Stroud)*

3. Bank reconciliation as at 31 January 2026

The Clerk confirmed that all Unity Trust bank accounts were fully reconciled to the bank statements and cash book as at the end of January 2026.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation to the end January 2026.

*(moved by Cllr Baker; seconded by Cllr Stroud)*

4. Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 January 2026.

The Clerk presented the budget monitoring report as at the end January 2026.

The Clerk confirmed that no income had been received during the month of January and that the total expenditure incurred was £269.89.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 January 2026.

*(moved by Cllr Baker; seconded by Cllr Stroud)*

Cllr Roberts left the meeting at this point.

## **185. Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2026/27 and 2027/28**

Councillors considered the Clerk's Report. A number of grounds maintenance contractors had been contacted and three had submitted quotations for the two year contract. The Chair had met with a number of the suppliers onsite to outline the schedule of works.

The costs were as follows:

Supplier 1 - £600 a cut in Year 1 and £630 a cut in Year 2

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Supplier 2 - £21,055 plus VAT for two year contract  
Supplier 3 - £51,320 plus VAT per annum

The Council **RESOLVED** to award the two year contract to supplier 1, Laura Hunt.  
(*moved Cllr Baker; seconded Cllr Stroud*)

Cllr Roberts returned to the room.

**186. Tree and Hedge Trimming Quotations**

Councillors considered the Clerk's Report. This contract related to the cutting back of trees and hedges from the end of the Jubilee Trees to Folley End Farm on the A396. Best endeavours had been undertaken to get three local suppliers to quote for the works. However, only two quotations were received despite chasing.

The costs were as follows:

Supplier 1 = £4,250

Supplier 2 = £4,100

Supplier 3 = no quotation received

The Council **RESOLVED** to award the contract to Supplier 2, Colin Roberts  
(*moved Cllr Baker; seconded Cllr Stroud*)

**187. Forward Plan**

The Council considered the forward plan which had been updated to the end of the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the forward plan.

(*moved by Cllr Baker, seconded Cllr Stroud*)

**188. Community Events**

No update since the last meeting.

**189. Rewe Annual Parish Meeting**

Councillors discussed when to hold the Rewe Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk confirmed that the date would be published on the Council website and in The Forum Magazine. The DCC and EDDC Councillors would also be advised of the date and the need to provide a report.

The Council **RESOLVED** to hold the Rewe Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 11 May 2026 at 7pm. The Parish Council Meeting would be held immediately after the meeting.

(*moved by Cllr Baker; seconded Cllr Stroud*)

**190. Planning matters**

**26/0162/FUL - 5 Rewe Barton Farm Cottages Rewe**

**Exeter EX5 4EU.** Rear extension into the courtyard to improve the kitchen's spatial layout, create a snug, and incorporate a WC/utility within the existing outbuilding.

The Council **RESOLVED** that it had no objection to this application.

(*Moved Cllr Baker; seconded Cllr Stroud*)

**191. Correspondence**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been received:

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1. A letter from Mr Adrian Woolacott regarding flooding issues within the Parishes of Rewe, Netherexe and Stoke Canon. In his correspondence Mr Woolacott had set out the issues as well as a number of proposed solutions. Mr Woolacott had also provided a map showing the direction of water flow from Beacon Down and West from the A396.

The Clerk advised that she had been liaising with Mr Woolacott and agreed that his correspondence in full and map would be appended to the minutes. As per Mr Woolacott's request, the information had been sent to the Clerk at Stoke Canon Parish Council. The Clerk also confirmed, that with Mr Woolacott's agreement, his correspondence would be forwarded to the DCC and EDDC councillors.

Councillors asked the Clerk to send the correspondence to the clerk at Netherexe Parish Council as it also related to them.

2. The Clerk advised that DCC Highways regarding roads following the recent stormy weather. DCC Highways have put addition resources into inspecting the roads including drains and potholes, as well as more crews to carry out repairs.

**192. Chair's Business**

There were no items of Chair's business.

**193. Close of the meeting**

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm.

The next meeting of Rewe Parish Council takes place on Monday 9 March 2026 at 7.30pm.