

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

Present: Cllr John Stroud (in the chair)
Cllr Levon Stephan
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.

194. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Baker and Newcombe.

195. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

196. Open Session

There were no members of the public present.

197. Report from County Councillors

Devon County Councillors Nat Vanstone and Henry Gent were not in attendance.

Cllr Gent had sent a report which had been circulated with the agenda pack. There was no discussion on the report.

198. Report from District Councillor

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

Cllr King updated that an All Parliamentary Group had focused on fibre rollout particularly the issues hindering equitable access in rural and coastal communities. The link to the report (which is now being considered by the Government) can be found attached to Cllr King's Report (which will be published with these minutes).

Building Digital UK (BDUK) now sits under the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) and is responsible for delivering the Government's £5 billion Project Gigabit programme. The goal of the programme is to facilitate nationwide, lightning fast, gigabit capable broadband, targeting homes and businesses that are not included in broadband suppliers commercial plans. The programme is a work in progress and nothing is likely to happen soon.

Cllr King also advised that the East Devon District Council Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme for 1 April 2026 onwards has been approved and covers support for supporting small businesses, pubs and live music venues and electronic vehicle charge points.

Cllr King left the meeting following this item of business.

199. Minutes from the previous meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the Council meeting on Monday 9 February 2026.

Chair:.....

Date: 13/04/2026

(moved by Cllr Stroud)

Updates from the minutes:

Minute 180:

Councillors advised that the street light still has not been repaired and asked the Clerk to follow this up again with Devon County Council (DCC).

The Clerk confirmed that DCC had sent an email confirming that the manhole covers on the A396 and along Green Lane had been repaired. Councillors confirmed that was not the case and asked the Clerk to go back to DCC to challenge this.

Minute 183 – Councillors confirmed that the issue with the culvert concrete block has not been resolved and asked the Clerk to follow this up with DCC.

200. Matters arising from the last meeting

1. Rewe Footpath Phase 2 – No update.
2. Anaerobic Digester – No update
3. Rewe bus stop – No update
4. Sandy Lane Railway crossing – No update
5. Defibrillator training – No update

201. Ongoing Issues

1. Footpath Warden update – No update.
2. Broadband – No update other than the information from Cllr King's Report
3. Local Government Reorganisation – covered under minute X.
4. Rewe Parish Hall – No update.
5. Road closure notices – the clerk advised that there will a road closure between Monday 1 to Friday 5 June 2026 affecting the road heading northeast from Silverton Cross Rewe. Details of the road closure to be published on the Council website.

202. Maintenance

1. Schedule of maintenance works within Rewe – Grounds Maintenance Contract.
The Clerk advised that no grass cutting had taken place or is due. The 2026/27 to 2027/28 contract would be sent to Laura Hunt shortly.

2. Any other maintenance matters

Signage

Councillors confirmed that there had been damage to signage which they had reported to Devon County Council Highways [check the details in Cllr Stephan and Dobsons emails]

203. Accounts and Finances

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

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments for March 2026, which totalled £270.89, and consisted of the following payments:

- Unity Trust current account fee; 01/02/26 to 28/02/26 = £7.00
- Clerk Salary & Expenses March 2026 = £213.29
- HMRC PAYE March 2026 = £50.60

(moved by Cllr Stroud; seconded by Cllr Stephan)

2. Schedule of transfers to the end of March 2026. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer of £270.89 from the savings account to the current account.

(moved by Cllr Stroud; seconded by Cllr Stephan)

Chair:.....

Date: 13/04/2026

3. Bank reconciliation as at 28 February 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 February 2026.

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

(moved by Cllr Stroud; seconded by Cllr Stephan)

4. Budget Monitoring Report as at 28 February 2026.

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

The Clerk confirmed that no income had been received during the month of February and that the total expenditure incurred was £818.49. Bank Interest would be received at the end of March and the March payments would go through, which would give the year end position.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Budget Monitoring Report as at 28 February 2026.

(moved by Cllr Stroud; seconded by Cllr Stephan)

204. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2025/26 financial year

Councillors considered the Clerk's Report which set out the changes to the AGAR for 2025/26 relating to a new area of focus on having arrangements in place for effective IT and data management. The report also set out the proposed timetable for the closure of the accounts, the internal audit process and submission of paperwork to the external auditor and publication of information on the Council website. The period for the exercise of public rights, which must be for 30 days including the first 10 working days in July, was proposed to be between Wednesday 3 June and Tuesday 14 July 2026. During this time members of the public could meet with the Clerk to inspect the financial paperwork of the Council. As the Council's gross income and gross expenditure does not exceed £25,000 discussion was had as to whether to certify as exempt from external audit again for 25/26.

The Council **RESOLVED**:

To certify as an exempt authority for 2025/26 due to gross income and gross expenditure not exceeding £25,000.

That the period for the notice for the exercising of public rights be Wednesday 3 June to Tuesday 14 July 2026 (subject to the Internal Audit being completed in order to go to the May meeting).

(moved Cllr Stroud; seconded Cllr Dobson)

205. Asset Register Review for 2025/26

Councillors considered the Council's Asset Register which had been updated to reflect the position at the 31 March 2026. Councillors confirmed that there had been no changes to the Asset Register during 2025/26.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Asset Register as at 31 March 2026 which totalled to £62,448.00

(moved Cllr Stroud; seconded Cllr Stephan)

206. Local Government Reorganisation Consultation

Councillors considered the paper put together by the Clerk covering the five models being proposed for changes to the structure of local government in Devon put forward by Devon County Council, the District Councils, Exeter City Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council. The paper also included the consultation questions being posed by the Government.

Discussion took place around:

- That the reason for making this level of change should be to reduce costs and devolve powers from central government to local councils. Councillors felt that none of the models would deliver this.
- The Devon County Council 9-1-1 model created a Unitary Council covering the existing County Council plus 8 Districts footprint which is too big
- Being unsure how Rewe would fit into the Greater Exeter, Greater Plymouth model
- The best fit would be the model(s) proposed by the District Councils
- Not having enough detailed knowledge to be able to answer the consultation questions

Having considered the paper, the Council **RESOLVED** that it would not submit a response to the consultation.

(moved Cllr Stroud, seconded Cllr Dobson)

207. Forward Plan

The Council considered the forward plan which had been updated to the end of the 2026/27 Municipal Year. Agenda items for the April meeting would include the usual finance reports, Quarter 4 risk assessment review, quarter 4 internal control checklist, insurance arrangements for 26/27 and an update on the closedown of the 25/26 financial year.

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

(moved by Cllr Stroud, seconded Cllr Stephan)

208. Community Events

No update since the last meeting.

209. Planning matters

No planning applications had been received from East Devon District Council.

210. Correspondence

The Clerk confirmed that no correspondence had been received that had not been covered elsewhere in the agenda.

211. Chair's Business

There were no items of Chair's business.

212. Close of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 8.47pm.

The next meeting of Rewe Parish Council takes place on Monday 13 April 2026 at 7.30pm.

Chair:.....

Date: 13/04/2026