

# Draft Minutes of Rewe Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday 13 April 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.

**213. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Baker and Newcombe.

**214. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

**215. Open Session**

There were no members of the public present.

**216. 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 were two items in the report to be noted in the minutes:

Rural Broadband – covered in detail in minute 220 where an update on Broadband is provided.

Stoke Hill – Cllr Gent has confirmed that he is supporting local residents and Stoke Canon Parish Council in seeking to extend the speed restriction on this road due to a history of collisions. He is also opposing the use of Bridge Farm as a storage lagoon for slurry from anaerobic digestate slurry from the Anaerobic digester at Clyst St Mary. Cllr Gent's view is that the slurry lagoon was built to store farm slurry generated and spread on site at Bridge Farm and use as an industrial transit site for slurry is wrong, especially given the nature of the access.

**217. Report from District Councillor**

East Devon District Councillor Fabian King was in attendance and provided an update to his March report which had been sent to the Clerk about an hour before the meeting.

Cllr King updated councillors on Rural Broadband – covered in detail in minute 220 where an update on Broadband is provided.

Cllr King left the meeting following this item of business.

**218. Minutes from the previous meeting**

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

*(moved by Cllr Stroud)*

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**219. 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

**220. Ongoing Issues**

1. Footpath Warden update – No update.
2. Broadband – pulling together the update from both Cllr Gent and Cllr King’s reports. Cllr Gent’s report stated that *‘if you live in one of the more rural parts of the parish, and your broadband speed is very slow, it may be worth clubbing together with neighbours with the same predicament. A cluster of properties with this problem will be offered “vouchers”, one per property to get better broadband. There is not much time to organise people because the offer will close in August and it takes time to form an informal cluster.’* The link to the information can be found in Cllr Gent’s report which is attached at the end of these minutes.

Cllr King confirmed that the voucher scheme referenced by Cllr Gent is not available to residents in the Exe Valley Ward, which includes Rewe. Cllr King set out that Openreach is putting Gigabit Broadband Fibre into some parts of the Exe Valley, but *‘it is difficult to know exactly where until you see it.’* He went on to say that *‘Superfast and Gigabit Broadband may have yet another round to get to the “really remote” not spots still suffering commonly less than 30Mbps.’* This is likely to be in a year or two. *‘It would help hugely if say two or more of these spots could get together as a cluster to attract full attention for faster connection. This does mean that single isolated premises will find it more difficult.’* (Cllr King’s report is attached at the end of these minutes).

A couple of Parish Councillors confirmed that they had recently signed up to Starlink as a Broadband provider and found the Broadband speeds to be very good. [www.starlink.com](http://www.starlink.com)

3. Local Government Reorganisation – no update.
4. Rewe Parish Hall – No update.
5. Road closure notices – the clerk advised that there a road closure notification has been received from Devon County Council Highways confirming that there will be a 1 to 3 day road closure to allow for surface dressing and associated works on the road from Green Lane to Columbjohn Cross in the period between Monday 11 May and Wednesday 30 September 2026. It is expected that DCC Highways will give advanced notice of the specific dates in due course.

**221. Maintenance**

1. Schedule of maintenance works within Rewe – Grounds Maintenance Contract. The Clerk advised that the contract for the two-year period of 2026/27 to 2027/28 had been sent to Laura Hunt.

2. Any other maintenance matters

Signage

Councillors confirmed that the had been damaged road signage (which had been hit by a vehicle) on the A396 near the Green Lane junction has not yet been repaired despite it being reported to DCC Highways. Councillors asked the Clerk to chase this up with them.

### Rewe Chicane Accident

Councillors discussed the recent accident at Rewe Chicane on A396 where a cattle lorry had ploughed into a parked vehicle spinning it 360 degrees (and writing it off) and causing damage to the bollards which delineate the footpath from the A396. The driver had been arrested by the Police near Tiverton.

The clerk advised that she had liaised with DCC on the day of the accident due to public safety concerns. DCC Highways had sent an officer out twice to put up signage and barriers between the footpath and road. However, the bollards had not yet been replaced. Councillors asked the clerk to find out from DCC Highways when these repairs would be completed.

The Clerk also confirmed that she had asked DCC Highways whether more traffic calming measures could be put in place due to the significant speeds of some drivers through the village. DCC Highways confirmed that the Council would need to liaise with the Police over this matter. The Clerk confirmed that she would contact the Police to raise this matter with them.

### Culvert concrete blocks

Councillors confirmed that DCC Highways had still not replaced the culvert concrete blocks. They asked the Clerk to follow this up with DCC Highways.

### Damaged manhole cover on A396

Councillors confirmed that the damaged manhole cover on the A396 has now been repaired.

### Grass Verges at Latchmoor Cross

The Clerk confirmed that the grounds maintenance provider had strimmed the grass verges between Latchmoor Cross and Rudway Barton. Councillors asked the Clerk to contact the Neighbourhood Highways Officer to ask them to ensure that the drains are cleared and the detritus is taken away.

## **222. Accounts and Finances**

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

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments for March 2026, which totalled £5,133.89, and consisted of the following payments:

- Unity Trust current account fee; 01/03/26 to 31/03/26 = £7.00
- Colin Roberts (Tree and Hedge trimming) = £4,100.00
- Data Protection Renewal Fee = £52.00
- Parish Council websites (gov.uk domain name renewal) = £36.00
- Laura Hunt Grass cutting plus Thorverton Verges = £675.00
- Clerk Salary & Expenses April 2026 = £213.49
- HMRC PAYE April 2026 = £50.40

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

2. Schedule of transfers to the end of April 2026. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer of £5,133.89 from the savings account to the current account.

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

3. Bank reconciliation as at 31 March 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 March 2026.

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

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

4. Budget Monitoring Report as at 31 March 2026.

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

The Clerk confirmed that bank interest of £113.46 had been received at the end March 2026. This gave a year end position of receipts of £12,979.37 compared to the budget of £12,557.50. In March 2026 the total expenditure incurred was £270.89. This gave a year end position of actual expenditure of £8,054.08 compared to the budget of £12,765.20.

The Finance Report for the 2025/26 financial year and an item on Ear Marked and General Reserves would be on the May 2026 agenda.

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

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

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

The Clerk updated that the year end closedown of the 2025/26 financial year has been completed and she would be meeting with the Internal Auditor tomorrow. The AGAR paperwork is on schedule to be presented to the 11 May 2026 meeting for consideration and approval.

**224. Internal Control Checklist – Quarter 4 Review**

Cllr Dobson confirmed that he had reviewed the Internal Control checklist for quarter 4 (the period of 1 January to 31 March 2026) following receipt of the paperwork from the Cler, and had signed off the checklist.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Internal Control checklist for Quarter 4

*(moved Cllr Dobson; seconded Cllr Stroud)*

**225. Risk Assessment – Quarter 4 Review**

Councillors considered the risk assessment and did not identify any new or emerging risks.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the risk assessment for quarter 4.

*(moved Cllr Stroud, seconded Cllr Stephan)*

**226. Insurance Arrangements for 2026/27**

The Clerk advised that the Council's insurance renewal date is 1 June 2026 and that the renewal quotation from the current provider is likely to be sent across by the end of April.

Councillors considered the current insurance schedule and whether any changes needed to be made to it. They felt the current schedule was adequate and the Clerk confirmed that she would obtain quotes from a number of providers to bring to the 11 May 2026 meeting for consideration.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the insurance schedule as it currently stands and that the Clerk would obtain quotations to bring to the 11 May 2026 meeting.

*(Moved Cllr Stroud; seconded Cllr Stephan)*

**227. 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 annual Parish Council meeting in May would include:

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- Election of the Chair and Vice Chair for the 2026/27 Municipal Year
- The usual finance reports
- Finance Report for the 2025/26 financial year
- The Annual Governance and Accountability Return and Internal Auditor's Report
- Insurance quotations
- A number of policies and procedures for approval for the 2026/27 Municipal Year
- Planning applications (if any have been received)

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the forward plan.  
*(moved by Cllr Stroud, seconded Cllr Stephan)*

**228. Community Events**

The Village quiz takes place on Thursday 16 April 2026, doors at the Parish Hall open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

**229. Planning matters**

**26/0509/FUL – The Bungalow, Rewe, Exeter, EX5 4EU.**

Replacement roof with rooms within and associated works.

Councillors considered the application and **RESOLVED** that there is no objection to the application.

*(moved Cllr Stroud; seconded Cllr Roberts)*

**230. Correspondence**

The Clerk confirmed that correspondence had been received from the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) asking that the Council reconsider joining DALC for 2026/27 and paying the subscription fee of £175.97.

The Council **RESOLVED** not to join DALC for 2026/27.

*(moved Cllr Stroud; seconded Cllr Stephan)*

**231. Chair's Business**

Councillors raised the fact that Stoke Canon have 3 brand new dog poo bins with a QR code (which the public can scan to notify EDDC when the bin needs emptying). Councillors asked that an agenda item be added to the June 2026 meeting and that the Clerk contacts EDDC to ask for potential costs of litter and dog bins.

**232. Close of the meeting**

The meeting was closed at 8.32pm.

The next meeting of Rewe Parish Council takes place on Monday 11 May 2026 at 7.30pm, or immediately following the conclusion of the Rewe Annual Parish Meeting.