

# ENGLISHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Barrow, Englishcombe, Haycombe, Inglesbatch, Kilkenny & Nailwell.

[www.englishcombe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.englishcombe-pc.gov.uk)

**DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parishioners of Englishcombe Parish held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6:45pm at The Tithe Barn, Englishcombe.**

**Chairman of Meeting:** Cllr Will Pow

**Clerk to the Meeting:** Jack Turner –Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

**The Annual Assembly minutes have been redacted as part of the General Data Protection Regulations and therefore, all parishioners names have been redacted. These minutes are not a verbatim account of what was discussed.**

**1. Welcome and Introductions (with nibbles!)**

Cllr Mycroft-Croisdale Appleby welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in May 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were noted.

**3. A talk on Community First Aid and Defibrillation from Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance.**

The assembly had a detailed talk on Defibrillation and community safety from a representative of Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance. It was noted that the Parish would soon be getting two Defibrillators, which will be donated to the Parish.

**4. An update from the Parish Council.**

Cllr Will Pow read out the below statement on behalf of the Parish Council:

Over the past year, the Parish Council has made strong progress in strengthening governance, improving financial management, and responding to key concerns raised by residents. I would like to take a few moments to summarise the work we have undertaken and what has been achieved on behalf of the Parish.

**Governance and Council Development**

The Council has focused heavily on improving its governance framework. At the start of the municipal year, we reviewed and re-adopted all core policies and procedures to ensure compliance and good practice .

We have since built on this by:

- Introducing a full suite of employment and operational policies, including safeguarding, communications, and staff management
- Establishing formal committees, including staffing and parish events, to improve transparency and shared responsibility
- Maintaining a structured training programme for both Councillors and the Clerk

This work has ensured that the Council is now operating on a much stronger and more professional footing.

# ENGLISHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Barrow, Englishcombe, Haycombe, Inglesbatch, Kilkenny & Nailwell.

[www.englishcombe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.englishcombe-pc.gov.uk)

## Financial Management and Stability

The Council remains in a stable and well-managed financial position.

During the year we have:

- Set and approved a balanced budget and precept for 2026/27 of £14,725
- Maintained clear financial reporting, with regular monitoring, reconciliations and risk reviews
- Successfully completed internal audit processes, with only minor issues identified and addressed

We have also taken steps to plan ahead by:

- Strengthening reserves, including earmarked funds for community initiatives and infrastructure
- Allocating funding towards future priorities such as speed indicator devices and defibrillators

Overall, the Council continues to demonstrate prudent and responsible financial management.

---

## Community Engagement and Communication

Improving communication with residents has been a key priority.

We have:

- Developed and expanded the Parish mailing list, now with over 40 subscribers receiving regular updates
- Continued to improve the Parish website and digital communication channels
- Actively responded to feedback from Parish Assemblies calling for clearer and more consistent communication

This has helped ensure that residents are better informed and more engaged with Parish matters.

---

## Community Projects and Initiatives

The Council has supported and progressed a number of community-focused initiatives.

These include:

- Advancing plans for Parish events and establishing a formal Events Committee

# ENGLISHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Barrow, Englishcombe, Haycombe, Inglesbatch, Kilkenny & Nailwell.

[www.englishcombe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.englishcombe-pc.gov.uk)

- Supporting training initiatives such as first aid and defibrillator awareness
- Beginning work towards the installation of defibrillators within the Parish, recognising a clear need for improved emergency provision

We have also continued to support community-led efforts and volunteers who contribute significantly to the Parish.

---

## Planning and Strategic Matters

The Council has continued to fulfil its statutory role in planning, considering applications carefully and raising no objections where appropriate .

In addition, we have:

- Engaged with Bath & North East Somerset Council on the Local Plan and infrastructure concerns
- Supported wider initiatives such as improved rural bus services

---

## Work with the Duchy of Cornwall and Community Assets

A significant area of work has been engagement with the Duchy of Cornwall regarding land and community assets.

Over the year:

- The Council supported community consultation on the future of The Old Schoolhouse, with strong resident interest in a community facility
- Worked alongside the REACH group, who explored the feasibility of a community purchase
- Secured and managed a licence for land adjacent to the Old Schoolhouse for community use

Although the community purchase did not ultimately proceed, the Council ensured the Parish's interests were represented throughout.

---

## Road Safety and Highways

Road conditions and traffic management have been a major concern for residents, and the Council has actively taken this forward.

Actions include:

- Working directly with BANES Highways following site visits and resident feedback

# ENGLISHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Barrow, Englishcombe, Haycombe, Inglesbatch, Kilkenny & Nailwell.

[www.englishcombe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.englishcombe-pc.gov.uk)

- Escalating concerns regarding road surfacing and the limitations of patch repairs
- Exploring options for speed management, including community speed watch and speed indicator devices

This remains an ongoing priority, and further work will continue in the coming year.

---

## Looking Ahead

While much has been achieved, there is still more to do.

Key priorities for the coming year include:

- Progressing road safety improvements and traffic monitoring
  - Delivering community projects, including defibrillators and events
  - Continuing to strengthen communication and engagement with residents
  - Ensuring the Parish is well represented in wider planning and infrastructure discussions
- 

## Conclusion

In summary, this has been a year of consolidation, improvement, and forward planning.

The Council has:

- Strengthened its governance and financial management
- Improved communication with residents
- Responded proactively to key local issues
- Laid the groundwork for future community initiatives

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, the Clerk, and all members of the community who have contributed their time and effort over the past year.

## 5. **Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 5th May 2027 at 18:45.**

The meeting date was noted.