

ENGLISHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Englishcombe Parish Council held on Thursday 12th June 2025 at 19:30 at The Old Schoolhouse.

Councillors: Cllr Will Pow (Chair), Cllr Anne Corlett and Cllr Mycroft Croisdale-Appleby.

In attendance: J Turner (Locum Parish Clerk/RFO), Lee Giles (Candidate for co-option) and Ash Smith (Candidate for co-option).

Absent: None.

Members of the Public: Three.

<u>12-06-2025-01</u>	<p><u>To receive questions from the members of the public present.</u></p> <p>A resident asked the question about the road in Innox Grove and what the Parish Council can assist with to make it safer and better for the public and residents. There is a large overgrowth which needs cutting back to make it more defined. The resident will send the images through to the Parish Clerk, who will then liaise with BANES.</p> <p>A resident asked the question where the 'Welcome to Englishcombe' sign would be restated and Cllr W Pow confirmed it would be.</p>
<u>12-06-2025-02</u>	<p><u>To receive any applications for co-option onto the Parish Council:</u></p>
<u>12-06-2025-02.1</u>	<p><u>To receive a presentation from Candidate A (Mr A Smith) on why they should be co-opted onto the Parish Council.</u></p> <p>The Parish Council received the presentation for Candidate A as well as their cover letter and application form to be co-opted onto the Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Ash Smith onto the Englishcombe Parish Council as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk would circulate the Members Declaration of Acceptance of Office via email to the candidate along with a Register of Interests.</p>
<u>12-06-2025-02.2</u>	<p><u>To receive a presentation from Candidate B (Mr L Giles) on why they should be co-opted onto the Parish Council.</u></p> <p>The Parish Council received the presentation for Candidate B as well as their cover letter and application form to be co-opted onto the Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Lee Giles onto the Englishcombe Parish Council as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk would circulate the Members Declaration of Acceptance of Office via email to the candidate along with a Register of Interests.</p>
<u>12-06-2025-03</u>	<p><u>To receive any apologies for absence.</u></p> <p>The Parish Council noted apologies from Cllr R Law (personal reasons) and Cllr N Spicer (work).</p>
<u>12-06-2025-04</u>	<p><u>To consider any Declarations of Interest and to approve any dispensations for this meeting.</u></p> <p>Cllr Lee Giles stated he was an active member of the REACH group and would take no part in any discussions, where his role in REACH would be relevant. This was noted by the Parish Council.</p>

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<u>12-06-2025-05</u>	<p><u>To consider the feedback from the 'Village Facility' public consultation and agree the information to be sent to The Duchy of Cornwall.</u></p> <p>Cllr W Pow spoke on this item. The village facility questionnaire, which had been presented at the June parishioner's assembly, had been responded to by those who live in the Parish. The results had been circulated as a summary report with the agenda and were taken as read. These results were also displayed on the Parish Council's website. The overwhelming feedback from the consultation was that all except one resident, who didn't answer the question, want a community facility for events such as celebrations, Parish meetings and polling stations.</p> <p>RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to send the full report of results to The Duchy of Cornwall.</p> <p>The Parish Council were presented with a draft letter to The Duchy of Cornwall, which outlined the Parish Council's stance and a summation of the results. A copy of this letter will be appended to these minutes on the Parish Council's website.</p> <p>RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to send the letter, without amendments, to The Duchy of Cornwall.</p> <p>The Parish Council were also presented with a draft letter from a group of residents who wish to Save the Old Schoolhouse building (REACH) and debated whether this letter should be sent as part of the pack.</p> <p>RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to send the letter from REACH to The Duchy of Cornwall. This letter will be appended to these minutes on the Parish Council's website.</p>
<u>12-06-2025-06</u>	<p><u>To consider any feedback or points of action raised from both Parish assemblies held in May and June 2025, respectively.</u></p> <p>The Parish Council noted the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 7th May 2025 and the thoughts and feelings of all Parishioners. The Parish Council also noted the minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 4th June 2025.</p> <p>The Council noted that the overwhelming feedback from both meetings was about clear, concise and consistent communication from the Parish Council about matters which effect the residents in the Parish. The Parish Council has noted that the new website was assisting with communication with the residents as well as the new Parish Council mailing list, which the Parish Clerk oversees.</p> <p>The Parish Council also noted the feeling of the REACH group, who have expressed their discontent about the possible sale of The Old Schoolhouse and sympathised with the residents and understood their viewpoint on the situation. The Parish Council noted that issues around parking, children's play area and access from Innox Grove needed at the next meeting.</p>
<u>12-06-2025-07</u>	<p><u>To consider the request of support from the Parish Council of Dunkerton and Tunley in relation to a request for support for a Bath Wells Express Bus Service.</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to support the request and issue a letter of support.</p>
<u>12-06-2025-08</u>	<p><u>To note the correspondence from a resident regarding 'Blakes Farm'.</u></p> <p>The Parish Council noted the correspondence and will await further instruction from The Duchy of Cornwall.</p>

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<u>12-06-2025-09</u>	<p><u>To note that the Insurance for Englishcombe Parish Council has been agreed under delegated authority, with reference to Financial Regulation 5.15.</u></p> <p>The Parish Council noted that in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.15, the Chairman and Parish Clerk agreed the sum of £585.96 to be paid to Zurich Insurance for the policy which will run until June 2026.</p>
<u>12-06-2025-11</u>	<p><u>To consider the draft Licence Agreement for The Orchard, noting that Expression of Interest forms have been sent to two interested parties.</u></p> <p>The Chairman in consultation with other Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk, used his prerogative to move this item before the exempt session.</p> <p>It was noted that the Parish Council needed to pause this process until the matters with The Old Schoolhouse and The Wheelwrights had been resolved.</p> <p>RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to write to both parties to let them know that the process would be pausing until such time that the Parish Council is comfortable, to progress these matters.</p>
<u>12-06-2025-10</u>	<p><u>To resolve that in accordance with the provision of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following agenda items.</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to resolve to exclude the public and press for consideration of item 12-06-2025-12.</p>
<u>12-06-2025-12</u>	<p><u>To consider the recruitment of the role of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.</u></p> <p>The Council noted the report and the one application for the role, since advertising in July 2023. The Council considered the application and the terms and conditions for this role.</p> <p>RESOLVED: It was agreed by a majority, with one abstention, to recruit Mr J Turner as the Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to Englishcombe Parish Council for 10 hours per week on NJC Scale Point 11 (£14.13 per hour). This post would be held from the 1st July 2025 and would be subject of satisfactory six-month probationary period.</p>
<u>12-06-2025-13</u>	<p><u>To note that next Meeting of Englishcombe Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at 7:30pm.</u></p> <p>This was noted.</p> <p><u>The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 20:06.</u></p>