

Combe Florey Parish Council

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 24 th March 2026 6:00 pm At Combe Florey Village Hall	Written by: Gemma Coombes – Parish Clerk
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Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Councillors Present

Cllr Robin Cleverly (Chairman)
Cllr Neil Truby (RFO)
Cllr John Passingham
Cllr Jan Collino
Cllr Jacquey Newton

In attendance

Parishioners: none
Somerset Council – Mike Rigby

2026/20) Welcome by Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2026/21) Apologies for absence

None

2026/22) Declarations of Interest

None declared

2026/23) Approval of last meetings minutes

Approval and signing of the minutes of the 27th January 2026.

The minutes have been circulated to all councillors that were presented for signing at this meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Cleverly and seconded by Cllr Newton. All in favour to adopt the minutes, signed by the chairman.

2026/24) Public participation

None

2026/25) Matters Arising / Matters brought forward from other meetings

No subjects under this section.

2026/26) Somerset Council report (Cllr Rigby/ Cllr Sully)

Cllr Rigby was in attendance and said that the budget has been set for the forthcoming year. The council have had to sell some assets to cover the gap in services with 70% of money now being spent on social care. Much of the financial pressure was down to the six-year council tax freeze and as the council are capped at the amount they can raise council tax by each year this is money that can never be recovered. The financial emergency declared by the council 2 years ago has been stepped down. Some care of children has been brought back in house. The major issue is now over.

There are 2.5 times more crews on repairing roads than normal and they cannot keep up. Roads are in a poor state but there is money for road repairs now to try and get repairs done. The pothole reporting service is being updated as at present it only updates the first person to report the problem; others who have reported the same problem will be told that no action is required.

There are some services being picked up by the town councils that the borough councils used to do as town and parish councils are not subject to the same caps on the tax increases.

The planning backlog has been reduced by taking some time to limit the contact with the public. Broadband was raised by the council with Cllr Rigby as some of the houses in scope have yet to be supplied with broadband. Cllr Rigby is going look into this. There is no financial incentive to connect some properties as the contractor has already been paid.

2026/27) Policing Report

Nothing relevant.

Minutes from Combe Florey Parish Council March 24th, 2026

Signed: [Chairman]

2026/28) Planning**1. Current planning applications**

11/26/0001/PIP (Darlow) No decision made to-date..

2. Other planning matters

A new application was posted on the 17th of March but notified today for a single-story extension and a porch for Leeson house.

This will be considered at an extraordinary parish council meeting to be held on the 2nd of April at 6pm in the village garden.

Cllr Passingham will contact the vendor on the planning application so the Parish Council can view the proposed site.

2026/29) Finance**1. Bank Reconciliation**

The RFO read out a bank reconciliation list. The Council's current account has £484.36 and there is £15,007.84 in the savings account.

2. Agree the internal auditor for this year.

Tony Spence will be approached this week to ask him to carry out the audit again.

3. To consider receipts and payments arising since last meeting

Invoices for payment:

- I. Parish Clerk wages, expenses (Feb 2026 – March 2026 inclusive) £298.19 (before deductions)
Proposed by Cllr Newton and seconded by Cllr Passingham. All in favour of payment.
- II. HMRC - £57.80 for Clerks earnings
Proposed by Cllr Newton and seconded by Cllr Passingham. All in favour of payment.

4. Other finance business

None

2026/30) Topics raised at the Annual Parish Meeting**1. CIL funding, consider the suggestions raised at the annual parish meeting.****I. Replacement of railings around village burial ground – approval of contribution of £2650.00**

There was due to be a quote for the gate and front railings, but this has not been seen yet.

2026/31) Highways and Footpaths**1. Any relevant updates**

Footpath –Cllr Rigby will provide an update on the rerouting of the footpath across the B3224 at the next meeting.

There is a broken-down stile that needs replacing and this is going to be logged by Cllr Truby to ask for the council to repair.

If there is spare money in the future can the parish council use some of this to update the stiles with kissing gates? Cllr Passingham will send an email to ask if the council can action this or whether this is something we can do in the future.

2026/32) Village Maintenance / Garden**1. Village Garden – Update**

The gardeners have been contacted but no response has been received, the garden does not look too bad now as it is not in full growth yet but it could do with having some attention.

2. Approval of Garden waste sacks - £36.50

Purchase of garden waste sacks to be ordered by Cllr Cleverly, seconded by Cllr Newton.

2026/33) LCN update on last meeting

No update.

2026/34) Village Hall - Status report

Minutes from Combe Florey Parish Council March 24th, 2026

Signed: [Chairman]

Cllr Collino has had an initial meeting but will not join as a trustee till the governance has changed.

Next meeting set to be held on the 14th of April.

2026/35) Topics for future meetings

None raised

2026/36) Correspondence / General updates

Auditors' agent has been in touch with a document that says we need to sign for certain things.

2026/37) NEXT MEETING:

1. Annual Parish Meeting 5th May 2026 @ Combe Florey Village Hall. Time 7.00 pm
2. Annual Parish Council Meeting, 26th May 2026 @ Combe Florey Village Hall. Time 6pm

Meeting closed at 19:01