



Coffinswell Parish Council

Serving the Communities of
Coffinswell & Dacombe

The Cirl Bunting is the UK's rarest farmland bird. The entire breeding population is found between Exeter and Plymouth.

MINUTES OF THE COFFINSWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 16th JUNE 2026 7PM AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Present: Cllr N Orchard (Chair), Cllr C Bell, Cllr M Atkinson, Cllr S Spokes, and Cllr E Barnard (arrived 7.10pm)

In attendance: Mrs L Moore – Parish Clerk

1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.02pm and received apologies from Cllr Avery, District Cllrs J. Radford and J. Taylor. It was noted that DCC Horner was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a written Council Report for consideration.
2. **To declare any interests arising at this meeting.**
No interests were declared.
3. **Reports:**
 - 3.1 **County Councillors' report.** The written report submitted by Councillor Horner was noted. As most members had not received the report sufficiently in advance to consider it fully, the Chairman did not read the report in full.
The report was briefly discussed and was understood to relate principally to local government reorganisation and the appointment of new leadership. Members considered that there was nothing of particular significance to Coffinswell Parish Council arising from the report at this time.
 - 3.2 **District Councillors' report.** No reports were available
 - 3.3 **Police Advocate and Neighbourhood Watch reports and updates.**
The Chair advised that there was no formal report from the Police Advocate or Neighbourhood Watch.
Members noted that information concerning current scams had been circulated, including warnings about telephone scams in which callers attempt to persuade recipients to telephone them back, thereby connecting them with fraudulent callers.
4. **Approval to consider, amend as agreed by the Council and approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 19th May 2026:**
The minutes of this meeting were considered. Members discussed the level of detail and agreed that an appropriately detailed, impartial, and accurate record was valuable in ensuring that discussions and the reasons for decisions could be understood by those who are not present.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Atkinson, seconded by Cllr Bell, and approved by the Council.

5. Finance

5.1 The Payments Schedule was agreed and approved. Proposed by Cllr Spokes and seconded by Cllr Bell.

5.2 The bank reconciliation for May 2026 was agreed and approved.

5.3 The budget update for period 1st April 2026 to 31st May 2026 was presented with no matters arising.

6. Funding & Grants:

The Chair advised that he had contacted Recurrent Energy regarding the £20,000 Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund, requesting that the payment be made in two instalments, with £10,000 received this year and the balance in April 2027. This would ensure the Parish Council's annual turnover remains below £25,000 and avoid additional audit requirements and costs.

An update on the completion of the works has also been requested, although no response has yet been received.

7. Footpaths & Highways

The Chair reported that there were no issues with the footpaths and that the strimming team continued to keep them walkable.

Members were advised that DCC Highways were undertaking works on Willowpark Lane, near the rear of the church, to address regular flooding. The work included the installation of new gullies, pipes, and inspection pits, and it was hoped these would provide a long-term solution. The Chair thanked DCC Highways for carrying out the work on behalf of the Parish.

Members also noted that reported potholes had generally been repaired promptly and that a gate at the top of the footpath had been repaired following a report of a defective hinge.

8. To note any correspondence received

No matters requiring attention were raised.

9. Parish Matters:

9.1 The Parish Council meeting dates for 2027 were discussed and agreed.

9.2 To receive any further updates on parish matters.

Parish Council Email Accounts:

The Chair reported that he had successfully set up and was using his new Parish Council email account and asked members to confirm whether they had been able to access theirs. Members were encouraged to use the official Parish Council email accounts for Council business.

Community Telephone Box:

The Chair advised that the Parish Council now had full access to the BT telephone box. Members discussed the proposed development of the telephone box as a community facility.

Cllr Spokes agreed to coordinate with the existing village group and establish a smaller group of volunteers to develop ideas and identify any practical skills or materials required. It was agreed that suitable volunteers and suggestions could also be sought through the Parish Council website.

10. Correspondence received by the Parish Clerk.

No matters requiring action were raised.

11. Planning & Enforcement Public Question Time:

No members of public in attendance.

12. Planning:

12.1 New Applications (None at the time of Agenda preparation and issue)

12.2 To note any planning applications since the Agenda preparation and consider any comments thereon.

The Chair reported that he had submitted an application to Teignbridge District Council, on behalf of the Parish Council, for the removal of a self-seeded sycamore tree at the start of Footpath 2 (Greenaway Lane). The tree had grown through the BT overhead wires and was also overhanging the road. Members discussed the application and the potential risks associated with the tree's location, including its proximity to the road and overhead services. It was noted that pruning would provide only a temporary solution. by Cllr

Following receipt of correspondence from Teignbridge requesting the Parish Council's comments and the Councillors discussing the matter, it was proposed by Cllr Atkinson, seconded by Cllr Barnard and agreed that the Council support the application for removal of the tree.

12.3 To note the following Decision notice(s)

26/00711/PIP – Connybear Farm Shop, St Marychurch Road TQ12 4SE

Refusal of Permission in Principle for up to 9 dwellings

Members noted that TDC had refused the application for nine bungalows on the Connybear Farm Shop site. The reasons for refusal were broadly consistent with the Parish Council's previous objections, particularly regarding the unsustainable location of the development and its conflict with various policies within the Teignbridge Local Plan. Members welcomed the decision.

13. Enforcement Issues:

To receive any updates on outstanding enforcement issues.

The Chair then stated that the TDC's response (previously circulated by the Clerk) with respect to the Parish Council's request to review works being carried out on land at the lower end of Pitland Lane, including landscaping and the erection of a small building or shelter. TDC had visited the site and discussed the works with the owner. They considered the landscaping to be minor and raised no concerns regarding the vans on site. However, the owner was advised that planning permission was required for the shelter and was asked to submit a retrospective planning application. Members thanked TDC for carrying out the enforcement work.

The Councillors also agreed that the Council would continue to monitor developments and respond as required. No further issues were raised, and the enforcement discussion was concluded.

14. General Public Question Time:

No members of the public were in attendance.

15. To note the date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 15th September 2026

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting ended at 7.48pm.

Signed:
Chairman of Coffinswell Parish Council

Dated: