Rimpton Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on

Tuesday 5th May 2026

Present: Cllr Le Hardy, Cllr Caruth, Cllr Copeland, Cllr Diment, Cllr Ford and 7 members of the public.

In attendance Councillors Mr H Hobhouse, Mr K Messenger Mrs A Tuck, Clerk.

A member of the public reported that some potholes have been repaired but not all of them. Cllr Hobhouse reported that there is a print out each month of potholes that have been repaired but that not many were in Rimpton. There is also a new policy to repair potholes that are near ones that Highways have come to repair, Somerset Council is actually the 16th best out of 154 Counties in the Country. Cllr Le Hardy has had an email from a lady in Sandford Orcas, they have had a private contractor to repair potholes. Cllr Hobhouse plans to bring Tracey Harris to Rimpton. The pathway to the playing field is in a state, the bin is overflowing. We cancelled the bin being emptied by Somerset as they wanted to charge to empty it each week, if it's left on site then maybe someone who wants it to stay could put the waste in their bin and maybe we could get a quote to repair the footpath. There is also a problem in the village where people's hedges are overgrowing the footpaths, maybe a polite letter from the Council to people to cut their hedges back.

2026.25 **Apologies:** None

2026.26 **Declarations of Interest:** None.

2026.27 **The Minutes** of the last meeting were read, approved and signed.

2026.28 **Matters arising**: we still need someone to take responsibility for the defib, clerk to ensure its registered with the Circuit

2026.29 **County/District Councillors report.** Cllr Hobhouse advised that changes are planned to the planning department and developments of 10 or less properties will be dealt with by planning officers removing democratic input to comment/object to small applications.

A trial is running to give Parishes the power to close roads in the event of flooding in the Parish, a group of Parishioners will be supplied with signs and once the road has been closed the person in charge has to inform the Council when it is closed and when reopened, this should be rolled out in 2027. We will advise use the main Somerset Council telephone number, keep on the line once the out of hours message has passed and you wil bw able to add your closed road to the system., If you drive through a road closure your insurance will not be valid.

The LCN meeting has the Police Commissioner and senior police people at Charlton Horethorne Village hall, the next Highways LCN is at Castle Cary Town Hall on 2nd June at 10am. 114 notice which makes things challenging, 65% of the revenue received goes on adult social care and special needs schools. KM sits on the planning committee and is often frustrated at the departments reluctance to listen to Councillors, he is cow unable to ask for anything to be taken to the

planning committee, if Highways and Wessex Water say its Ok to them planning gets passed.

2026.30 **Planning 25/00259/OUT** Tree Tops One member of the public believes that approval of this application is unsound, 2 covenants were applied to 4 paddocks in 1974. The closing date has been and gone, under the disclosure act the agents would have to let potential buyers know. Its disconcerting that land agents are encouraging potential buyers to ignore the 6 bungalows maximum A discussion took place about legal fees if professional advice is sought, if the covenant is in place then we need to go to enforcement. Cllr Le Hardy suggested a group is formed to get together to discuss this.

2026.31 **Community Issues:**
a) Highways, Roads: Pitfield Corner is closed for 4 days for Wessex Water to do work.
Slow Signs. With the help of Councillor Ford, Councillor Le Hardy has got the slow signs up in the village.

2026.32 **Foot paths** The little stile at the back of the Church , over the stream is very loose. Mr Giles has done a temporary repair, needs reporting to Eve Wynn.

2026.33 **Playing Field/ Mower** We had an inspection recently, nothing to report, we have paid for 5 years of reports. The Robot mower will start out at 10pm, and will be set at 40mm the maximum if wil fo,

2026.35 **Finance:** The clerk gave set of accounts and budget v spend out, to Councillors, payments were approved.

2026.36 **Correspondence –** all emails forwarded to Councillors.

2026.37 **Any Other matters raised with permission of the Chairman**
The village Fete is being run on 4th July, The Parish Council has applied for the lottery license for the raffle.
Cllr Copeland is not receiving .org.uk emails, Clerk has asked Jimmy Flynn to contact her.
There is a new format to the Parish Magazine, deadline for printing is 01th of the month. Cllr Copeland is the representative for Rimpton.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 7.30pm at RImpton Village Hall.
The meeting closed at 8.48pm