Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 8.00pm on 20th May 2026.

1. **Present:** Cllrs: Chris Henley (Chair), Sophie George (Vice Chair), Nigel Young, Martyn Broom, Helen Gwinnett (Footpath Warden), Kerry Kennell (Locum Clerk), EDDC Cllr Levine and two members of the public.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs: Bob Carter, EDDC Cllr Brown, DCC Cllr Connor.
3. **Welcome and Announcements from the chair**: Cllr Henley welcomed those present.
4. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 30th April 2025 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by the Chair.
5. **Police Report:** PCSO England sent a written report. Crime figures 01/01/2026 - 20/05/2026 4 recorded crimes 1 Road traffic collision 1 violence offence 2 other crimes. Police.uk website is now available for crime data. This is running 1 month behind. Staff updates: Neighbourhood Sgt Jenny Palmer has moved within the force on a 6-month attachment. We now have Sgt Crabtree looking after the team which covers Honiton,Sidmouth,Seaton and Axminster. Honiton has a new beat manager PC Jess Harris. They will be covering Honiton town and Rural. We are encouraging members of our community to sign up to community messaging. You can register for free on the devon and Cornwall police website Recent reports of cold callers in the area, Tarmac laying, garden work, roofing, jet washing drives. Say no thank you- report details to trading standards if concerned. Police if threats made or concerned. Sign up to community messaging for updates A new law change came into effect on 18th March 2026 which will see farm animals in England and Wales get stronger protection from dogs. Farmers If livestock worrying or an attack happens, report it to the police. Keep hold of any evidence. Record dates and times and take photos or videos if you can. It may not always be possible, but collecting witness details is useful. It may be helpful to check whether signs, fencing, dog-control advice or public footpath management needs to be updated. Livestock worrying can happen when a dog attacks, chases or is loose among livestock. Dogs don't need to make contact for harm to occur. Fear and stress alone can harm livestock. For more information, please search online for the below. The dogs (protection of livestock)(amendment) Act 2025 Councillor advocate scheme Are your council members aware of this scheme? If not please search online for advocate scheme police online. Devon & Cornwall police& crime commissioner link. All details on the site and fully explains the scheme and how to sign up as a volunteer. The councillor advocate scheme is a police initiative aimed at improving communication between local councillors, the police, and the office of the police and crime commissioner. Councillors volunteer to act as a single point of contact for their councils.
6. **EDDC Report:** Cllr Levine sent a written report.
7. **DCC Report: -** A written report was submitted by Cllr Connor.

8. **Reports from Village Committees and Organisations:**
   - **Village Hall** – No report was provided.
   - **PCC** – A written report was received from Lily Chapman. John has resigned from his post as Church Warden. The Church this year has had 2 fundraising lunches one for Harvest Festival and one for Christmas. These were well attended and raised £300 and £600 respectively. The altar carpets and the curtains have been refurbished. The roof gutters drains have been cleaned and repaired and there is ongoing work for the quinquennial report. The work in the new cemetery and Tom Blanchard and his team have done a fantastic job of maintaining the grounds. Sadly East Devon and VOA are still charging Business rates. The good News is that the Reverend Tracey Voysey has been appointed as the Rector of Honiton Mission Community and will be licensed in July by the Archdeacon. Thanks were noted to the community for their support in the church .

- **Short Mat Bowls** – No report was provided.
- **Fete** – Cllr Henley gave an update. The fund is at £3,082.78. It is likely that this will be the last fete. There are not enough people to man the stalls. In future the event may take a different format.
- **Cotleigh Charity Endowment Fund (also known as the Northampton Trust)** – Ian Piper had confirmed he would attend but was not present. The Clerk will invite him to the July Council meeting to provide an update.

9.Parish Accounts: - The Clerk reported that the precept for 2026/27 remained unchanged at £3,600. The closing balance as of 31 March 2026 was £11,021.24. The current budget forecast indicates that a precept increase may be required in 2027/28 due to rising expenditure. The Council website and clerks email address has moved to a .gov.uk address. The historic minutes have been deposited with Devon Archives. Cllr Carter has arranged displays of historic information in the Village Hall. There continues to be ongoing uncertainty regarding local government reorganisation. A residents survey was carried out. Unfortunately the Clerk left the Council in February and a new Clerk is currently being recruited.

10. Website: No matters were raised regarding the website.

11. Footpaths: A verbal report given noting that tree clearance had taken place in the churchyard.

The meeting ended at 8.23pm