

Corscombe, Halstock and District Parish Council Annual Report 2025/26

Summary

This year has seen steady progress across a wide range of community priorities, practical improvements and partnership work. Much of what has been achieved reflects the commitment of parish councillors, volunteers, and local organisations working together to support our villages.

Community Infrastructure and Local Improvements

We have continued the restoration of our historic fingerposts, with thanks to Nigel Clarke and Roger Whittingham for their work on the Halstock Triangle, the Fox Inn junction and Grexy Cross. A new Parish Noticeboard has been installed near the Fox Inn in Corscombe, and a replacement salt bin has been provided for West Chelborough. The Parish Council also maintained a presence at the Corscombe Village Fête, helping residents meet councillors, raise issues and learn more about the work of the Council. Under our General Power of Competence, the Parish Council also made a donation to the Church to assist with the servicing and repair of the organ.

Transport, Highways and Road Safety

We have worked closely with PlusBus to help establish a weekly bus service, improving access for residents without transport. Highways issues remain a major area of focus. We continue to press Dorset Council on:

- potholes
- road signage
- the volume and timing of roadworks and road closures

Consultation with Dorset Council Highways and parish residents on speed limits will continue into 2026–27. The Speed Indicator Device in Halstock continues to operate successfully thanks to Tony Hill and the SpeedWatch volunteers.

Community Safety, First Aid and Emergency Preparedness

This year we arranged First Aid Training for residents and established WhatsApp First Aid Community Support Groups in both Halstock and Corscombe to improve local resilience. Councillors have also raised awareness of Asian Hornets, supported the Great Big Hedge Survey, and contributed to wider climate and ecology initiatives. We have begun updating parish organisations on Martyn's Law, the new national security legislation for public events. While our local fetes fall below the threshold, it remains important that organisers are aware of the requirements.

Communication and Digital Improvements

The Clerk has introduced bimonthly Parish Council newsletters, improving the flow of information to residents. We now have a dedicated Parish Council email address for the Clerk: clerk@chd-pc.gov.uk. Planning applications are now routinely shared on Facebook, WhatsApp, and the Parish Council website (chdpc.org.uk), increasing visibility and

engagement. The Parish Council website has also undergone an upgrade to improve usability and access to information.

Partnership Working

We continue to strengthen our relationship with the Halstock Village Trust, collaborating on issues including road safety, potholes, and mobile phone signal concerns. We have also maintained regular contact with Dorset Council officers and other agencies on highways, planning and community matters.

Playgrounds, Recreation and Local Facilities

Routine maintenance of the Corscombe playground and outdoor gym has continued. Despite considerable effort, we have not yet identified a suitable location for a Halstock playground, but work on this will continue. The long-running Wessex Water sewage facility upgrade is now nearing completion.

Governance and Council Business

The Parish Council successfully met both its internal and external audit requirements this year. We were saddened by the loss of Diana Stains, whose contribution to the parish community is warmly remembered.

Looking Ahead

The coming year will see continued work on highways issues, speed limit consultations, community safety, environmental initiatives, and the ongoing search for a viable playground site in Halstock. We will also continue to strengthen communication with residents and ensure the Parish Council remains accessible, responsive and transparent.