

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council held on 7 February 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Boarer (Chairman), Duggleby, Humble, Johnstone and Squires

Also present: County Cllr Dewhirst, District Cllr Haines and PC Rob Harvey

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

070218.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Evans
- County Cllr Hook

070218.02 POLICE REPORT

Reported crimes from 04/01/18 – 07/02/18

(2 crimes)

- Assault (Battery) – domestic related. Argument between father and son became heated, leading to a minor assault on son. Investigated but no further action taken due to victim's wishes
- Assault (Battery) – domestic related. Boyfriend allegedly assaulted girlfriend causing minor injuries. Both parties had been drinking and victim refused to support police investigation so no further action taken.

070218.03 OPEN FORUM

There were no comments.

070218.04 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Dewhirst gave a report (copy attached).

Cllr Haines informed members that the TDC's part of the council tax will increase by £5 (3.2%) if voted through later this month. The revenue support grant from the government is reducing from £827,000 to £0, business rates are increasing and new homes bonus is reducing.

070218.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and to declare any disclosable interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they have in any items to be considered at this meeting. Members were reminded that unforeseen requests for a Dispensation to be considered at this point only if there was no way a member would have been aware of such before the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

070218.06 MINUTES

Members approved and signed the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 January 2018.

070218.07 DELEGATE REPORTS

None.

070218.08 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Cheque no	Payee	Details	Amount
990	DTX	Self-editing of website	£50
991	Stoke & Combe Magazine	Half page advert for Hearn Field	£35
992	S Guppy	Exterior bulbs for Hearn Field Pavilion	£33.99
993	T Boarer	Hire of mini digger to clear pathways and tracks	£250
994	G Humble	Fuel costs for attending P3 meeting	£24.95
DD	EDF	Hearn Field electricity (1 February)	£47*
SO	Clerk	Salary (2 January)	£248.91

* Members noted that a refund of £99.88 has been credited and that direct debit payments will be increasing from £46 per month to £47 per month from 1 February.

8.2 Income

Members noted the income for January:

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
5 January 2018	Reach Outdoors	Summer camps	£1,714.50
9 January 2018	Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.41
16 January 2018	EDF	Refund	£99.88

8.3 Bank Balances at 31 January 2018

Members noted the bank balances:

Current account	Reserves account	Sea Wall account	Total
£4,899.92	£10,303.80	£3,321.98	£18,525.70

070218.09 PLANNING

9.1 New applications/appeals

9.1.1 17/02982/FUL – Netherton Lodge, Netherton
Conversion of garage to form additional living accommodation

Members objected to this application as it was considered to be overdevelopment in the countryside.

9.2 Decisions

There were no decisions to report.

070218.10 HEARN FIELD

CLlr Johnstone informed members that John Fyfe had died. Mr Fyfe had made a significant contribution to the maintenance of Hearn Field over a number of years. The Parish Council agreed that his memory should be honoured and that the Hearn Field Committee should give this some thought at their next meeting.

- Advertisement in parish magazine. The Hearn Field Committee would like to pay for a further year of what is classed a half page advert. Members approved the cost of £35.

- New bookings. A booking form and payment has been received for a party on 1 September 2018 for 8 hrs at £15 ph. This has been paid.
- There is concern that the parish website is still displaying inaccurate information re charges for the field. This needs to change to reflect the correct charges and the rates quoted in the parish magazine advert. This was noted. Cllr Squires advised that he had been some experiencing some problems with the self-editing and that he would be contacting DTX to resolve the issue. Cllr Johnstone and Squires would arrange to meet to go through all the pages so that appropriate updates could be made.

Maintenance:

- The hedges have all been cut and look much better. There may need to be some replanting in the bottom corner where Tidelands have reinstated a proper secure fence which now prevents access to the field. Cllr Johnstone advised that hedging packs were still available free of charge from The Woodlands Trust.
- There is large damp patch on the wall of the larger of the two changing rooms. This needs attention before it spreads. Members agreed that the Hearn Field Committee should investigate it before engaging the services of a builder.
- A fairly substantial pot hole has developed at the main entrance to the car park. The Committee suggests that planings should be used to fill this as soon as possible to prevent further damage. Cllr Boarer offered to try and source some.
- New light bulbs have been bought and fitted outside. The cost, to be reimbursed to Simon Guppy, was approved by members.

Events:

- A Family Fun Day is planned to celebrate the 30 years since the field was bequeathed to the community. The Committee suggests this happens in June or July on a Saturday. There is support and enthusiasm for this and includes a dog show run by the group that is using the field for dog agility training. It is also hoped to include a history section as well as catering and games and competitions. Are there dates that should be avoided? Cllr Johnstone would find out if there were any bookings at the Village Hall that might clash.
- It is understood that there is a suggestion to hold the Annual Parish Meeting at the field as last year. The Committee is very happy to arrange this and use it as an opportunity to enrol new PC members and support for the field.

Refurbishment of Pavilion:

- Plans for this and quotes for work are in hand. No grant applications have yet been made as the final figure is not yet known. A full update will be given at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Hearn Field Committee is due to meet later this month – date to be confirmed.

070218.11 BUCKLAND NOTICE BOARD

Members were advised that Barratt Homes have no objection to the Parish Council fixing a community notice board on the Public Open (POS) either at the top or the bottom of the site. It is their preference to be located in the southern POS which will be completed in June. They do not wish to contribute to the cost of the notice board but would be willing to fix it on site. It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Squires would walk around the site and identify the preferred location.

070218.12 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was agreed that this would be held on 12 May at 7.00pm in Hearn Field Pavilion with a similar format to last year. It will be a celebration of the parish and an opportunity to thank volunteers. It will also be an opportunity to present the Emergency Plan.

070218.13 EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllrs Duggleby and Humble will continue to work on the plan with a view to presenting a framework at the Annual Parish Meeting.

070218.14 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- 14.1 Members received further correspondence from Mr Halpin regarding Gulmswell Lane. The clerk advised that she had responded to his request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Members discussed and considered the issues raised in his correspondence about the lane but were content that it is being maintained to a satisfactory level and that maintenance above and beyond what was currently being done would be the responsibility of the highways authority, DCC. It was noted that the buddle holes have been cleared again by two members and the Parish Council would continue to monitor these. The culvert, referred to in Mr Halpin's correspondence, is the responsibility of the drainage authorities, TDC and DCC and that any concerns he may have about the culvert should be directed to the relevant authorities. Members agreed that time spent discussing the issues raised would have to be restricted in the future as the Parish Council had undertaken all that it could do.
- 14.2 Cllr Humble reported that she has completed the annual P3 survey form to be submitted by the clerk in February. An application would be made for routine maintenance.
- 14.3 Cllr Duggleby raised the issue of speeding motorists and motorcyclists on Stoke Road. Cllr Dewhirst advised that DCC's Highway Engineer had looked at this previously and had determined that it was not an appropriate location to collect speed data. He did advise, however, that DCC is going to be looking at speed limit polices in the coming months.
- 14.4 Cllr Johnstone raised the matter of flooding in Coombe Cellars car park as a result of the gate not being closed. The water is not draining away as it should as the buddle hole is blocked water. Water is therefore beginning to undermine the hedge line along Hearn Field. County Cllr Dewhirst asked for a copy of the photograph taken by Cllr Johnstone and would as DCC's Highways Engineer have a look.

070218.15 CORRESPONDENCE

- 15.1 Members received details of the case Cavanagh v Witley Parish Council and the implications this may have for this parish. After discussion, it was agreed to review the condition of the trees annually at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

070218.16 MEMBERS' ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR GENERAL DISCUSSION, FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS AND/OR ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

Members are reminded that they have not received the statutory notice of this business to be transacted and should therefore recognise that any decision made may be taken to be unlawful if challenged in the future

Cllr Johnstone thanked the Chairman and his wife for putting up the new parish notice boards.

070218.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as 7 March 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.43pm.

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Chairman

You may have been concerned by reports in the media about Plastic recycling but in Teignbridge with our kerbside sort and high quality product there is currently no issue for Teignbridge's material. The plastic bottles collected are all reprocessed within the UK. The remaining Pots, Tubs and Trays are then sold internationally on global markets for recycling – including China – who still want/require good clean material like that produced from Teignbridge's 'kerbside sort' process. We are not currently stockpiling any material, have no short term need to incinerate recyclable plastics and continue to generate an income for the material.

The Council will of course be keeping a watchful eye on markets and liaising with District and County colleagues on the matter.

I was pleased to be asked to join Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, Patron of Northbrook Community Trust, in formally opening the new two storey extension of the Atkinson Unit a therapeutic secure children's home in Exeter. She said that she felt honoured and delighted to be associated with the home and that the home does a wonderful job and is such a positive and important influence on the lives of many very vulnerable young people.

The £1.1million improvements to the current building provides a new reception area where young people are welcomed when they arrive, visitor rooms and conference facilities.

The home is one of only seven welfare-only accommodation facilities in the country. Trained staff work closely with the young people to help them return to having a positive lifestyle within the community. I was asked to join Baroness Butler-Sloss because I have visited the home every month for four years on behalf of the Council's monitoring of this facility – this facility is probably the highest Risk on the Council's Risk Register and I am part of a team that includes professionals, educationalists and of course Ofsted who visit every six months.

The budget scrutiny process started last week with the examination of the Children's Directorate budget of £125.487million last Tuesday. We heard that despite an additional £7.5 million for schools this year the government is underfunding Devon's schools by £268 per pupil. It seems that primary schools in Westminster have much lower levels of additional needs yet they receive 19.6% more funding per child than Devon's schools.

This was followed on Thursday by Adult Services and Public Health's budget of £227.851 million. We heard that DCC is the 6th worst LA for Public Health funding per head and the government is reducing this budget by 2.6% year on year until 2020. We also heard that for every £1 spent on residential adult care the budget increases by £85k and a 50p increase in the hourly rate for Care workers was a £1 million increase in the budget – we commission 36,000 hours of care per week!

At CIRS Scrutiny we looked at the Communities, Environment, Corporate Services and Highways budget of £124.053 million on Wednesday. Communities and Highways budgets are scheduled to reduce by 2.7% and so we recommended to Cabinet that they identify additional resource in the Highways budget to prioritise preventative work on drainage to include gully emptying and cleaning; as well as ditching..

The Executive will be recommending an eye watering 3.99% plus 2% Adult Social Care increase taking the total budget to £477.391 million.