

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 March 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Boarer (Chairman), Alexander, Duggleby, Humble, Hussey and Pattinson

Also present: District Cllr Haines and County Councillor Dewhurst. There were no members of the public present.

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

040320.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr Eaton
- Cllr Evans
- Elizabeth Deane (Hearn Field Committee Chairman)
- PC Harvey

040320.02 POLICE REPORT

Reported crimes from 6/2/20 – 4/3/20:

- Combeinteignhead (0 crimes)
- Haccombe (0 crimes)
- Netherton (1 crime)
 - Burglary (non-dwelling) – Newton Abbot crime
Stokeinteignhead Cricket Club broken into overnight by forcing sliding doors. Another cupboard within has been forced to access keys to a store cupboard where a generator was then stolen. No CCTV or witnesses. No further action.

040320.03 OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

040320.04 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Cllr Dewhurst gave a report, a copy of which is attached.

District Cllr Haines reported that TDC has increased its council tax by £5 for a Band D property. Cllr Haines advised that he voted against the budget for the first time in 32 years as he could not support the proposed introduction of the £1 Sunday parking charge which for some towns would mean an increase in Sunday parking charges. The budget was nonetheless approved by a majority of members.

040320.05 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.

040320.06 MINUTES

Members approved and signed the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 February 2020.

040320.07 DELEGATE REPORTS

Cllrs Alexander and Humble attended the Climate Emergency workshop. A copy of the information pack has also been circulated to all members. A lot of interesting information was given at the meeting; most of those who attended the meeting wanted to learn about practical ideas for individuals and small communities.

040320.08 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Cheque no	Payee	Details	Amount
BACS (reimbursed to clerk 12/2/20)	Mid-Devon Advertiser	Premises Licence advert	£196.56
BACS (reimbursed to clerk 12/2/20)	TDC	Premises Licence application	£100
BACS (29/2/20)	South West Water	Hearn Field Pavilion	£52.30
BACS	ASigns	Car park signage	£630
BACS	Netwise	Website - annual support and maintenance	£250
BACS	M Boarer	Hearn Field Pavilion cleaning	£30
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (Feb)	£36.62
SO	Clerk	Salary (Feb)	£268.62

8.2 Income

Members noted income received 1 February – 29 February:

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
9 Feb 2020	Lloyds	Interest	£0.39

8.3 Bank Balances at 29 February 2020

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£1,331.72	£9,002.18	£3,825.10	£14,159

040320.09 PLANNING

9.1 New applications/appeals

9.1.1 20/00313/AGR – Netherton Ridge, Ridge Road, Netherton
Fodder and machinery store

Members had no objections to the application.

9.2 Decisions

9.2.1 19/02072/FUL – Land adjacent to Teign View Barn, Shaldon Road, Newton Abbot

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

9.2.2 20/00076/CAN – The Coaching House, Shaldon Road, Combeinteignhead
Fell one deodar cedar (T18), one silver birch (T25), one flowering plum (T12) and one apple (T14) and crown thin one Persian ironwood (T26) by 30% (as numbered on the submitted tree plan)

Members noted that TDC has no objections to this proposal.

9.2.3 20/00109/CAN – Thorn Orchard, Combeinteignhead
Fell one Norway spruce

Members noted that TDC has no objections to this proposal.

9.2.4 20/00269/TPOE – Football Pitches and land at Long Lane, Newton Abbot
Coppice two ash stems

Members noted that TDC has no objections to these trees being pruned and the proposed works are considered to be exempt.

9.3 **Update**

19/01341/FUL - Coombe Cellars, Combeinteignhead

Members noted that this application is currently with TDC's Biodiversity Officer for comment with a target date for a decision being 31 March 2020.

040320.10 PLAY PARK, HAWTHORN RISE

Members noted that there had been a proposal to remove the play park at Hawthorn Rise following ongoing anti-social behaviour problems since its installation in 2017. It was noted that there have been issues between the residents living immediately adjacent to the park and some of the children using it. Cllr Dewhirst advised that TDC would not allow the park to be removed because it is part of the planning conditions for that development and is much needed. The Managing Director of Barratt Homes supports TDC and does not intend to remove the equipment. Cllr Dewhirst added that he has been trying to arrange a meeting with the anti-social behaviour officer, the police, the Parish Council and residents but, as yet, has not been successful in co-ordinating this. The police have written formal contracts with a number of young people and have reported no issues since Christmas. This conflicts, however, with what residents are saying. The Chairman advised that we would be happy to attend a meeting if one can be arranged.

040320.11 HEARN FIELD

The clerk advised that the Premises Licence application has been submitted to TDC and the application has been advertised in the local newspaper. Copies have also been sent to the relevant consultees. The Chairman is also attending a meeting tomorrow at the Pavilion with the Alcohol and Licensing Officer from Devon & Cornwall Police.

040320.12 CAR PARK

The signs have been produced and the Chairman advised that he will put them up as soon as possible.

040320.13 WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

Members were advised that The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 came into force on 23 September 2018. The purpose of the regulations is to improve the accessibility of public sector websites/mobile apps so they can be used by as many people as possible. They build on existing obligations to disabled people under the Equality Act 2010 and the duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people. Use by as many people as possible could mean people with impaired vision, impaired hearing, cognitive impairments or learning disabilities amongst others.

The Parish Council must comply with the accessibility requirement – the Regulations state that we must make the website accessible by making it perceivable, operable, understandable and robust. It must therefore comply with the international WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility standard.

In addition to complying with the accessibility requirement, a council must also provide an accessibility statement and keep that statement under regular review. The accessibility statement must be provided in an accessible format and published on the Council's website.

The accessibility statement must include:

- an explanation of those parts of the content that are not accessible and the reasons why;
- where appropriate, a description of any accessible alternatives provided;

- a description of, and a link to, a contact form which enables a person to notify the Council of any failure of its website to comply with the accessibility requirement and request details of the information excluded

Cllr Evans had provided some information to the clerk advising that the technology used for the Parish Council website is compliant in so far as it allows interaction with assistive technologies such as screen readers. It is also already a 'responsive' website in that it is able to resize its content automatically depending on screen size or based on page orientation and font size that a user prefers. However, an internal audit should be undertaken and an interim accessibility statement produced and published on the site summarising which parts of the regulations are compliant and which are not. The Parish Council will then need to ensure that it keeps the regulations in mind when uploading new content and work towards making the site as accessible as possible. A revised accessibility statement will then need to be published.

Members noted the advice and suggested that the clerk contacts the website supplier to find out how they can assist the Parish Council is complying with the new guidelines.

040320.14 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

Members received correspondence from the Combeinteignhead co-ordinator in response to the questions raised at the last Parish Council meeting. There appears to be limited representation in the parish and it was suggested that an open meeting is arranged to encourage additional co-ordinators to come forward. She also advised that she holds an email list of some of the residents in Combeinteignhead and relevant information is passed on to them. After discussion, members continued to hold the view that the Parish Council is not responsible for Neighbourhood Watch but would be happy to show support by allowing use of the Hearn Field Pavilion for a meeting to promote it the scheme across the whole of the parish.

040320.15 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- 15.1 Members received further correspondence from Mr Halpin relating to matters on Gulmswell Lane. The following actions were agreed:
- To report the two caravans on land known locally as Catslade to TDC's Enforcement Officer to ensure that they are permitted to be sited there
 - To write to the land-owner responsible for the fallen cherry tree and ask that they remove it
 - To advise Mr Halpin that the Parish Council has not approved any expenditure as proposed in his emails
 - To ask DCC's Public Rights of Way Officer to walk the area and make a plan of what needs to be done
 - To remind Mr Halpin Hi-Line have a right to access their cables and do not require the permission of the Parish Council
 - To inform Mr Halpin that the ash trees which he refers to in his email are the responsibility of the relevant landowner
- 15.2 Members received correspondence from Roger Duggleby regarding the flow of flood water on the lane outside Garden Barn and the drainage of water from the Stoke Road. He has cleared the blocked buddle holes which has reduced the flow of water down the track. He will keep an eye on these and clear them whenever needed. This will hopefully reduce the standing water substantially but a drain from the track into the stream through his garden would also help. He also identified that there are problems with the drains on the road side of the bridge. There is a blocked and wrongly positioned drain outside Mrs Boyd's house. The drain has been reported to Highways but as it wasn't flooding the highway they would not come and unblock it. The other problem is that the water from the road to Stokeinteignhead has nowhere to go - there is no drain and no real channel for it. A lot of it has been flowing into the garden of Garden Barn. He intends to fix this if Highways will not do anything but that will mean that even more water will flow past Garden Barn and down the track to gather outside his barn. Both these problems could be solved if there were drains from the track through his and Mrs Boyd's gardens into the stream. Members noted

these observations and thanked Roger for his support. The Chairman thought, however, that it would be unlikely that highways would make any changes to the drains or install new drains in this location.

040320.16 CORRESPONDENCE

The Rural Skip will be sited in the parish car park from 9.30am-12 noon on Saturday 14 March. The Chairman offered to put leaflets on cars advising them to ensure space was available to park the skip.

040320.16 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

None

040320.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is 1 April 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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Chairman

County Councillor's Report 4th March 2020

Devon residents and visitors may have concerns about coronavirus. I would like to reassure you that the government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

As of today the UK Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has announced a total of 85 cases of COVID-19 infection in the UK, and you will probably be aware that cases have now been confirmed in Devon. These individuals are getting all necessary support from the relevant agencies.

The format of the updates has now changed. While the number of new cases will continue to be updated daily on the gov.uk website, the location of these cases will now updated weekly on a Friday.

Public Health England, Devon County Council, Torbay and Plymouth Councils and local and national NHS colleagues are working closely together to respond to this situation locally and plan for any further cases.

We have contingency plans in place to ensure that vital front-line services are able to continue, and that our most vulnerable residents are kept well and safe.

We're also in daily contact with colleagues across the NHS, Public Health, Police and other public services to ensure continuity of messaging, approach and response.

Based on current evidence, Coronavirus (COVID-19) presents with flu-like symptoms including a fever, a cough, or difficulty breathing. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild.

We have tried and tested plans in place which mean we are prepared to deal with a whole range of issues.

The best action we can all take is to ensure we continue to have good personal and hand hygiene, which includes:

- Giving your hands a good wash with soap and water is the most effective action you can take (but hand gels can be a good substitute).
- Maintaining personal hygiene when coughing or sneezing is also important – use a tissue rather than your hands and then throw it away.
- It is good general practice to use cleaning wipes to give your keyboard, desk, phone etc. the once over on a regular basis.

People are asked NOT to turn up at their GP surgery or other health services (e.g. hospital). If people have trips planned, they should follow the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice. To stay in touch with the national situation and response and any advice PHE is giving, you can visit their website. I would encourage you to keep you up to date through the national information being made available, and on our Devon County Council website.

The County Council approved its budget a week last Thursday in a marathon five-hour session. There was more money for vulnerable children, adult social care and roads and road drainage.

More than £43 million extra will be pumped into vital services with an additional £23.7 million for adult care and health, £11.5 million more for children's services and £1 million more to help deal with drainage issues on the road network.

In total the council's spending will rise by £43.1 million from £498 million in 2019/20 to just over £541 million – when you add the £539.35 million Dedicated Schools Grant it takes the council's spending over the £1 billion mark for the first time in ten years.

The average Band D council tax bill for Devon's services will rise by 3.9 per cent to help pay for it – that's 1.9 per cent for general services and 2 per cent dedicated solely to adult care.

Devon's Cabinet member for finance said: "It (*the Budget*) provides significant additional resources to adult social care, children's services and highways which are the things that matter most to our Devon residents. Although there has been a small increase in support from the Government, we need the certainty of future income to protect services.

County Treasurer Mary Davis told councillors: "In 2020/21 the authority's core funding will increase by 1.63%. This does not however mean that it has been easy for the authority to set a balanced budget. There are significant ongoing pressures in both adult and children's services with the greatest area of concern being the funding shortfall on the High Needs Block (children with special needs) and the lack of information from Government on what they intend to do about it."

In simple terms Adult Care and Health will rise by £23.714 million to £260.258 million. Children's Services will rise by £11.538 million to £146.845 million. Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity will rise by £0.925 million to £39.713 million. Corporate Services will rise by £4.17 million to £36.91 million. Finally, Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste will rise by £2.79 million to £57.508 million.

This is patently good news but these figures should be put in context - £2.189 million of the Highways increase is inflation - we still get £1 million more for highway drainage but at the expense of cuts in winter operations and saving made on waste tonnages. In my role of Chair of Scrutiny, I put forward a raft of recommendations that included lobbying Central Government to increase our Public Health Grant, recognising the insufficient funding for prevention work and recording our great concern about recruitment in Health and Adult Care following the introduction of a points based immigration system.

During the debate the Lib Dems proposed an additional £4 million for highway drainage, £.5 million for renewal of white lines (have you tried to drive round Penn Inn recently), launching a new Green Devon initiative to bring forward wildlife corridors, wild flower meadows and verges and help with additional tree planting and creating 20 mph zones around all Devon schools.

All this would be paid for by drawing £4.5 million from the Council's Emergency reserve of £18 million and ending wasteful payments to 108 staff who have an essential car user allowance but drive less than one mile a week!

Sadly, this was voted down. In the end It means the Band D bill will rise by £55.17 to £1,439.46.

However, you need to remember that each Devon School Child is underfunded by £294 a year, that the County Council has lost £180 million in Core funding since 2010 and we will end up with a £45 million deficit by March 2021 for Special Education Needs and the Government says this can only be paid for out of the Schools Budget. Austerity has definitely NOT ended.

Alistair Dewhurst

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