

Hacombe-with-Combe Parish Council

www.haccombewithcombe.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Zoom on 6 May 2020 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: County Councillor Dewhirst and ten members of the public

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

060520.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- District Cllr Haines
- PC Harvey

060520.02 POLICE REPORT

Reported crimes from 05/03/20 – 04/05/20

Combeinteignhead (2 crimes)

- Harassment – Domestic related. Ex-husband making unwanted contact via emails and other media. Reported for information only and victim did not wish to support further police action. NFA.
- Covid-19 Breach – Male found in carpark and admitted having driven down from Hampshire. He stated this was to meet and feed a vulnerable friend, however he refused to provide friends' details and then stated he was having a sleep! Ticket issued and male made to leave.

Hacombe (1 crime)

- Theft – (Newton Abbot crime) Two large sums of money were transferred into the wrong account. The victim realised this and contacted their bank who, in turn wrote to the recipient. No reply was received and to date no money paid back. Investigation ongoing.

Netherton (0 crimes)

060520.03 OPEN FORUM

A resident of Hacombe expressed concern about planning application 19/02351/AGR - Agricultural Building on Land to North of Home Farm, Netherton. The concern related to the location of the proposed barn and a request to the applicant that an alternative location is considered to minimise visual impact. The resident also asked whether TDC would consider extending the period of consultation to allow local objections to be heard.

A resident of Hacombe, also speaking about planning application 19/02351/AGR, acknowledged the needs of agricultural holdings. However, he considered that this was the wrong building in the wrong location. He added that no objectors had been informed of the planning application and he considered that there had been a breach of the planning department's own rules. The application is misleading in terms of its location. From the description, it is not obvious that the development is within the Hacombe valley. The resident concluded by asking for the Parish Council's assistance in persuading TDC to take into account residents' reasonable objections.

The clerk outlined the reasons why this application has not been considered formally by the Parish Council and why the public has not had an opportunity to make representations to the Parish Council:

Due to government restrictions starting on the evening of 23 March, the Parish Council has not been able to meet in public. April's meeting of the Parish Council was cancelled. From 4 April, local authorities were handed powers to hold public meetings virtually by using video or telephone conferencing technology. A practice Zoom meeting was arranged for 15 April. The meeting was not open to the public and had been arranged purely to trial the technology and agree protocols. A sample agenda was drafted as a basis on which to practice. The planning application referred to above was listed on the practice agenda. There was no discussion about the application itself but only a discussion about seeking an extension from TDC to enable the Parish Council to arrange an extraordinary meeting thus allowing a discussion in public. The clerk advised that on 16 April, TDC informed her that the planning application was overdue and as such the Case Officer will need to issue a decision as soon as possible. They were therefore unable to hold the application back further to await comments from the Parish Council. Members were informed of this advice and it was suggested by the clerk that if members themselves wish to make any comments they should do so on that day. A response was sent to TDC advising that the Parish Council had been unable to meet publicly to discuss the application but had been made aware of some concerns of residents in Haccombe. It is noted that despite being informed by TDC on 16 April that there was no time to arrange an extraordinary meeting, the application has still not been determined and comments continue to be published on TDC's website. The clerk advised that she challenged this in writing to TDC on 30 April to establish whether there was still time to include in on May's agenda. A response was and has still not been received. A further email was sent on 5 May explaining the position to a resident of Haccombe copying in TDC's senior planning officer, Chief Executive and District and County Councillors. A response to this has also not been received. Having previously been advised that TDC would not allow further comments, it was not included on the agenda.

The Chairman advised that he had noted that the applicant's agent had also not received a response from TDC. He added that if TDC come back to the Parish Council advising that its comments would still be considered, a public meeting will be arranged.

060520.04 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

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

District Cllr Haines was not present at the meeting but had circulated TDC's 'Coronavirus Residents' Update' for members' information.

060520.05 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.

Cllr Alexander declared an interest in 9.3 as the owner of the adjacent land in Haccombe.

Cllr Hussey declared an interest in 9.3 as he had recently sold parcels of land in Haccombe.

060520.06 MINUTES

District Cllr Haines had asked for one minor amendment within his report. The amendment was approved after which members agreed to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 March 2020 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

060520.07 DELEGATE REPORTS

Cllr Hussey advised that he had attended the Teignbridge Community and Voluntary Services (TCVS) Zoom Meeting on 16th April. It was a well-attended meeting including

many groups working with Covid related issues in the area. TCVS representatives present for Moorland - Katie, Newton Abbot - Elaine, and Coastal – Anja. A good number of topics were raised and many ideas shared about practical issues related to delivery. Topics covered included: shopping, food, other provisions, pharmaceuticals, disabilities, recruiting volunteers, DBS checks, risk assessment, confidentiality and handling cash and payments.

Many new issues and problems have arisen as a consequence of Covid 19. At this time, different groups are solving these in their own ways. TCVS have good resources and systems to support best practice. Cllr Hussey has put Anja, the Coastal representative, in touch with Cllr Humble who has aggregated our Parish Council survey of parish needs.

Cllr Humble confirmed that she had been in touch with Anja and TCVS and is aware that they are there to help if needed. A voluntary organisation is in touch with Milber which includes Chestnut Drive.

Cllr Dewhurst also reminded members that Teignbridge District Council and Devon County Council have both published emergency telephone numbers for those in need of support. (The TDC hotline is 01626 215512.)

The Chairman advised that there were issues around the Rural Skip again this year. Rubbish had been dumped in the car park before the skip arrived. Cllr Humble suggested that the Parish Council should seriously review it next year given the proximity to the tip in Newton Abbot. Cllr Dewhurst advised that the Rural Skip service will be reviewed by TDC when looking at budgets next year and given the current climate, it might be a service which might no longer be considered affordable.

060520.08 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

8.1 Members note the key elements of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020:

- The Regulations permit the holding of remote meetings (with conditions)
- Local councils can decide the methods they will use to facilitate the holding of remote meetings
- There is no requirement to hold an annual meeting
- There is nothing in the Regulations permitting parish meetings to meet remotely. In NALC's view, the current Government guidance means that parish meetings should not take place in person, including the annual meeting of the electors

8.2 The clerk advised that Lee (South West) Ltd has agreed to carry out this year's internal audit of the Council's accounts. This will be carried out remotely.

8.3 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Cheque no	Payee	Details	Amount
Online	Came & Company	Insurance renewal	£647.31
Online	T Boarer	Mower repairs, servicing, diesel & postcrete	£595.41
Online	HMRC	PAYE (Q4)	£63.00
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (March)	£34.15
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (April)	£35.25
DD	Clerk	Salary (March)	£268.62
SO	Clerk	Salary (April)	£268.62
Deducted from first instalment of precept	DALC	Annual membership fees	£205.51

8.4 **Income**

Members noted income received 1 March – 30 April:

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
March & April 2020	Lloyds Bank	Interest	£1.04
12 March 2020	Hearn Field bookings	Hearn Field bookings	£120
24 April 2020	Teignbridge District Council	Precept (first instalment)	£4,336.50
27 April 2020	HMRC	S126 VAT reclaim	£3,153.40
28 April 2020	Teignbridge District Council	Business Support Grant	£10,000
30 April 2020	Western Power	Way leave	£20.24

8.5 **Bank Balances at 30 April 2020**

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£17,811.75	£8,477.88	£4,327.23	£30,616.86

060520.09 PLANNING

9.1 **New applications/appeals**

None

9.2 **Decisions**

9.1.2 20/00496/TPO – Tideland House, Shaldon Road, Combeinteignhead
Fell one diseased Monterey cypress

Members noted that TDC has granted consent for these works.

9.3 **Enforcement matters**

Members received an email from the clerk of Stokeinteignhead Parish Council advising of possible enforcement issues in the parish.

Cllr Alexander suggested that complaints of this nature should not be able to be made anonymously. Cllr Dewhirst confirmed that all enforcement issues are anonymised by TDC.

The first issue related to the wooden construction in the garden of Applewood which was granted permission for ancillary use some years ago. It has been suggested that this is now being rented out and not used in conjunction with the main house. The second relates to building work undertaken in Haccombe which is concealed behind a large soil pile. It was agreed to write to TDC's Enforcement Officer and ask that both matters are investigated.

Cllr Humble advised that the retrospective planning application at Coombe Cellars for the lighting has still not been determined and requested that the Parish Council contacts TDC to establish when a decision will be made and reiterating the comments previously made by this Council.

9.4 **Consultation:** Teignbridge District Council – Draft Teignbridge Local Plan (Part 1) 2020-2040

Comments are invited (deadline 15 June)
(Documents can be viewed online at www.teignbridge.gov.uk/localplanreview)

It was agreed to defer this until the next meeting.

060520.10. COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

This item was covered under item 7 (Delegate Reports). Cllr Humble added that as far as she was aware there was no one in the parish who was unsupported.

060520.11 WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

The clerk advised that in order to comply with the new accessibility regulations by September, the website host has corrected some contrast errors and has suggested that the Parish Council will need to add alternative text to the uploaded images. The website host can also help with the accessibility statement which the Council will need to publish at the foot of the website. Cllr Evans advised that she had already started adding additional text to images and would complete this with help from the clerk.

060520.12 HEARN FIELD

The Chairman has completed the necessary repairs and servicing of the mower. Cllr Evans advised that following a concern raised about the number of cars parking in the Hearn Field car park and using Hearn Field to walk dogs or exercise, signs were put up on the gate reminding people of the government’s guidelines in respect of exercising and social distancing. She advised that the number of cars in the car park is now negligible.

060520.13 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

13.1 Members noted that a P3 grant of £200 has been awarded for maintenance of the footpaths. Cllr Humble confirmed that DCC has asked that no work is carried out on the paths by volunteers whilst government restrictions are in place. Any work has to be carried out by DCC approved contractor only.

13.2 Members received an email regarding the fallen cherry tree and others matters relating to the Gulmswell track. It was agreed to write back to confirm that the Parish Council is not responsible for cutting hedges in the lanes – this is the responsibility of landowners. However, the Parish Council would be happy to help resolve issues which fall within its remit once government restrictions allow.

060520.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

060520.15 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 Alexander reopened the discussion regarding her planning application 19/02351/AGR - Agricultural Building on Land to North of Home Farm, Netherton. She advised that the Parish Council should consider a process by which to deal with planning applications which fall outside the usual meeting dates. The clerk advised that it would ordinarily have arranged an extraordinary meeting but the unprecedented situation we were currently in had prevented this. The clerk also advised that the Parish Council is merely a consultee and the final decision rests with TDC. Cllr Alexander continued to challenge the way the Parish Council had dealt with the application and hoped that the Parish Council was confident that correct process had been followed. She also claimed that she has been personally attacked by and is in receipt of hate mail from local residents. The position, as explained at item 3, was reiterated and she was advised that the matter was not personal.

060520.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is 3 June 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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Chairman

County Councillor's Report 6th May 2020

How our world has changed in such a short time! At this moment the Leader of the County Council is exhorting people to stay at home and visitors to stay away from Devon – the message is “We will welcome you with open arms when this is all over but right now please stay away”. This is a hard message for those of us who would normally be working flat out to look after our visitors to the region coming down to enjoy the Bank Holiday.

Devon has an emergency helpline to provide urgent support to vulnerable residents who have been told by the NHS that they are at high risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19) because of underlying health conditions.

If you have received an NHS extremely vulnerable letter, registered for support on the government website but you have not received a food delivery, or you need other help because you are isolated please call the Council on **0345 155 1011**. There is a similar Teignbridge number for anyone needing assistance – **01626 215512**

Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards Service is reminding residents to ‘stay home, stay safe and stay scam aware’, as new coronavirus (COVID-19) related scams continue to emerge.

Since the outbreak there has been a rise in scams exploiting the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. These include medical kits that claim to prevent or cure the disease, counterfeit or unsafe medical supplies, such as hand sanitizer and swabbing kits, and financial scams, including phone calls claiming to be from your bank or mortgage provider.

Officers are continuing to monitor new scams and have identified an automated telephone call claiming that wearing face masks is now a legal requirement, which then asks for an order to be placed immediately with a debit or credit card. The equipment will then either fail to arrive, be over-priced or counterfeit and unlikely to meet essential safety requirements. Anyone that receives a call like this should hang up immediately without passing on any personal or financial information.

There are many steps that can be taken to help protect yourself and others from scams, including:

- Asking any unexpected visitors for ID.
- Trying to rely on trusted contacts for any help that you may need or consider using a service from a ‘Buy with confidence’ business if you can’t get a personal recommendation.
- Trusting your instincts and saying no to any offers, either on the phone, online or in person, that seem suspicious.
- Being wary of unexpected emails or texts and not clicking on links or attachments. Always go to the organisation’s website to check correct information and contact details.
- Never give out personal or financial information to people you don’t know.
- Try to look up contact details such as phone numbers yourself rather than relying on those given to you over the phone.
- Only making online payments if there is a padlock symbol in the browser and you have carefully checked the site and website address for inconsistencies.

For more information about coronavirus (COVID-19) scams and how to safeguard yourself call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133 or visit www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk

Donated equipment, including commodes, walking frames, perching and shower stools, is being collected from households across the county by Millbrook Healthcare Ltd, which works with the County Council to provide community equipment, is collecting the donated items from households across the county to be re-used after testing and cleaning. Millbrook has taken more than 600 calls so far from members of the public offering a wide range of community equipment they no longer need.

To donate an item of community equipment that you are no longer needing, please telephone Millbrook Care to arrange a free collection, on 0330 124 4491.

When to dial 999 or go to A&E - There are concerns that many people are not seeking urgent medical help when they most need it, possibly due to fear of coronavirus or not wanting to burden

the NHS. If you or someone you know has a life-threatening injury or illness, such as severe chest pain, bleeding, loss of consciousness or signs of a stroke, you should call 999 or go to A&E at once.

There is light at the end of the tunnel! The Council is reopening its Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for essential use only from next Monday, 11th May.

The government has defined 'essential use' as waste that 'cannot be stored without causing a risk of injury, health or harm to the resident or other members of their household.' Residents are urged to follow government guidance and only travel to recycling centres if the waste presents a hazard and 'cannot be legally and responsibly disposed of in other ways.'

To protect the public and staff a series of health protection measures will be in force at each centre, including a one-in one-out policy and the two-metre social distancing guidelines. These measures are likely to cause significant delays and queues and residents are advised to postpone their visit where possible.

Newton Abbot's Brunel Road Recycling Centre will operate their usual opening hours which will be 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 6pm on Saturday and Sundays. In addition:

- Residents displaying coronavirus symptoms, are asked not to visit the recycling centres.
- Only cars without trailers, with a maximum of two adults per vehicle, will be permitted on site.
- To keep unloading times to a minimum, trailers, vans, pick-ups and commercial vehicles will not be granted access for the time being.
- Payments on site must be by credit/debit card only

The day-to-day work of the Council is slowly returning. I have participated in a Children's Scrutiny meeting on the recent Ofsted report on our Children's Services which judged the Service as Inadequate. I am not a member of this Scrutiny Committee and was very distressed to hear that Devon Care Leavers were found to be living in totally unsuitable conditions; particularly when I had asked questions of Senior Officers about Care Leavers specifically about living conditions only late last year. I am a member of the Corporate Parenting Board and we held an emergency meeting last week with senior Leaders in Children's Care – we heard that a new Director of Improvement has been appointed and we approved of the measures she has taken in her first few days in post.

As Chair of Scrutiny I have been working with our Democratic Services team to ensure that we will be running a full scrutiny of Council operations at our meetings scheduled for late June. This is happening whilst two Officers have been transferred to other Covid-19 duties and one is stuck in Germany – although he is working very effectively from there!

Finally, I want to say thank you to all the amazing NHS workers, the Council bin men & sweepers, those behind the scenes keeping everything going, the teachers, the shop workers, the delivery drivers and those providing vital services - thank for all you have done!

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