

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Zoom on 1 July 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Boarer (Chairman), Eaton, Evans, Humble, Hussey, Pattinson and Hosking (from item 2)

Also present: County Councillor Dewhirst, District Cllr Haines, Elizabeth Deane (Hearn Field Committee Chairman) and four members of the public

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

010720.01 RESIGNATIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Members received the resignations of Cllr Duggleby and Cllr Alexander. (Cllr Duggleby will continue as a member of the Hearn Field Committee).
- 1.2 There were no apologies for absence.

010720.02 CO-OPTION

Members received an application to fill one of the vacant seats. It was agreed to co-opt Lisa Hosking to the vacant seat in the Hawthorne Ward. Lisa proceeded to join the meeting as a co-opted member.

010720.03 POLICE REPORT

No report

010720.04 OPEN FORUM

Two parishioners made representations to the Parish Council regarding activities at a site opposite the entrance to Buckland Barton House (near the Mare and Foal Sanctuary). The complaints related to the storage of a number of large containers piled on top of each other, the operating of a workshop (sometimes until 11.30pm) and the amount of movement on and off the site. They believed that the noise levels and activities in this residential area are inappropriate and request that they are investigated. One resident advised that he has been keeping a log of the 'comings and goings' of vehicles.

010720.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

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

District Cllr Haines reported that he had attended two virtual meetings of the Planning Committee. He has also been re-elected as Chair for that Committee. Meetings are being held every two weeks to catch up. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is meeting in mid-July and the Annual Council meeting is being held on 28 July. An increasing number of officers have now returned to work having being furloughed for the last few weeks. TDC are providing regular updates via electronic newsletter which the Parish Council should be receiving.

District Cllr Haines also advised that the Coombe Cellars planning application is inching forwards. The applicant's team had been furloughed but it is thought they have now returned to work; ecological advice has now been provided and the landscape response has been received. The planning department is therefore hopeful to have made a decision in the next few weeks.

010720.06 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.

010720.07 MINUTES

- 7.1 Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2020. The Chairman requested an amendment to item 12.2 to clarify that the lane linking Netherton to Lower Netherton is covered in mud as the banks keep falling down into the road. Members agreed this amendment and authorised the Chairman to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of that meeting.
- 7.2 Members agreed to adopt the minutes of the Hearn Field Committee meeting held on 14 January 2020 which have been approved by that Committee.

010720.08 DELEGATE REPORTS

There were no reports.

010720.09 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

| Payment | Payee | Details | Amount |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Online | Carl Knapman | Felling of larch tree (HF) | £200 |
| Online | HMRC | PAYE (Q1) | £165.60 |
| Online | Lee Accounting (South West) Ltd | Internal audit | £108 |
| Online | Argos Fire Protection Ltd | Fire extinguisher servicing (HF Pav) | £40.80 |
| DD | Opus Energy | Hearn Field electricity (June) | £12.02 |
| DD | Clerk | Salary (June) | £234.62 |

9.2 Income

Members noted income received (30 May – 26 June 2020):

| Received | Received from | Details | Amount |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| May 2020 | Lloyds Bank | Interest | £0.37 |

9.3 Bank Balances at 26 June 2020

Members noted the bank balances:

| Current account | Savings account | Sea Wall account | Total |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| £15,805.05 | £8,478.59 | £4,327.23 | £28,610.87 |

9.4 Audit 2019/20

- 9.4.1 Members received and noted the year end bank reconciliation.
- 9.4.2 Members received and noted the internal auditor's report.
- 9.4.3 Members completed and approved Section 1 of the Annual Return (Annual Governance Statement 2019/20) and authorised the Chair and Clerk/RFO to sign it.
- 9.4.4 Members received, approved and authorised the Chair and Clerk/RFO to sign Section 2 of the Annual Return (Accounting Statements 2019/20).

010720.10 PLANNING

10.1 New applications/appeals

- 10.1.1 20/00736/FUL & 20/00737/LBC – Church House, Combeinteignhead
Conversion of ground floor business premises to form a self-contained flat, including internal alterations and associated works

Members had no objections to the applications provided TDC is content that all opportunities to use these premises for business have been explored. This had not been made clear in the application itself.

10.2 **Decisions**

There were no decisions to report.

10.3 **Enforcement matters**

The clerk advised that all enforcement queries which this Council has raised have been logged by TDC. The enforcement officer is satisfied that there is no breach of planning conditions at Applewood, Combeinteignhead.

It was agreed to write to Planning Enforcement about the matter raised by residents in the open forum. It was also agreed that this could be an Environmental Health issue as well due to the alleged noise levels.

A concern has been raised about the camper vans which have been parked in the Archbrook Creek parking bay for some time. It was confirmed that the site is owned by TDC and it is within the parish of Stokeinteignhead. County Cllr Dewhirst advised that TDC are aware of it and the vehicles have been visited and advised of the rules. However, with the current COVID situation, internal resources as well as external factors influencing normal enforcement processes, there may be a delay in any enforcement action being taken.

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

Comments are invited (deadline extended to 13 July)

(Documents can be viewed online at www.teignbridge.gov.uk/localplanreview)

It was agreed that this Council endorses the response from Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT) in particular the emphasis in ACT's response for a stronger focus on climate emergency.

010720.11 EMERGENCY PLAN

Members received the updated emergency plan following amendments made in the last meeting. It was suggested that the defibrillators should be included in the plan as equipment which can be called upon in an emergency. This was agreed. The status of the defibrillator outside the Wild Goose would be checked. The defibrillator at the Yacht Club was currently not accessible while building works were being undertaken.

Following Cllr Duggleby's resignation from the Council, it was agreed that Cllr Hussey would take over as guardian of the Plan.

010720.12 HEARN FIELD

12.1 The Hearn Field Committee Chairman advised that at a recent meeting of the Hearn Field Committee, a request had been received by a group led by Euan Trower to hold a one-day soft ball cricket tournament, for charity, on the field next summer. The Hearn Field Committee was happy to support the request. The Parish Council also agreed that it was happy to allow this event to take place on the field.

12.2 Members received the following report from the Hearn Field Committee Chairman:

Bookings

Government guidelines have been issued and shared with us in terms of the reopening of village halls. These are very prescriptive and involve thorough risk assessment and clear planning of procedures and steps to be taken to ensure public safety. In the light of this we are suggesting that we do not accept any further bookings until the new year as the management of these regulations is a complex matter and may outweigh any advantages in terms of income or

benefit to the community. They do not wish to preclude the possibility of a community event, however, later in the year.

We have two outstanding provisional bookings. A wedding over the weekend of 12 September and the Devon Open studios 18 to 27 September (though it is likely that the wedding is going to be rebooked for the following year). We are suggesting that the hirers be required to sign a disclaimer which states that the Pavilion has been cleaned to ordinary standards and has been empty for at least 4 days before their booking and that they are responsible for following any government guidelines that may be in place at the time of their occupation. This includes both hygiene and social distancing rules. This was agreed by the Parish Council though the situation would be monitored and reviewed should circumstances change in the future.

Larch overhanging the car park

This tree has been felled at a cost of only £200.

Ash dieback on tree in the top hedge

The clerk has written to the owner of Yellowmead and we await a reply.

Chestnut tree in top hedge

One of the trees mentioned in the tree survey (no 0109) is being overgrown by another ash tree in the garden of Rivermead. It may be wise to wait for a reply re the ash dieback issue before raising a request to sort this out.

Security on the field

Surveillance measures are being put in place to discourage illegal activity and the leaving of litter on the field. Signs are being prepared to support this and to request that visitors and dog walkers behave responsibly.

Fire extinguishers

Following a survey of the fire extinguishers, one of them is not functioning and needs replacing. The Chairman advised that he would research some costings for a replacement.

010720.13 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

13.1 The Chairman and Cllr Humble (Parish Paths Partnership Co-ordinator) met with DCC's Public Rights of Way Officer, Jonathan Rowlands, and they walked the rights of way from Gulmswell Farm to No Man's Land and back, giving consideration to the issues raised by two landholders and a resident regarding maintenance of hedges, banks and surfaces on the public rights of way. It was agreed that Jonathan Rowlands for DCC would reply in writing to the landholders' specific issues. It was also agreed that he would seek contractors to undertake some clearance work on Gulmswell Lane so that the landholders are enabled access to undertake their maintenance responsibilities on an ongoing basis. The contracts will include scraping the deep mud near Garden Barn to enable drainage of surface water to the stream.

Cllr Humble also advised that the track opposite the village hall needs strimming and she would do this over the coming weeks.

13.2 Members received correspondence regarding the maintenance of the track leading up from Gulmswell Farm. Following the meeting with Jonathan Rowlands it was agreed to write back to confirm that the issues raised were DCC issues (not Parish Council issues) and that Jonathan would write to them direct.

With regard to the burnt-out vehicle which a landowner has moved on to his private land, it was agreed that he would have to make arrangements himself to recover it.

010720.14 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no further items of correspondence.

010720.15 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

None.

010720.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

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Chairman

County Councillor Dewhirst Report – July 2020

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 is in a good position to start welcoming back visitors from 4th July due to our low level of infections and success during lockdown in keeping a low trend in Covid-19 cases. All the evidence from Public Health experts shows that because the County was able to get an early grip on the virus Devon continues to have one of the lowest rates of Covid-19 cases in the country.

Thanks to a brilliant Devon effort by our front-line health and care workers, council staff, police and military Devon is in a good position to start welcoming back visitors in July providing the low trend in cases continues locally and nationally.

It would be a huge boost to our £2 billion tourism economy, the biggest in the South West, and all the tens of thousands of people whose livelihoods depend on it. We know the people of Britain need a break and we need them back for the economy of this county. The County Council's Public Health team along with Public Health England, the NHS and District Council Environmental Health experts will continue to monitor the situation in Devon very carefully and we will not hesitate to take early action if there is any sign that the virus is making a comeback.

The County Council has reopened its Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for essential use. 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.'*

Van based cars with seats in the back and trailers are now allowed into the HWRC. The site has been reconfigured to allow a further six offloading spaces which equates to an additional 300 vehicles a day. We now have a booking system to allow vans and commercial vehicles onto the site. You can book a van here <https://www.devon.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recycling-centres/site-user-restrictions/>

Devon Libraries will start to reopen from Monday 6th July, starting with the larger libraries. They will be starting with a contactless 'Choose & Collect' service which will be available at most of our libraries and we also anticipate four pilot libraries opening initially with limited public access to the building and bookable sessions on public computers.

For safety reasons libraries will initially be offering a more limited selection of stock for people to choose from. All books and items returned to the library will undergo 72 hours' quarantine before they are discharged from customer accounts and returned to the library shelves. They will be asking all customers to place returned items into a box at the library to keep them separate from books that are ready to be loaned.

The reservation service will not be operating initially, instead a free of charge 'Choose and Collect' service will be available where customers can select books or request a selection of books, via email or telephone from their local library, ready for collection from the library entrance at a pre-arranged time. The full reservation system will be reintroduced after all libraries reopen.

At CIRS Scrutiny last week we received a briefing from the Chief Executive on the current position in Devon regarding the pandemic. He reported that:

- the relatively low number of positive cases and deaths in Devon (1100 and 125 respectively, to date), although the actual number of positive cases was likely to be significantly higher;
- Devon had one of the lowest number of cases and deaths nationally, 146th of 150 upper tier local authorities;
- with the recent relaxation of lock down rules and increased number of visitors, to date there had been no increased rate of positive cases;
- the incidents of cases in care home settings was the lowest nationally
- the number of excess deaths in Devon was in the lowest category nationally
- work was continuing to support care home settings, taking pressure off the NHS;

The annual report of our Council's Treasury management team was next on the agenda. The level of long term debt remained for the tenth year at £507.85 million, we approved the Outturn Position and congratulated the team on an income of £.496 million against a Budget of £1.6 million. Sadly, it would be difficult to repeat this success in future years whilst Base Rates remain at 0.1%.

We heard the annual Report of our Flood Risk Management team – 500 consultations on sustainable drainage schemes; just under 100 Land Drainage Consent applications; three formal notices to landowners requesting that they clear blockages from watercourses and one Flood Investigation Report arising from a storm were dealt with in the year. The team also managed £1.5 million of flood improvements (this would have been much higher if the pandemic had not shut everything down early).

The Committee agreed to reply to the Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage who had written to the Committee regarding our concerns on problem gambling in the UK and Devon in particular – the committee felt that the USOS's response was weak and Members considered that gambling should be considered in the same like as alcoholism and mental health. We also agree to write to Cabinet urging them to write to Secretary of State to permanently change the law to enable virtual meetings to be a fixture of the effective running of local decision making for Local Authorities as this will support the most effective local decision making and action and further support green initiatives and carbon reduction.

Finally, I want to say thank you again to all the amazing NHS workers, the Social Care staff, 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!

Alistair Dewhirst

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