

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Zoom on 2 September 2020 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: County Councillor Dewhirst, District Cllr Hook, District Cllr Haines, Elizabeth Deane (Hearn Field Committee Chairman) (from 8.15pm) and six members of the public

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

020920.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

020920.02 CO-OPTION

Members received an application to fill one of the vacant seats. It was agreed to co-opt Roger Bunce to the vacant seat in the Urban Ward. Roger proceeded to join the meeting as a co-opted member. A further application has been received but they currently do not qualify.

020920.03 POLICE REPORT

The clerk advised that following PC Harvey's retirement, PC Clarke Orchard is the new Neighbourhood Beat Manager for this area. He will be passing through at some point to acquaint himself with those involved in the parish. The clerk advised that she had asked him if he would be able to continue to produce a monthly crime report.

020920.04 OPEN FORUM

A parishioner informed members that he welcomes the proposal to make Haccombe Valley a conservation area. In his opinion, it would stop any future planning mistakes.

Other members of the public advised that they were interested to hear about the proposal to be discussed at item 12. The draft document is available to anyone wishing to read it. They were advised that it is a lengthy process which involves public consultation. It is just about information tonight and seeking support this evening from the Parish Council.

A further parishioner advised that he too was present to support, in principle, the conservation area proposal and to hear about what it is all about.

020920.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Cllr Haines reported that COVID updates are still being circulated. He advised that he had chaired a meeting of the Planning Committee this morning. A previously adjourned full council meeting resumes tomorrow afternoon at which a new leader will be appointed following the resignation of Cllr Hook. He commented on item 12, advising that there is already a conservation area in the parish. These tend to cover the built environment rather than open landscape.

Cllr Hook reported that he has been very busy over the last few months. He asked for a collective view on a proposal for a speed limit on the Shaldon Hill road from Penn Inn. He would like to extend the 30mph to the brow of the hill. Cllr Bunce expressed his support. He has noticed the speed of traffic on this stretch, and parked vehicles make it even more dangerous. Cllr Hook advised that Highways have stated that it doesn't meet the criteria for 30mph zoning (looks too rural), but he disagrees. There were two large conurbations (Buckland and Twickenham Road) plus the garage which all exit on to it. Highways are currently opposing it for this reason. Cllr Humble suspected that

the 40mph was put in before the urban development was put in (Foxhollows, Centrax etc).

All Devon leaders meet fortnightly. In the last 7 days, 30 instances of COVID have been recorded. The trend is upwards slightly but the percentage is still lower than across the country. We need to retain all acts of prevention.

A White Paper on Local Government reorganisation is due to come out in September. It will probably affect all Councils including towns and parishes. It may also mean that district councils will be abolished thus giving more powers to town and parishes.

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

With regard to the Conservation Area proposal to be discussed at item 12, Cllr Dewhirst advised that the Local Plan consultation ended in July but he has spoken to colleagues and hopes that it could be included. He also advised that the burnt out car on the Gulmswell track has not been forgotten about but TDC has been extremely busy. A lot of equipment is needed to lift it out and it is hoped that work will commence in the next 10 days.

020920.06 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.

020920.07 MINUTES

7.1 Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2020 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 11 June 2020 which have been approved by that Committee.

020920.08 DELEGATE REPORTS

There were no reports.

020920.09 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

9.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Cheque no	Payee	Details	Amount
Online	T Boarer	Mower diesel	£76
Online	E Deane	Illyria Theatre expenses	£77.37
Online	Argos Fire Protection Ltd	Replacement fire extinguisher and signage (HF Pavilion)	£70.20
Online	S Hughes	Expenses (Feb-Sept) including Zoom (1 month), postage and mileage	£61.03
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (July)	£21.27
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (August)	£17.59

DD	Clerk	Salary (July)	£234.62
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9.2 **Income**

Members noted the income received (27 June – 28 August 2020):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
July 2020	Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.35
August 2020	Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.30

9.3 **Bank Balances at 28 August 2020**

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£14,906.55	£8,479.24	£4,327.23	£27,713.02

9.4 **NALC National Salary Award 2020/21**

Members noted the new pay scales for clerks to be implemented from 1 April 2020 (copy circulated to members – clerk currently on SCP 20)

020920.10 PLANNING

10.1 **New applications/appeals**

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To note that these applications were received during the summer recess and no formal comments were submitted to TDC by the Parish Council:

10.1.1 20/01158/FUL – 2 Brook Cottages, Netherton

Conversion and extension of redundant agricultural buildings to a dwelling including removal of mobile home and new vehicular access

10.1.2 20/01171/FUL – Unit 19, Milber Trading Estate, Newton Abbot

Change of use from light industrial to exercise gym (Use Class D2)

10.1.3 20/01172/ADV – Unit 19, Milber Trading Estate, Newton Abbot

One illuminated fascia sign

10.1.4 20/01089/HOU – Sunny Cottage, Combeinteignhead

Extension to existing garden store

10.2 **Decisions**

10.2.1 19/01341/FUL – Coombe Cellars, Combeinteignhead

Retention and addition of lighting – 7 lighting poles and 4 bollard lights

Members noted that TDC has refused planning permission.

Members discussed the issue of enforcement action as the lights are still on all night. Cllr Haines advised enforcement action will not be taken immediately as the applicant does have 6 months to appeal the decision. After this time, enforcement action will be taken if necessary.

10.2.2 20/01089/HOU – Sunny Cottage, Combeinteignhead

Extension to existing garden store

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

020920.11 TUCKETTS FARM

Members noted that concerns from parishioners have been raised about activities at Tucketts Farm and the impact on neighbouring properties including noise pollution, access and volume of traffic. It was noted that those residents have objected through the official channels though TDC has advised that the activities in question were being carried out lawfully. Residents have been advised to keep a log of any concerns and

raise any objections through the right channels. Members were informed that there has been a recent accident on that lane.

020920.12 HACCOMBE VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA

Members received and noted a report from Cllr Hosking proposing a Haccombe Valley Conservation Area. She advised that its purpose would be to protect the valley which she considers to be at risk from development. It was acknowledged that it is an emotive issue. Cllr Haines confirmed that TDC would not be able to extend the current conservation area beyond the built area. Cllr Humble questioned what a conservation designation would provide in terms of protection. She was advised that it would provide more control over permitted development including pruning trees, work to walls etc. Works within a conservation area should enhance it though they are usually designed to protect the character of a built area. Cllr Hosking advised that she would circulate the Historic England criteria used by local authorities.

Members were informed that there is a meeting of the Local Plan Steering Group later this month and this could be looked at there.

Members agreed that for some residents of the valley, this designation may not suit them as it would restrict what they could do to their own properties.

After further discussion, members thanked Cllr Hosking for the work she had undertaken but it was agreed that before they could offer any support for the proposal they would require further evidence that there is support for it from those living in the valley together with the pros and cons for designation of the valley as a conservation area. Currently, there is not enough information to demonstrate support for it. It was therefore agreed that Cllr Hosking should attempt to prove support and identify any themes of resistance and how these may be negated.

020920.13 NETHERTON NOTICEBOARD

Cllr Hussey informed members that the Parish Council has been offered the use of a noticeboard (500mmx800mm) which could be erected in the vicinity of the phone box. The offer has been motivated by the untidiness of the telegraph poles to promote local events and the fact that the noticeboard is locked. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that better use should be made of the current noticeboard. Cllr Hussey will be given a key to enable him to manage it.

020920.14 HEARN FIELD

The Chairman of the Hearn Field Committee gave the following report:

Bookings

We currently have 4 weddings booked for the field in 2021 and 3 Reach Outdoors camps. These are all spread out in terms of timing and it was agreed we should not accept any more wedding bookings for next year unless on behalf of a person living within the parish.

Ash dieback on tree in the top hedge

The clerk has written to the owner of Yellowmead and we await a reply. In the meantime it was agreed that a more personal direct approach may be useful. Simon Guppy will approach the owners and offer to help by putting them in touch with a reliable tree surgeon.

Security on the field

Surveillance measures and signs have been put in place to discourage illegal activity. Signs are also being prepared to support this and to request that visitors and dog walkers behave responsibly.

Maintenance

It was agreed that both the pavilion and the tractor shed need to be painted before the winter. In order to ensure this work is of a good quality we will seek three quotes for

the work and ask that the Parish Council delegate the decision to two members in order that the work can be carried out before winter sets in. Bottom of tractor shed also needs repaired. It was agreed that quotes should be sent and a decision delegated to Cllrs Boarer and Humble.

Wildflower area

Following the success of the wildflower meadow it was agreed to extend this further along the hedge row to the beach gate. This will be a strip of 2m. Paul Norrish has offered to dig this as before and Sue Duggleby and team will plan and maintain it.

New Gate

Paul Norrish has been very appreciative of the facility to reach his building works via the field. As a gesture of thanks he has supplied and fitted a new gate at the bottom entrance and will resurface the entrance which becomes very muddy during winter.

Devon Open Studios

This will run from 11 – 27 September. The organisers have prepared comprehensive COVID risk and management assessments in line with government guidelines. They will also sign a disclaimer taking responsibility for implementing all of this.

The Pavilion will be deep cleaned and tested for Legionnaires disease before the end of next week. It was agreed that online kits should be purchased for the Legionnaires testing.

Dog training booking

We have had an enquiry from Dogs Actfully about resuming use of the field. It was decided to ask them to present a plan for keeping the area safe and compliant with govt regulations. The Parish Council can then decide whether to give permission for this.

Illyria Theatre

The performances of Wind In the Willows will take place on Saturday 19 September at 4pm and 7pm. Illyria have been given permission to tour with this event and have very clear rules about how the audience and cast are kept safe and able to enjoy the performance.

Cancellation of events

It was decided that neither the mud race nor Bonfire night would be held as a community event this year. We look forward to holding these popular events next year, possibly with a mud race in the spring.

Grant

Finally, we are very grateful for a grant of £10,000 through the business rates scheme which will offset our loss of income for this year.

020920.15 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Humble advised that she has spoken to the landowner about the overhanging/fallen trees on Gulmswell Lane and he has agreed to clear these.

She has also met with Jonathan Rowlands, DCC PROW Officer, who has agreed to ask contractors to clear the other trees which have fallen into Gulmswell Lane and clear the mud at the bottom of the lane. This will hopefully encourage the landowners to maintain their land. She will contact Jonathan Rowlands to find out how soon it will happen.

The path from Lower Netherton to Netherton, which is the responsibility of the Mare and Foal Sanctuary, has still not been cleared. It was agreed that this path needs to be kept clear and usable at all times. Cllr Bunce offered to speak to the land manager.

Well Lane – goes up to Conibeer Cross from Haccombe Valley. A patch has become very overgrown on Well Lane (from Haccombe Valley to Conibeer Cross). Cllr Humble will speak to the landowner to ask that it is cleared.

Cllr Humble advised that she is still to strim the section from the village hall to no mans land.

020920.16 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no further items of correspondence.

020920.17 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 Evans reported that an accessibility statement has been completed and has been published.

020920.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is 7 October 2020.

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Chairman

County Councillor's Report 2nd September

A public consultation is underway on Devon's latest flood risk management strategy. The draft document outlines how the risk of flooding to property and infrastructure will be managed and reduced over the next six years, from 2021-2027.

The strategy looks at how plans for flood alleviation schemes can be developed and how communities can increase their resilience against flooding and the impact of climate change. Natural and sustainable flood management measures will be promoted, where appropriate, in all flood investigations and improvement projects, to reduce the scale, or need, of hard engineering solutions.

The second part of the strategy prioritises areas and communities to be considered for investment in flood alleviation works. Although priorities are subject to change, it currently includes Exeter, Kingsbridge, Tiverton, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Exmouth, Newton Abbot, Seaton, Kingsteignton, Totnes, Bideford, Ilfracombe, Budleigh Salterton, Sidmouth, Crediton and Okehampton.

Industry professionals, town and parish councils and members of the public are all invited to have their say before the consultation closes on Thursday 15 October. The draft strategy can be viewed on our Have Your Say webpages where you will also find the [online consultation form](#) if you would like to comment.

Devon's householders have the chance to help the county become net-zero by joining Devon Climate Emergency's (DCE) solar panel group-buying scheme.

The DCE's latest project is Solar Together and, with group buying experts iChoosr Ltd, they are offering homeowners the chance to buy high quality solar PV more cheaply than if they were buying alone. Led by Devon County Council, the scheme is partnered by East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge and Torridge District Councils, West Devon Borough Council, Exeter City Council and Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities.

Research by the University of Exeter shows that 19 per cent of all Devon's carbon emissions are created by our homes, with more than half of those by grid-supplied electricity. Installing solar panels will reduce the amount of grid-supplied electricity needed for things like hot water, with a transfer to more eco-friendly solar energy.

If you are interested, the first step is to register for free at solartogether.co.uk/devon/home – by registering, there is no obligation to install panels. Registered households will then receive a recommendation, specifically tailored to the details they submitted in their registration.

The Department for Education (DfE) has produced school transport guidelines as it prepares for a full return of students in September, and Devon County Council has been working with schools, colleges and transport operators to plan for this return.

Social distancing guidance, which applies to passengers on public transport, will not apply on dedicated school transport which is not open to the general public. This is because the government believes the overall risk to students and young people from coronavirus (COVID-19) is low, they do not mix with the general public on those journeys, and the home to school transport carries the same group of students and young people on a regular basis.

However, the County Council, is asking that students aged 11 and over wear a face covering when travelling on school transport, unless they are exempt from wearing one.

Many young people travel to and from school or college by public transport. With social distancing measures remaining in place on these public services, we have identified areas where additional capacity is required, and will be providing around 70 duplicate vehicles across the county at peak

times dedicated to school and college students. Full details of these additional services can be found on our Travel Devon website.

Although school “bubbles” cannot be replicated on dedicated school transport services, children will be asked to sit in their year groups on larger vehicles, wherever possible, with youngest students sat at the front. Schools are also being invited to draw up seating arrangements if they wish, and to be on hand at the end of the school day to assist students.

Students, drivers, and passenger assistants will be advised that they must not board school transport if they or a member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus. If they develop symptoms while at school, they must not travel home on school transport.

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

alistair.dewhirst@devon.gov.uk / Tel 07836 704127