

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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

Present: Councillors Boarer (Chairman), Bunce, Evans, Humble, Hussey, Pattinson and Hosking

Also present: County Councillor Dewhirst, District Cllr Haines and six members of the public

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

041120.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Elizabeth Deane (Hearn Field Committee Chairman)

041120.02 POLICE REPORT

Members received a written report from PC Orchard listing the number of crimes/incidents recorded during the month of October. The report also included information about recent vehicle interference/thefts in the parish on 2 November.

Members also received information about and an invitation to join the Councillor Advocate Scheme to improve communication between local councillors, the police and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Cllr Hussey offered to be the Parish Council's representative.

041120.03 OPEN FORUM

A parishioner asked about how she could comment on items on the agenda after the open forum had closed. The Chairman advised that he would open the meeting at the end of item 10 if members of the public wished to comment.

A member of the public was disappointed by some of the comments made by Councillors at a previous meeting during the discussion about the proposed Haccombe Conservation Area proposal which he considered to be incorrect. It is an important time in TDC with considerable development in Newton Abbot. Will people look back to the development of the 2010s and 2020s in a negative way? With all the development on Ashburton Road, around Bradley Valley/Bradley Barton and the proposed NA3, Newton Abbot is being gobbled up and his concern is that this area may be next.

A parishioner queried whether TDC owns any land in the Haccombe Valley and that if it is privately owned, he did not consider there to be a protection against development issue.

041120.04 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Cllr Haines advised members that TDC's Executive had recently met and discussed two matters which are relevant to this parish: the rural skip service and shellfishing on the Teign and Exe Estuaries. Having not attended the meeting or seen the minutes, he asked if Cllr Dewhirst would mention these in his report.

District Councillor Haines responded to a parishioner's comment in the open forum re NA3, Bradley, Ashburton Road etc. He advised that these were all allocations which were made in the Local Plan when it was adopted in 2014. The process to identify those areas of land and to come forward to fulfil the quota imposed by government to find sufficient housing in the area. The government has recently ended its consultation on the White Paper on Planning so there will be a new system in place at some point in the near future. He stressed that it's important that everyone engages in the Local Plan process to make their views known about areas of land which are identified for development. Referring to another point made a parishioner in the open forum, it's not whether TDC owns the land; private land owners are invited to come forward with

pieces of land and then it is for TDC to consider which land is most suitable for development and inclusion within the Local Plan so that enough land is identified to provide the number of houses TDC is required to build by the government. This is why it is important to engage in the process so that development is in the most appropriate places.

Cllr Dewhirst advised members that it was agreed at the Executive that the Rural Skip service should be discontinued. The last decision of the Executive was called in and there was a robust discussion by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at which it was agreed to uphold the Executive's decision. (A letter had been sent to the Parish Council advising it of the termination of the rural skip service and circulated to members). The Rural Skip service hinders TDC as it lowers the recycling rates. It also already has a bulky waste service which supports a local charity.

There are increasing concerns about shellfishing on the Teign and Exe Estuaries. The concerns relate to the volume of shellfishing as well as the harm private fishing is having on commercial shellfishing. TDC is working with IFCA and have given its support. TDC supports with enforcement and also works with the gangmasters as it appears there are people who are considered to be modern slaves picking shellfish. IFCA hope to have a bylaw in place within 12 months.

Cllr Dewhirst also report on County Council matters, a copy of which is attached.

041120.05 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.

041120.06 MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2020 and authorised the Chairman to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

041120.07 DELEGATE REPORTS

There were no reports.

041120.08 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Cheque no	Payee	Details	Amount
Online	JRH Farming Ltd	Hearn Field hedge trimming (Ref: E30)	£140
Online	J Deane	New manhole cover	£167
Online	E Deane	Paint	£22.28
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (October)	£17.82
DD	Clerk	Salary (October)	£276.94

8.2 Income

Members noted the income (3 - 30 October 2020):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
9 Oct 2020	Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.07

8.3 Bank Balances at 30 October 2020

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£16,854.78	£8,479.38	£4,327.23	£29,661.39

041120.09 PLANNING

9.1 New applications/appeals

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- 9.1.1 20/01788/FUL – Coombe Cellars, Combeinteignhead
Six lights on three columns and eight bollard lights

After discussion, it was agreed to ask TDC to look very carefully at what is being proposed and the impact this proposed lighting would have on its surrounding environment. It was agreed that it should be suggested that TDC commissions a report to ensure that the proposed lighting only lights up the car park and does not light up the estuary and surrounding area.

- 9.1.2 20/01817/FUL – Land adjacent to Haccombe Rise, Long Lane, Newton Abbot
Dwelling

Members had no objections to this application although concerns about the safety of the access were discussed.

- 9.1.3 20/01923/FUL – Land off Bridleway 12, Haccombe-with-Combe, Newton Abbot
Agricultural building for livestock and storage

Members had no objections to this application.

- 9.1.4 20/01814/HOU – The Butts, Combeinteignhead
Two storey side extension

Members had no objections to this application.

9.2 Decisions

- 9.2.1 20/01826/CAN – Thorn Orchard, Combeinteignhead
Reduce two silver birch and one plum tree in height by 4.5m

To note that TDC has no objections to this proposal

041120.10 HACCOMBE VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA

ClIrr Hosking referred to September's meeting where this was discussed at length and a detailed report was circulated to members by email. She requested support from the Parish Council to ask TDC to look at this proposal and see if they could look at a formal conservation area proposal for Haccombe Valley.

ClIrr Humble suggested that the Parish Council should remain impartial and that it should ask TDC at a more appropriate time in the future to look at this and enter a full consultation to give everyone the chance to comment.

Having canvassed the opinion of landowners in the Haccombe Valley, ClIrr Hussey circulated a document setting out his views on how the Parish Council should proceed. In summary, he suggests that the need for a conservation area needs to objectively demonstrated taking into account the opinions of all landowners and residents in the valley. The Parish Council should not offer political support for this proposal ahead of an objective appraisal. He also commented on how such a proposal may create division in the community if not looked at objectively. As the District Council's Conservation Officer is currently unavailable, he proposed that the Parish Council should wait until this impartial advice can be sought.

Cllr Hosking acknowledged these views but continued to express her passion for conservation.

Cllr Haines concurred that it would be better to wait until officers at TDC were available to look at the proposals impartially. He also emphasised that a shared vision is important.

Members of the public were invited to speak. A parishioner supported the suggestions that further discussion on this is deferred.

A member of the public also advised that there were three major landowners in the parish all sharing a common passion to keep the valley as it is. There is no intention to sell land to developers but restrictions are not something that they would support as these would impact negatively on the value of the land.

A parishioner considered that there is no intention to create a divide; it was about protecting the land and thinking about the area.

It was agreed that going forward communication between landowners, residents and the Parish Council is important.

After lengthy discussion, it was agreed by members that the Parish Council should not take any further action at this stage until Covid restrictions are lifted to allow more open discussion and objective involvement from TDC.

041120.11 CPRE (CAMPAIGN FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND) MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Hosking proposed that the Parish Council becomes a member of CPRE. They have a special interest in working with communities to protect the landscape. After discussion and on the basis that members could not see any clear benefits, it was agreed not to join at this time.

041120.12 TREE SURVEY

The clerk advised that the trees in the parish had last been surveyed in January 2019 and asked members whether a new survey should be commissioned. It was agreed to seek a quotation from the company who had previously carried out the recommended works.

041120.13 HEARN FIELD

On behalf of the Hearn Field Committee, Cllr Evans reported that the Bash Street Theatre event was cancelled because of stormy weather. There was no charge to the Parish Council and it is hoped that this will be rescheduled for the spring. The manhole cover on the drive has been replaced.

041120.14 EMERGENCY PLAN

As guardian of the Plan, Cllr Hussey reported that he had reviewed it. There are some gaps which need filling. He has been trying to get in touch with PC Clarke Orchard and is waiting for him to call back. He will look at this before the meeting and contact members direct if further information is required.

The Chairman queried whether the defibrillators in the parish were functioning. Cllr Humble advised that the defibrillator at the yacht club has been taken inside whilst they complete their building work. It is therefore not easily accessible at the moment.

It was agreed that before we give assurances that we have a functioning defibrillator in the parish, we need to look into whether the one at The Wild Goose is operational. Cllr Dewhirst advised that many villages have a contract with a company who service them regularly, replace the batteries, change the pads etc. Cllr Evans offered to investigate with the Village Hall Committee and The Wild Goose whether it is fully functioning and whether it has a guardian.

The Chairman also talked about the app What3words and whether the Council should encourage people to download it on their phones. Every 3 square metres of the world has been given a unique combination of three words. You don't need a signal and it means that the emergency services can identify your exact location if you are involved in an accident.

The Chairman also advised that there are apps on which you can register the locations of defibrillators. The two in the parish could be registered on these apps once it is confirmed that they are both working.

041120.15 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Humble reported that Peter French has repaired the gateway on the path from Coombe Cellars and diagonally up through the field. It is nice and smooth albeit rather muddy, it is no longer a trip hazard and it has a kissing gate back on it so that it can't be used by bikes and horses any more.

The issues raised by David Halpin have been referred to DCC.

Cllr Hosking advised that representations have been made to her about the speed along the lane from Netherton to Haccombe which is currently a 60mph limit. Following decision to carry out a 20mph speed limit trial in Newton Abbot, could the lane, if the trial is successful, be considered as part of the Newton Abbot area for a 20mph limit? Cllr Dewhirst reported that every community wants a 20mph restriction. DCC is trying to manage that desire as the police have stated that they will not enforce it. There is a moratorium on everything until DCC sees the results of the Newton Abbot experiment.

041120.16 CORRESPONDENCE

None

041120.17 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

None.

041120.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is 2 December 2020.

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Chairman

County Councillor Dewhirst's Report 4th November – HWC

On Monday the Leader of Devon County Council, John Hart, said: "None of us wanted another lockdown but I fear it had become inevitable. The support of the vast majority of people in our county and the wider South West has meant that we have seen some of the lowest incidence of cases throughout this crisis, even with millions of visitors in the summer. But we have seen spikes here – at Exeter University for example – and our numbers have begun to rise generally as well, in keeping with the rest of the country.

"We have obviously not been reaching the numbers that would have seen our area go into a local lockdown. But the figures that the Government produced show that our NHS services could have become overwhelmed. So I believe that this temporary measure was necessary even here. And I urge people to continue to follow the guidance and wear a face mask indoors, keep your distance and wash your hands.

"I very much welcome the extension of the furlough scheme but our economy relies massively on small and medium companies and the tourism and hospitality industries and it is vital that the Government also provides support for these sectors.

"It is also vital that the Government provides financial support for local government so we can continue the vital work we did during the first lockdown."

From Thursday 5 November, everyone must stay at home, and may leave only for a limited set of reasons.

These include:

For education

For work, if you cannot work from home

For exercise and recreation outdoors, with your household, support bubble or on your own with one person from another household

For all medical reasons, appointments and to escape injury or harm

To shop for food and essentials

And to provide care for vulnerable people, or as a volunteer

Non-essential shops, leisure and entertainment venues will be closed.

Click and collect services can continue and essential shops, including supermarkets, will remain open.

Pubs, bars, restaurants must close, except for takeaway and delivery services.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, known as the furlough scheme, will remain open until December, with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500.

[Further guidance on the new measures are available online.](#)


[Details of the extended furlough scheme and other economic support, can be found online.](#)

Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick confirmed that moving house will still be allowed during the restrictions, adding that removal firms, estate agents and tradespeople can continue to work but must follow Covid safety guidelines.

It's vital to continue:

 Making space

 Covering your face

 Washing your hands