

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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

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

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

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

021220.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- County Cllr Hook

021220.02 POLICE REPORT

The following crimes were recorded from 1/11/20 – 28/11/20.

- Burglary non-dwelling x 1
- Vehicle offences x 5
- Trafficking of drugs x 1

021220.03 OPEN FORUM

A parishioner expressed concern about planning application at Poachers Croft (20/02058/HOU) with particular reference to the disturbance of bats from light pollution. He also considered that the proposal is incongruous with its surroundings.

A parishioner also expressed concern about the planning application at Poachers Croft, In particular, he is concerned about the dimensions of the proposals and the proposed balcony which would overlook his property. He is also worried about the finish.

A parishioner gave some history regarding Higher Osier Court expressed concern about the application at Higher Osier Court (20/02028/FUL). The current owners have sub-let the site and a business is now operating without the relevant licences. He questioned why this has been allowed to happen.

Two local residents also expressed their objection to the application at Higher Osier Court. Their particular concerns related to noise and traffic over the last 10-11 months. Containers are being stacked up and are overlooking their property, vans are overlooking their property, privacy has been lost and a van conversion business is operating involving cutting, grinding and hammering of metal. The Council has rated the noise impact in their home and this has been very loud during the summer. Bats are roosting and are being impacted by these works. The safety of horse riders, pedestrians and children is in jeopardy. The site is totally inappropriate for this kind of business and should be relocated to a more appropriate industrial site. They too can not understand how this business has been allowed to operate.

A parishioner commended the planning officers at TDC for standing up to a large organisation and refusing the planning application at Coombe Cellars.

021220.04 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Cllr Haines had nothing to report but would be happy to speak on planning matters at item 8.

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

He also wished to add some additional information following the Team Devon meeting he had attended this afternoon. This week there are 675 cases of COVID across the County (81 per 100,000 – approximately half the national rate). This compares with 10 per 100,000 in August. In the 60+ age group, the rate is 77 per 100,000 (national rate is 122 per 100,000). Every age group is going down except 80+. It is thought that there will not be a third spike because of the vaccine roll-out. This coupled with the tier system will keep everyone in a safe place. Derriford has the vaccine – the only place in Devon delivering the Pfizer vaccine. There are 975 doses in each consignment and those containers need to be kept at -80 degrees. The vaccine can only be moved 4 times before it is injected – three of those times are in Europe from the factory to the border. It can be stored for 120 hours after the third move before it has to be administered. The vaccine takes 10 minutes to administer. It will be delivered to NHS workers, care staff and ambulance crews initially. When we have the Moderna and Oxford vaccines, we will be able to roll out mass vaccinations. These will take place in mass vaccination centres such as football and rugby stadiums. There may be issues around the Oxford vaccine for people of Muslim or Jewish faith and they may or may not wish to partake in this vaccine. In terms of general economic outlook across Devon, we have lost 12% of our GVA. Unemployment currently stands at 7.3%. It is hoped that the very best outlook is that we get back to the GVA we were at the beginning of the year by the end of 2023. There has been a £760m loss for the county. Engineering and manufacturing are better off and doing well but they are very worried about Brexit. Tech industries are also doing well but are affected by skill shortages. There are 700 pubs in the county which have made a £175m loss. 10,000 jobs have been lost across this sector. The next tier review is scheduled for 16 December.

021220.05 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 Bunce declared an interest in item 8.1.1.

Cllr Boarer declared an interest in item 8.1.1.

021220.06 MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2020 and authorised the Chairman to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

021220.07 DELEGATE REPORTS

Cllr Hussey advised that he had received information about the Councillor Advocate Scheme and requested an agenda item for January's meeting to enable him to report on that once he had studied it. It offers us the opportunity to look at policing in our area and in return we support the work of the police.

The Chairman raised the matter of the guardianship of the defibrillator. Cllr Evans confirmed that the village hall has not taken on the responsibility of it although a member of the committee is currently checking it monthly to ensure it is working order. Members agreed that there should be a service contract in place and that the Parish Council should take responsibility for it. Cllr Dewhirst offered to find out contact details for a company who could provide a service contract. Cllr Hosking flagged up the matter of insurance. The clerk advised that she thought that defibrillators are covered under the policy but would double-check.

021220.08 PLANNING

8.1 New applications/appeals

- 8.1.1 20/02028/FUL – Higher Osier Court, Newton Abbot
Change of use from B8 storage and distribution to B2 general industrial

Having declared an interest, Cllrs Boarer and Bunce left the meeting for this item.

After discussion, it was agreed to object to this application on the following grounds:

- The site is inappropriate for the use which is being proposed. This is a residential area and there are more appropriate sites around Newton Abbot where this kind of industrial activity should be confined to.
- There is a significant amount of noise coming from the site which, given its proximity to residential dwellings, is inappropriate. It should be noted that residents of neighbouring residential properties have been complaining about noise at this site for many months.
- The additional traffic travelling to and from this location is inappropriate for the size of the lane and its proximity to residential dwellings. It has already been noted by residents that vehicles are travelling at speed to and from the site putting other road users such as pedestrians (including children), cyclists and horse riders at significant risk.
- The Parish Council is also concerned about the local wildlife in this location. In particular, it is believed that there is a bat population whose habitat is being disturbed by the works being carried out at this site.

Given the strength of local feeling against this application and the material considerations listed above, Parish Council further agreed to request that, if the planning officer is minded to approve this application, it shall be determined by the Planning Committee.

- 8.1.2 20/02058/HOU – Poachers Croft, Hiller Lane, Netherton
Single storey side/rear extension and loft conversion with new mono pitch roof to replace existing pitched roof

After discussion, members agreed that they had no objections to this application.

- 8.1.3 20/02024/FUL – Plant World, St Marychurch Road, Newton Abbot
Retention of replacement agricultural building with associated landscaping works and resurfacing of existing access track

After discussion, members agreed that they had no objections to this application.

- 8.1.4 20/02115/CAN – Upper Gulmswell, Combeinteignhead
Reduce height of three Lombardy poplars by 50%

Members had no objections to this application.

8.2 **Decisions**

- 8.2.1 20/01788/FUL – Coombe Cellars, Combeinteignhead
Six lights on three columns and eight bollard lights

Members noted that TDC has refused to grant planning permission.

It was noted that two very bright lights still come on from 11.30pm-4.30am. One of them was on the original application which was refused (19/01341/FUL) and one is on the building but not part of their application for signage which was granted some time ago (18/02594/ADV). Neither form part of application 20/01788/FUL. It was considered that these are having a detrimental effect on the surrounding environment and it was agreed that this should be reported to the enforcement officer for investigation.

8.2.2 20/01814/HOU – The Butts, Combeinteignhead
Two-storey side extension

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission

021220.09 HEARN FIELD

The Chairman of the Hearn Field Committee reported as follows:

Illyria and outdoor theatre

Following permission from the PC we have booked two shows for next year with the same arrangement which involves no financial risk for the PC and generated a good profit (£750). We have also been approached by two other theatre companies who would like to use the field for outdoor performances in 2021. The financial arrangement would be the same and we are of the opinion that it is a good use of the field with minimum input from ourselves and potentially generating considerable benefit to the community.

Ash dieback on tree in the top hedge

The owners of Yellowmead have now had the tree felled.

Chestnut tree

Much of the old ash tree that was entangled in it has been cut back. However now that both are without leaves it would be wise for us to get a tree surgeon in to trim it and restore it to good condition. It is listed on the parish itinerary of trees.

Dog litter bin

The bin at the combe cellars entrance has rusted and is beyond repair. A new one has been ordered and installed.

Pop up Craft market

This has been planned for Dec 10th - 13th. It is being run by the same team that ran the Open Studios and will follow strict government guidelines as before. We shall not allow parking on the field because it will be too damp.

Wildflower area

The new area, running from the existing patch to the bottom gate, will be cleared in the next couple of weeks by Paul Norrish with the help of Mr and Mrs Duggleby, ready for sowing in the spring. The community was very sad to learn that Fiona Godwin Brown, one of our most enthusiastic and loyal volunteers, passed away quite suddenly a month ago. It has been suggested that the new wildflower area be dedicated to her memory. We would plan to have a ceremonial scattering of the seeds in the Spring, hopefully when the community can gather to do this together or in small groups.

021220.10 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

10.1 **Expenditure**

Members approved the following payments:

| Cheque no | Payee | Details | Amount |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Online | JRB Enterprises | New dog bin | £254.40 |
| Online | PKF Littlejohn | External audit | £240 |

| | | | |
|--------|-------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Online | S Duggleby | Wildflower seeds | £52.50 |
| DD | Opus Energy | Hearn Field electricity (November) | £19.31 |
| DD | Clerk | Salary (November) | £240.58 |

10.2 **Income**

Members noted the income received 31 October – 27 November 2020:

| Received | Received from | Details | Amount |
|-----------------|---------------|----------|--------|
| 9 November 2020 | Lloyds Bank | Interest | £0.07 |

10.3 **Bank Balances at 27 November 2020**

| Current account | Savings account | Sea Wall account | Total |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| £16,265.61 | £8,479.45 | £4,327.23 | £29,072.29 |

10.4 **Budget and Precept 2021/22**

Members received a draft budget for 2021/22 together with a summary of reserves.

Members noted that due to the uncertainty brought about by the pandemic, the tax base number has reduced across the district by up to 2% for 2021/22. This is attributable to two main factors. Firstly, there is an increase in the number of council tax reduction awards for residents which is in response to hardship during the pandemic. Secondly, there will be an anticipated reduction in the council tax collection rate percentage. The net result is that we will get less precept for the same council tax.

This year we received £8,673. For the same council tax, we would receive £8,429 next year.

The clerk advised that she had been contacted by a parishioner regarding installation of three additional bins in Haccombe and if members considered that these were necessary, the cost of purchasing and emptying bins could be built into the budget. It was considered unlikely that TDC would be prepared to pay for these at this time. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs Hussey and Hosking would carry out an informal survey to establish need.

It was agreed that the budget would be discussed again and approved in January's meeting.

021220.11 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Humble advised that she has strimmed the lane opposite the village hall leading to no man's land. Still outstanding is the work on Gulmswell Lane. DCC's PROW, Jonathan Rowlands, was going to seek quotes to clear obstructions in the lane but she has heard nothing further. Cllr Humble asked if Cllr Dewhirst could follow this up on the Parish Council's behalf.

The Chairman reported briefly about a meeting held a couple of months ago attended by himself, Cllr Humble, Cllr Dewhirst, PC Clarke Orchard, PROW Jonathan Rowlands and landowner David Halpin. The status of Gulmswell Lane was discussed and it was agreed at that meeting that the lane should not be obstructed as it is a right of way.

Next month, Cllr Humble will be bringing forward the annual footpaths report. If any members are aware of any works which are required, please let her know.

021220.12 CORRESPONDENCE

None

021220.13 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 Hussey raised two matters:

- Emergency Plan – there is a section in the plan listing the names of volunteers willing to liaise with the Emergency Response team. After a discussion, it was agreed that this section is omitted until it is appropriate to discuss directly with people.
- Noticeboards – Cllr Hussey has tidied up the contents of all the parish noticeboards and updated the COVID information. The schedule of meeting dates for 2021 also needs updating.

Cllr Boarer advised that the ash tree at the war memorial is dropping a lot of wood. It was agreed that this should be specifically looked at when the trees are surveyed as it appears to have deteriorated since the last survey.

021220.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is 6 January 2021.

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Chairman

County Councillor's Report 2nd December

Steve Brown, Devon's Director of Public Health Devon said last week that going into Tier 2 will give the best chance for us to see cases continue to fall.

"When we were in Tier 1, prior to the current national restrictions, we saw continued rising cases, he said. It's only been recently, as a result of the national lockdown, that we have seen those cases plateau and ultimately start to fall. Devon going into Tier 2 is the best chance for us to continue to see those cases fall."

Mr Brown spoke following the government's announcement on Thursday, about the new tier structure to be introduced from 2 December, subject to parliamentary approval.

"It's really important that we adhere to the new rules and regulations," he said.

"If we let our guard down, cases will start to rise again. Even over Christmas, it's really important that we don't let our guard down, otherwise I fear there will be a heavy price to pay."


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

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

It's vital to continue:

↔ Making space

 Covering your face

 Washing your hands

It is not all bad news however! An online public consultation is being launched by the County Council on Tuesday 17th November on proposals to complete a missing link of the Teign Estuary Trail between Newton Abbot and Teignmouth.

The County Council is seeking views on its plans for a 5km section of the multi-use trail next to the estuary, starting at the Passage House Inn in Newton Abbot and joining the A381 at La Roche Maurice Walk. From there, a shared use path would link to the junction near Morrisons supermarket, at the western edge of Teignmouth.

As part of the consultation, a webinar will be held from 6pm-8pm on Wednesday 25 November to cover the scheme proposals and provide people with the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback to the project team.

A further virtual 'drop-in' consultation event will be held at 5pm-7pm on Wednesday 9 December enabling people to dial in to talk to the project team. Those wishing to attend either event should email transportplanning@devon.gov.uk for joining instructions.

The scheme aims to improve connectivity between existing strategic trails and promote safe and sustainable travel in the natural environment of the Teign Estuary.

More information on the proposals will be available [online](#) from Tuesday 17 November. The consultation continues until Friday 18 December, and the feedback form can be completed online. For those unable to access the internet, please contact the Transport Planning team at Transport Planning Team, Matford Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4QD or please telephone 0345 155 1015, email transportplanning@devon.gov.uk or write to the above address.

A pioneering new project that supports unpaid carers has been heralded nationally and is shortlisted for a prestigious care award. It involves dedicated staff from Devon Carers, working closely with hospital teams to identify situations where carers are involved, and where support for those carers is needed for patients to return home safely, or prevent hospital admissions.

First piloted at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, the Carers Hospital Service is now also running in Torbay Hospital.

There are an estimated 130,000 people in Devon who are looking after family members, neighbours or friends. Devon Carers, which is run by Exminster-based Westbank, support around 20,000 carers, (around 15 per cent). While support for carers is available, reaching them has always been difficult because people's caring roles are often not identified.

Sometimes people are unable to leave hospital because the person who is caring for them at home has become unable to cope. It might be because the patients' care needs have grown worse and the carer doesn't know what to do, or the carer could be unwell themselves, or simply exhausted from providing round the clock care.

Having identified where there are carers involved, the Carers Hospital Service team works with them to understand what is happening and to see where support would help them, which might avoid a hospital admission or help get the person home more quickly. If the carer's health is poor, or they have developed care needs themselves, the team refer the carer to health or social care services.

Between April 2019 and the end of October this year, 2,193 carers have been helped by the Carers Hospital Service, 1,740 of which were previously not known to Devon Carers.

Finally, the impact of the ongoing pandemic on people's mental health in Devon may currently be difficult to determine, but to help you look after your own wellbeing during the national lockdown, Learn Devon is launching its "Mindfulness Challenge".

The five-day challenge, which launches on Monday 16 November, features a series of short videos that provide an opportunity to take 20 minutes a day to ensure that mindfulness – training techniques for your mind and wellbeing – is part of your daily routine.

Each day will focus on different techniques to help with focus, concentration, relaxation, coping with anxiety, as well as stretches for desk workers and more.

Those who sign up for the challenge will receive an email each morning at 6am with a link to the day's video which they can watch on-demand, in their own time. The email will also include further tips to improve wellbeing in everyday life.

Learn Devon, Devon County Council's adult education service provider, hopes that everyone taking part will enhance their wellbeing, enabling them to better cope with life's stresses and the difficulties brought about by the pandemic and a second national lockdown.

Alistair Dewhirst

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