

# Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

[www.haccombewithcombe.co.uk](http://www.haccombewithcombe.co.uk)

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Zoom on 6 January 2021 at 7.30pm

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

**Also present:** County Councillor Dewhirst, County Councillor Hook, District Cllr Haines and one member of the public

**Clerk:** Suzanna Hughes

### **060121.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- Cllr Humble
- Elizabeth Deane (Hearn Field Committee Chairman)

### **060121.02 POLICE REPORT**

No report

### **060121.03 OPEN FORUM**

There were no items raised.

### **060121.04 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

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

County Cllr Hook reported that the Council is finalising its budget proposals. He advised that he has been watching events unfolding in USA. He is fearful for the health of democracy. Here, a recommendation from the Executive will go to Full Council for debate regarding election reforms in this country. He also reported that he became aware last week that large areas of Devon and the towns (eg. Dawlish, Totnes) have been having COVID vaccinations since mid-December. But as far as he knows, no one has had an injection in Newton Abbot. It has not been confirmed where the roll-out will take place but he has been assured that the whole system will be up and running by the end of next week.

District Cllr Haines reported that he had an email from a member of the Council regarding the application at Higher Osier Court which he has forwarded to the planning officer for his information. He advised that he has referred the Poachers Croft planning application to the Planning Committee as he feels that the issue regarding the bats is not resolved. This maybe withdrawn pending a satisfactory response from the wildlife officer. Budgets are being discussed and will go to TDC's Scrutiny Committee next week.

### **060121.05 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.

### **060121.06 MINUTES**

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2020 and authorised the Chairman to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**060121.07 DELEGATE REPORTS**

Cllr Hussey circulated a report about the Councillor Advocate Scheme and what this involves. He wishes to discuss with PC Orchard how we go forward with this in terms of improving the connection between the community and the police. The scheme involves attendance at a quarterly meeting. Cllr Hussey advised that to be an effective advocate, he will need to familiarise himself with the relevant issues in each part of the parish. There are also a number of written materials and he will need to look at how these are cascaded down. He also informed members that crime statistics for each area can be found at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).

**060121.08 PLANNING**

8.1 **New applications/appeals**  
None

8.2 **Decisions**

8.2.1 20/02115/CAN – Upper Gulmswell, Combeinteignhead  
Reduce height of three Lombardy poplars by 50%

Members noted that TDC has raised no objections to this proposal

**060121.09 HEARN FIELD**

Cllr Evans reported on behalf of the Hearn Field Committee as follows:

**Chestnut tree**

We await the attentions of the tree surgeon to trim it and restore it to good condition.

**Dog litter bin**

A new one has been ordered and installed.

**Pop up Craft market (10-13 Dec)**

This was well attended and enjoyed by all. We have received a donation from them of £324 as a percentage of their takings. They have also kindly donated the outside lights which were purchased for the event at a cost of £50. Their letter of thanks has been forwarded to the clerk.

**Wildflower area**

The new area, running from the existing patch to the bottom gate, will be cleared in the next week by Paul Norrish with the help of Mr and Mrs Duggleby . This will make it ready for sowing in the spring.

**Bookings**

We have received several requests for bookings for indoor events /courses early this year . At the moment we are not taking any and will review when the lockdown situation has changed.

**060121.10 TREE SURVEY**

Members received a quotation from Dart Forest Trees to survey the trees in the parish for which the Parish Council is responsible. It was agreed to accept the quote of £525 + VAT.

**060121.11 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE**

11.1 **Expenditure**

Members approved the following payments:

<b>Cheque no</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
DD	HMRC	PAYE	£170.20
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (December)	£20.74
DD	Clerk	Salary (December)	£240.58

## 11.2 Income

Members noted the income received 28 November 2020 – 2 January 2021

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
9 December 2020	Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.07
21 December 2020	C Bouchard	Christmas market (donation)	£324

## 11.3 Bank Balances at 2 January 2021

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£15,764.39	£8,479.52	£4,327.23	£28,571.14

## 11.4 Budget and Precept 2021/22

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

Members were reminded 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 means that for the same council tax, the Parish Council will receive £8,429 in 2021/22 compared with £8,673 in 2020/21.

Members agreed that it had been a difficult year for many as a result of the pandemic and they were therefore reluctant to increase the precept this year. It was therefore agreed to demand a sum of £8,429 representing a 0% increase.

Last month, the clerk had advised that she had been contacted by a parishioner regarding installation of three additional bins in Haccombe. Cllrs Hussey and Hosking reported that they had carried out an informal survey and both agreed that additional dog bins in the suggested locations were not necessary.

### 060121.12 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

It was observed that the bottom of Gulmswell Lane is very muddy. A response has not yet been received from the PROW Officer, Jonathan Rowlands, regarding remedial works to improve this. Cllr Pattinson advised that the Lower Netherton to Netherton footpath through land belonging to the Mare and Foal Sanctuary has now been cut.

### 060121.13 MEETING DATES 2021

Members received a list of meeting dates for 2021. The dates were agreed and would be advertised on the notice boards and website.

### 060121.14 CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted email correspondence from David Halpin dated 23 December. Members agreed that a response was not necessary as the matters referred to in the email were County Council matters and Mr Halpin had been previously informed of this.

### 060121.15 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 Pattinson advised that the recycling boxes and food waste bins had not been collected for two weeks. Cllr Dewhirst asked for details of those properties which had been missed so he could look into it. Cllr Evans also reported that bins are being collected before 6.30am. Cllr Dewhirst advised that usually bins should not be collected before 7am but at the moment the crew are working in bubbles and are sometimes starting work earlier than usual.

**060121.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is 3 February 2021.

.....  
Chairman

## County Councillor's Report 6<sup>th</sup> January - HWC

As we adjust again to staying at home more, and minimising our contacts outside of the home, it's important that we remember to take care of our minds as well as our bodies.

It's perfectly normal to feel anxious or worried right now, whether that's about our own health or that of family members or friends. If you live alone, you may be feeling an even greater sense of isolation or loneliness. Staying at home is difficult, but you are helping to protect yourself and others by doing so.

Every Mind Matters has some helpful information online to support us through this time, whether that's regarding concerns you may have about your finances, or ensuring that you or others have the supplies or support you need, or staying connected with others. <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-at-home-tips/>

**It's even more vital to continue:**

↔ **Making space**

 **Covering your face**

 **Washing your hands**

Whether you keep just a few birds as pets or thousands, from 14<sup>th</sup> December onwards you are legally required to keep your birds indoors or take appropriate steps to keep them separate from wild birds.

Poultry and captive bird keepers are advised to be vigilant for any signs of disease in their birds and any wild birds, and seek prompt advice from their vet if they have any concerns. They can help prevent bird flu (avian flu) by maintaining good biosecurity on their premises. Keepers are encouraged to register their birds with DEFRA so they can be contacted quickly if there is an outbreak in their area and action required. Owners of more than 50 birds are legally required to register their flock but those with fewer than this number are still encouraged to do so.

Poultry and captive bird keepers and members of the public should report dead wild birds to the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77 (option 7), and keepers should report suspicion of disease to APHA on 03000 200 301. Keepers should familiarise themselves with DEFRA's avian flu advice. Public Health England advise the risk to public health is very low and that properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

More than 15,000 children across Devon received food vouchers this Christmas as the county council combats holiday hunger. The children were receiving free school meals and their families were able to buy food with the vouchers over the festive holiday.

The vouchers can be redeemed in major supermarkets across Devon. After I raised the issue privately and at the County Council last week arrangements were put in place for families who cannot get to a supermarket.

Eligible children in pre-school and young people in sixth form colleges also received the vouchers. It's part of a £1 million grant programme organised by Devon County Council to alleviate holiday hunger over Christmas. Another £1 million will be spent in the New Year to cover half-term and the Easter holidays.

The Council enlisted the help of schools in publicising this to families and alerted us to anyone they feel might miss out. In addition to issuing the vouchers to families directly, we also provided them to Early Help teams, children's centres, food networks and district councils who were able to help vulnerable families who may not be eligible for free school meals.

The county council is continuing to work with local council partners in Team Devon to ensure vulnerable families do not slip through the net. In addition, the council is also working with the Devon Community Foundation to set up food networks across the county with at least one in every district – we are so lucky to have HITS.

Many families in Devon have seen their financial circumstances change due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. If families didn't previously qualify for free school meals but their income has recently reduced or stopped, please apply online through the Devon County Council website

Finally, some good news! Three companies have been selected to roll-out full fibre broadband networks on behalf of the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme, backed by Government funding.

Airband, Truespeed and Wessex Internet will be installing full fibre broadband across Devon and Somerset to more than 56,000 rural homes and businesses over the next four years. The combined public and private sector investment of around £80million will be in the vanguard of the Government's ambitions to build a Gigabit capable network across the UK.

The three companies all have experience of working in the region and, between them, have already delivered connections to nearly 41,000 premises in the CDS region.

In the new roll-out, Airband will be expanding its full fibre coverage into rural areas of Somerset, East Devon, as well as areas of Mid Devon, South Hams and Teignbridge (Dainton). Truespeed and Wessex Internet will deliver in rural communities in other parts of the South West.

Work is due to start this year for completion in 2024. As mentioned before Teignbridge Council is the only District Council who are involved in financing this roll out. It is third time lucky so lets hope it happens this time.

Alistair Dewhirst

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