

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Zoom on 3 February 2021 at 7.30pm

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

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

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

030221.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr Evans
- County Cllr Hook
- Elizabeth Deane (Hearn Field Committee Chairman)

030221.02 POLICE REPORT

There were no crimes recorded in Combeinteignhead during the period 1 January – 31 January 2021. This month, the police are looking to target local poaching issues/rural wildlife crime in and around the area. If anyone has any information or sees anything suspicious please report it to the police. Community Speed Watch is currently on hold due to the current lockdown. This will resume when restrictions ease. PACT meetings will also hopefully resume soon.

Cllr Hussey advised that, through the Councillor Advocate Scheme, he had received details about how to report suspected Covid-19 breaches to the police. Details had also been circulated about how to contact the police in a non-emergency. Cllr Hussey advised that he had posted this information on the noticeboards and also agreed to send it to Cllr Evans for inclusion on the parish website.

030221.03 OPEN FORUM

There were no items raised.

030221.04 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Cllr Haines reported that the proposed council tax rise which is now out for consultation and decision later this month is £5 per annum. He reported that he had attended a meeting of the Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment as part of the Local Plan process. With regard to planning matters, he advised that he has received further correspondence from residents regarding two current planning applications which are pending going to the Planning Committee (Poachers Croft and Higher Osier Court). This correspondence has been forwarded to the relevant planning officers. He does not yet know when or if these applications will be considered by the Planning Committee.

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

030221.05 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 Pattinson declared an interest in item 8.1.1 as he shares a common, albeit small, boundary with Linden Lea.

030221.06 MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2021. After a minor amendment, members authorised the Chairman to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

030221.07 DELEGATE REPORTS

No reports.

030221.08 PLANNING

8.1 New applications/appeals

8.1.1 21/00217/FUL – Linden Lea, Shaldon Road, Combeinteignhead Demolition of bungalow and erection of replacement two storey dwelling

Members were advised that, as this application has only just been validated by TDC, representations have been made by residents asking that the Parish Council defers this item until residents have had the opportunity to look at the details of the application. Having requested an extension beyond the publicity expiry date (20 February), TDC had advised that it could not guarantee that the application would not be determined before the March Parish Council meeting. It was therefore agreed by members to hold an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 17 February and defer this item until then. This would give residents more time to make representations to the Parish Council before the Parish Council formally responds.

In the meantime, residents were advised that they should also make their own individual representations to the District Council.

8.1.2 20/02257/FUL – Tucketts Farm, Netherton Change of use from agricultural land to wild camping facility including moveable composting toilets from Easter until September

After discussion and having noted the number of local concerns, it was agreed to object to this application on the following grounds:

- Location of proposed site - whilst there is no objection to camping per se, this particular site is very sensitive. With reference to the Teignbridge Local Plan, the site is within an area of Undeveloped Coast. Further, it is adjacent to the Teign Estuary and to a sensitive wildlife site as identified in the Local Plan. The impact on wildlife therefore makes this an unsuitable site for camping.
- Unsafe access - the proposed entrance on the plan is further down the lane to the main entrance, on a blind corner opposite a building preventing clear visibility. This is not an appropriate site to be accessing camping. There are other access points (including the main entrance to Tucketts Farm and wider sections of the road) where access is safer and more suitable.
- Lack of information - there is no indication on the application of how many camping sites there might be ('wild camping' does not define this). The wildlife report has been written based on an estimated maximum of 15 pitches but if the number of pitches is not stated in the application, the report effectively becomes invalid.

As a further point, it was also noted that more local objections may have been lodged if users of the Templar Way were aware of the application. (The planning notice had only been posted on the main entrance to Tucketts Farm and not on the proposed new entrance or adjacent to the campsite itself where it would have been more visible).

District Cllr Haines informed members that he had also queried a lack of information in the application including the number of camping sites. The planning officer will be contacting the applicant's agent about this. In the meantime, he advised that he may request that the application is considered by the Planning Committee pending a satisfactory response to his request for more detailed information.

- 8.1.3 21/00208/HOU – Fowler Cottage, Road from Coombe Cottage to Higher Charlecombe Farm, Combeinteignhead
Conversion of existing store into home office

Members had no objections to this application.

8.2 Decisions

None.

030221.09 HEARN FIELD

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

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

The clerk advised that the Hearn Field Committee Chairman was keen for the work to be carried out on the chestnut tree relatively soon and before the tree survey which is due to be carried out in the spring. It was agreed that the Parish Council Chairman would have a look at the tree with a view to carrying out the work himself. If he was unable to do the work, it was agreed that quotes from tree surgeons would be sought.

Wildflower area - The new area, running from the existing patch to the bottom gate, has been cleared by Paul Norrish with the help of Mr and Mrs Duggleby. It will be ready for sowing in the spring.

Bookings - We have booked three theatre performances to take place on the field once Covid restrictions allow. Financial arrangements will be as before (meaning no up-front payment required from Hearn field funds)

Illyria Theatre will present Dr Dolittle on Saturday 19th June and Much Ado about Nothing on Sat 31 July Heartbreak Theatre company will present Midsummer Nights Dream on Friday 27th August

We also have a booking for a family party on 16/10/21 at a charge of £180 (paperwork to follow).

030221.10 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

10.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (January)	£21.68
DD	Clerk	Salary (January)	£240.78

10.2 Income

Members noted the income received 2 – 29 January 2021):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
11 January 2021	Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.08

10.3 Bank Balances at 29 January 2021

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£10,848.73	£12,462.60	£4,327.23	£27,638.56

030221.11 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Humble advised that usually at this time of year, the Parish Council submits a report to DCC on the condition of the footpaths and any proposals for works. The footpaths are all usable but some may require some general maintenance which has not been possible this year due to the Covid restrictions. With the exception of Gulmswell Lane (which DCC should be dealing with), there are no immediate concerns. However, when she submits the report, she will advise Devon that works on the paths are intended but the precise detail will be agreed when Covid restrictions are lifted. Cllr Bunce volunteered his help to assess the paths when restrictions are eased.

Cllr Dewhurst advised that he had not heard from Jonathan Rowlands (PROW) regarding Gulmswell Lane.

030221.12 FUTURE MEETINGS

Members received and noted advice from DALC regarding meetings after 6 May (as it stands, government have no current plans to extend the regulations permitting councils to meet remotely). Members agreed that the Council should see how this issue progresses over the coming weeks.

030221.13 CORRESPONDENCE

None

030221.14 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 Humble informed members that there had been an incident today where the flood gate at the bottom of Combe Cellars lane was locked by the Environment Agency. It has now been unlocked but it is to the detriment of properties down the lane if that gate is locked again. Cllr Humble suggested that the Parish Council may need to intervene if the EA continues to lock the gate.

030221.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

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Chairman

County Councillor's Report 3rd February - HWC

The Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme for businesses severely impacted by the Tier 2 restrictions is now open for applications. Both rated and non-rated Teignbridge businesses (in any sector) can apply, including businesses that work from home or on a mobile basis. Those who applied for an LRSB for the November 2020 lockdown are welcome to apply for this scheme too.

Grants for the new lockdown period will go live in early February. TDC are also working on a new 'grant checker' that will allow businesses to work out which schemes they are eligible for. In the meantime, TDC are asking members and officers to signpost businesses to our grant summary table on the website under Business.

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/business-help-and-support-during-coronavirus/>

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Devon County Council is working with partners to ensure that rapid '30 minute' community testing for people without COVID-19 symptoms will soon be available across Devon. Approximately one in three people who have coronavirus do not display symptoms.

A positive or negative result will not remove the need to follow existing COVID-19 measures socially and in the workplace. Employers who have staff and workers who would be eligible for testing are encouraged to register their details. Further information and updates are available on the Devon County Council website.

Critical workers and those in high-risk occupations who still have to attend work, and people who are in contact with vulnerable individuals, such as carers, will be prioritised. Rapid 'lateral flow tests', which provide a result within thirty minutes, will be used.

The first testing site at County Hall in Exeter is open with a 300 person per day capacity, with further sites to open across Devon through February and March. This will support existing testing arrangements and complement the national roll-out of lateral flow tests in some settings such as universities and schools.

Snow showers and freezing conditions swept across Devon in the early hours of Sunday morning. Devon County Council warned of a significant risk of ice on Devon's roads, particularly into Monday 25th January.

Devon's fleet of gritters have been working around the clock to treat the County Council's salting network, but the authority is urging people to avoid all but essential travel.

Gritting will continue throughout Sunday ahead of an anticipated drop in road surface temperatures to as low as -8C across Devon overnight tonight. Conditions are expected to be hazardous for anyone travelling on Monday morning, and there is a severe risk of ice on untreated roads.

During operations, a Devon County Council gritter over-turned near Holne on Dartmoor, highlighting the treacherous conditions. The driver was shaken by the incident but was unharmed. The vehicle has been recovered and the road re-opened.

Devon County Council is also working closely with Highways England and Devon and Cornwall Police. Additional resources were deployed to Haldon/Telegraph Hill, and ploughing was carried out on the A380 before 4am to keep the road clear of snow.

Last week saw the start of Devon's £578.5 million Budget process. Last Monday the Children's Scrutiny Committee looked at their £158.3 million budget. Members heard that this was a 7.8% increase on the year before, however even with this increase there was over £1/2 million of savings to be achieved in the disabled Children's service. What is really terrifying is the High Needs Block negative reserve will reach £78 million by the end of 2022 – at this rate it will consume the Council in a couple more years.

On Tuesday, the £282.5 million budget for Adult services had an 8.3% increase taking to nearly half the total budget. £26.2 million of this was to fund increases in demand and inflation. We heard that the Public Health budget had been held at last years rates because we still have not received the Government grant for this part of the service.

Finally, on Thursday at a 7 ½ hour marathon session the CIRS Scrutiny Committee looked at £39.9 million Communities budget (a 0.2% increase), the £40.4 million Corporate budget (a 7.5% increase) and the Highways £57.5 million budget (a 0.5 % decrease). We were staggered that there were to be cuts to winter operations and Highway Network management. We then brought the whole budget together including the Capital budget.

I will report on the debate at full Council next month.

Alistair Dewhirst

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