

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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

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

Also present: County Councillor Dewhirst, Elizabeth Deane (Hearn Field Committee Chairman) and one member of the public

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

030321.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- County Cllr Hook

030321.02 CO-OPTION

Members received an application to fill one of the three vacant seats. It was agreed to co-opt Julian Saunders to the vacant seat in the Rural Ward. Having confirmed his eligibility, Julian proceeded to join the meeting as a co-opted member.

030321.03 POLICE REPORT

There were no crimes recorded in Combeinteignhead during the period 1 February – 27 February 2021.

PACT meetings will hopefully resume soon, subject to Government lockdown guidance.

Again, this month we are looking to 'target' local poaching issues/rural wildlife crime in and around the area. If you see anything suspicious, please report as soon as possible. Any information would be greatly appreciated to assist with our plans moving forward.

On the 11 February 2021 Teignmouth Police conducted an operation to disrupt poaching in the local area. 16 officers in plain and marked vehicles were patrolling the area with the help of local landowners, all of whom have been recent victims of poaching/livestock theft on their land. Officers included, the force Rural Wildlife Crime Officer PC Martin Beck, Neighbourhood Inspector Andrew Tomlinson, PS Jon Ross, PC Clarke Orchard Rural Neighbourhood Beat Manager of whom was the OIC for the operation and PCSO Saul BUNCE. Members from Teignmouth and Chudleigh Neighbourhood teams linked up along with support from the Special Constabulary. Several local game keepers were also present, who with the permission of the landowners were deployed around the area covering Ashcombe Rural, Dawlish Haldon Ridge and Kenton to try to spot potential offenders/poachers. On this occasion no arrests were made but considerable disruption was caused to any potential poaching in the area of which demonstrated an excellent example of the Police and the rural community working together.

Community Speed Watch is currently on hold due to the current lockdown. This will naturally resume when restrictions ease.

Cllr Hussey advised that there will be an increase in the policing element of the council tax in 2021/22 which means a rise of £14.92 in the annual police precept for a band D property. The increased funds will be used to recruit additional front-line staff, including an extra 40 officers above those which are nationally funded, extra contact staff to reduce 101 call waiting times and an extra 29 crime investigators.

There is going to be a new drone team which will be used to search for missing vulnerable people.

There is a current recruitment drive for special constables volunteering 16 hours per month with the same powers as police officers.

Of the 43 police forces in England and Wales, Devon has the second lowest rate of crime at 54 crimes per 1000.

030321.04 OPEN FORUM

There were no items raised.

030321.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

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

County Cllr Hook sent a brief report advising that the consideration of the proposed 30 mph limit on Shaldon Hill, which he is seeking and this council has kindly supported, has been delayed again, as officers have failed to produce the improved report requested at the November meeting. In his opinion, this is totally unsatisfactory.

030221.06 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.

030321.07 MINUTES

7.1 Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2021. Members authorised the Chairman to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

7.2 Members received the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 17 February 2021. Members authorised the Chairman to sign the minutes as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

030321.08 DELEGATE REPORTS

No reports.

030321.09 PLANNING

9.1 **New applications/appeals**
None

9.2 **Decisions**
None

9.3 Cllr Bunce reported that he continues to receive representations from residents relating to the unacceptable noise levels, increased movement of traffic and a general increase in activity at Higher Osier Court. It was noted that the target date for a decision was 7 January; it was agreed to request an update from the planning officer regarding its current status and when a decision is likely.

030321.10 CAR PARK

Members discussed the maintenance of the planted areas of the car park and whether the Parish Council should seek a volunteer or pay for someone to keep the area tidy. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Humble would make contact with the person who carries out the maintenance of the village hall grounds and ask them to carry out a one-off tidy up. She would also establish ongoing costs and present these at the next meeting. It was agreed that the litter bin should not be reinstated.

030321.11 HEARN FIELD

The Chairman of the Hearn Field Committee reported as follows:

Chestnut tree

Cllr Boarer and two volunteers have removed the ash branches and pruned the chestnut which now appears to be in good shape and condition.

Wildflower area

Mr and Mrs Duggleby will now rotovate the area. It will be ready for sowing in the spring.

Bookings

There is a slight change of dates. Illyria Theatre will present Dr Dolittle on Saturday 19 June and HMS Pinafore on Saturday 10 July. Whilst these events are quite close, they will appeal to very different audiences.

Heartbreak Theatre company will present A Midsummer Night's Dream on Friday 27 August. We are still in discussion about how the box office will be run for this. We also have a booking for a family party on 16/10/21 at a charge of £180 (paperwork to follow).

A wedding booking request has been received for the weekend of 7 August 2021. Subject to the approval of the Parish Council the charge for this is £700. This brings us to a total of three weddings this summer. Members agreed to accept this booking.

The Edge of the Teign have requested use of the Pavilion for their annual Open Studios from 13-26 September.

Reach Outdoors have three bookings this year.

Sea Wall

Some repairs will be needed following the high tides and rain in January and February. These are not major works and can be carried out by volunteers as before subject to the availability of Cllr Boarer's loaning of equipment and his supervision. This has saved the Parish Council considerable sums over the last years and has meant the wall is in good repair. It was agreed to do this in the summer.

Car Park

Paul Norrish has kindly offered to provide planings to fill the holes in the car park surface where water collects.

Some wood chippings have been donated and are to be used to protect new planted areas under the fences from drying out.

A HF AGM will be held sometime before the current Zoom permissions expire.

030321.12 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

12.1 Expenditure

The following payments were approved:

Cheque no	Payee	Details	Amount
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (February)	£23.54
DD	Clerk	Salary (February)	£240.58
BACS	DTX	Domain renewal (2 years) combe-in-teignhead.co.uk and haccombewithcombe.co.uk	£30.00
BACS	S Hughes	Zoom subscription	£14.39

12.2 Income

Members noted income (30 January – 27 February 2021):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
9 February 2021	Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.10

12.3 Bank Balances at 27 February 2021

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£10,584.64	£12,462.70	£4,327.23	£27,374.57

030321.13 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

It was reported that a drain outside Hows Farm in Netherton is often blocked. This is DCC Highways' responsibility although residents are encouraged to help to keep them clear. Residents can also report these issues direct on DCC's website – 'Report a problem'.

030321.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None

030321.15 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

None.

030321.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is 31 March 2021.

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Chairman

County Councillor's Report 3rd March – HWC

Climate conscious Devon residents are being urged to reduce their carbon footprint by cutting down on the clothes they buy. If residents do have to buy new clothes, they are encouraged to buy better-quality, ethically sourced items, preferably from a local retailer.

The 'fast fashion' industry is the second highest carbon-creating industry in the world and emissions from textile production outweigh the total carbon footprint of international flights and shipping combined. Producing the clothes, we wear creates 1.2 billion tonnes of CO₂e each year, accounting for over 10 per cent of all global carbon emissions.

The production of a single t-shirt creates the same amount of emissions as driving from Exeter to Plymouth, and in Devon around 6,500 tonnes of textiles are still ending up in waste bins each year.

If re-used instead of binned, this would save 33,800 tonnes of CO₂. £30 billion of unworn clothing is sitting in UK wardrobes, do we really need to be buying even more?

The highest contributor to the carbon footprint of clothing is the production and processing of fibre, whether natural or synthetic. This can be reduced by making the most of the clothes we already have, buying second-hand items online or when charity shops are open, and swapping with friends and family. If residents avoided buying new clothes for a whole year, it would save a staggering 132,860 tonnes of CO₂.

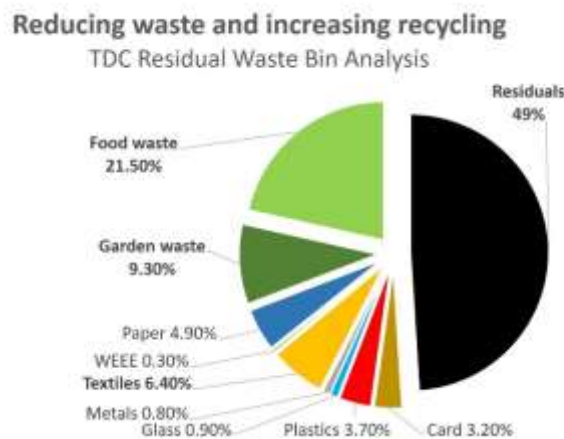
For more information about reducing and reusing clothing, please follow Recycle Devon on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or visit www.recycledevon.org.

This is the UK's first Food Waste Action Week and is set to highlight the link between food waste and climate change.

Devon residents can find practical tips and advice on how to reduce food waste and take part in a food waste challenge via Recycle Devon social media feeds on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and on it's You Tube channel.

A survey by Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) found that while most people acknowledge food waste is an issue, less than half of people (39%) make a strong link between wasted food and climate change.

The Food Waste Trends Survey 2019 estimates that, on average, almost one in four potatoes (22.8 per cent) are thrown away uneaten, compared to around a fifth of bread (21.5 per cent), chicken (20.5 per cent) and milk (18.4 per cent).



Three weeks ago, saw the start of Devon's £578.5 million Budget process. Monday saw the Children's Scrutiny Committee looking at their £158.3 million budget. What is really terrifying is that we were told 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. Tuesday saw the £282.5 million budget for Adult services being scrutinized – it is nearly half the total budget.

A 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.

Following representations made by my Party and the recommendations made by Scrutiny the Leader announced an extra £600,000 would be added to the county council's roads budget under a new plan announced at Cabinet.

At Council, surprisingly, there was no amendment to the Budget from Labour who abstained from voting on the Budget or its proposed Amendments but spoke in favour of the Conservative Budget!

The Lib Dem Budget amendment which comprised investing £3.4 million on fixing Devon's roads (filling potholes, routine maintenance, repainting white lines and investing in cycling and walking); £1/2 million on supporting communities who want 20 mph zones; £1/2 million on Green Devon schemes (Bee corridors, wildflower verges; £1 million supporting "Made in Devon" and "Bought in Devon" schemes and £3/4 million for mental health support for children. This all to be paid for by a draw down from the £64.4 million Budget Management Reserve set up to support this very type of thing.

Finally, this amendment sought to end the tax loophole whereby second homeowners can switch from Council Tax to Business rates and then claiming small business exemptions.

You won't be surprised to know that many Conservative Councillors echoed the North Devon MP's call for Highway improvements but failed to vote for the amendment that would have actually given them those improvements!

After 4 hours of debate the Council voted for a 4.99% increase in Council tax which comes down to £1,511.28 per Council Tax band D property for 2021/22.

Alistair Dewhirst - alistair.dewhirst@devon.gov.uk /