

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Hearn Field Pavilion on 21 July 2021 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: County Cllr Dewhirst and District Cllr Haines

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

210721.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr Pattinson

210721.02 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.

210721.03 OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

210721.04 POLICE REPORT

4.1 Crime Report:

The following incidents were reported from 1 - 30 June:

- 1 x public safety

No crimes were recorded during that period.

Members received a 38-page newsletter/gazette compiled by PC Orchard with useful information, guidance on reporting, signposting to partner agencies, monthly themes etc. This has been uploaded to the Parish Council's website and shared on Facebook.

4.2 Councillor Advocate Scheme:

Cllr Hussey advised that he is liaising with Simon Guppy about using the Pavilion from September for monthly PACT (Police and Community Together) meetings which PC Orchard is trying to set up. These will be 2 hour drop-in sessions giving members of the public the opportunity to speak to the police about any concerns. The police are seeking co-ordinators for their Farmwatch, Boatwatch and Horsewatch schemes. This will be advertised on the website, social media and noticeboards.

A concern was raised about a yellow Skoda parked on the road next to Combe Garage which was considered to be in a dangerous position as it is forcing other road users out into the road. It was agreed that Cllr Hussey would raise this with PC Orchard.

210721.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Cllr Dewhirst gave a verbal report (copy attached).

District Cllr Haines advised that he has been re-elected Chairman of TDC's Planning Committee.

210721.06 DELEGATE REPORTS

Cllr Saunders reported on a climate change event which he had attended. He reported that Devon County Council and Crowdfunder have teamed up to support projects that are tackling the climate emergency in an aim to #BackTheFuture with the support of the Devon Climate Emergency Network. Communities are seen as key to reaching the aim of carbon neutrality and so are looking for projects to support. If anyone has any ideas of ways to support the initiative, go to the #BackTheFuture website (<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/backthefuture/devon>) and enter 100 words on how the project will be of benefit. The deadline for entries is 29 July. 10 winners will receive a share of £30,000 towards their project.

210721.07 MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2021 and authorised the Chair to sign them as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

210721.08 PLANNING

8.1 New applications/appeals

- 8.1.1 21/01516/LBC – Haccombe House, Haccombe
Completion of fire prevention works including proposed replacement of individual flat front entrance doors and installation of communal fire alarm and emergency lighting system

Members had no objections to this application.

8.2 Decisions

- 8.2.1 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

Members noted that TDC has refused to grant planning permission.

- 8.2.2 21/01124/FUL - NutriLink Ltd, Unit 24, Milber Trading Estate, Newton Abbot
Construction of detached storage building

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

8.3 Draft Local Plan Consultation (Part 2) 2020-2040: Creating Quality Places – Site Options

Members discussed the sites which have been put forward as potential sites for development:

Little Haccombe, Long Lane, Haccombe

Site Potential: RED (Significant level of constraints; development not achievable)

Members agreed with the overall assessment that this land is unsuitable for development due to its prominent position on elevated land and the impact development would have on the ridge line. Access is also a major constraint.

Land west of Long Lane, Haccombe

Site Potential: AMBER (Moderate level of constraints: development achievable 11-15 years)

Members would only support small-scale development of this site (maximum 10 homes). Access is poor and members would not be in favour of further highways development.

Land on East side of Lyndale, Combeinteignhead

Site Potential: RED (Significant level of constraints; development not achievable)

Members agreed with the overall assessment that this site is too steeply sloped for development.

East of Haytor Drive, Newton Abbot

Site potential: RED

Members agreed with the overall assessment of this site and would not support any development due to its prominence within the landscape and the negative impact it would have on the Teign Estuary.

Employment sites

Members also discussed the development of the employment site at Centrax and agreed by majority not to raise any objections subject to a condition that it moves towards sustainability and green employment. Further, members do not consider it suitable for distribution and large haulage vehicles due to poor access.

Bishopsteignton

With regard to development in Bishopsteignton, members agreed to make a general comment that any development should preserve the unspoilt estuary and coastal environment.

210721.09 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

9.1 Expenditure

The following payments were approved:

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (June)	£18.57
DD	Clerk	Salary (June)	£266.18
Online	Clerk	Disbursements (October '20 – July '21) (mileage, Zoom, ink, paper)	£42.60
Online	HMRC	PAYE (Q1)	£93.20
Online	Hydrorod	Unblocking of drains (HF)	£126
Online	Hydrorod	Emptying of septic tank (HF)	£192
Online	Argos Fire Protection Ltd	Servicing of fire extinguishers	£99.60

9.2 Income

Members noted income received (19 June – 17 July 2021):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
June/July	Various	Hearn Field bookings	£590
13 July 2021	Illyria Theatre	Outdoor theatre events	£1592.40
July	Lloyds	Interest	£0.10

9.3 Bank Balances at 17 July 2021

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£21,880.48	£12,463.22	£4,327.23	£38,670.93

210721.10 HEARN FIELD

10.1 The Chairman of the Hearn Field Committee submitted a written report as follows:

Bookings

Following discussion at the Hearn Field Committee meeting last week it was generally agreed that there was currently no need to restrict the number of bookings (beyond those agreed for the limit on weddings and Reach Outdoors camps). We would like to feel that local residents should have priority over those from further afield and the two-tier system of charges will remain in place to this end.

With the increase in bookings however, it is important that we are able to set up a clearer and manageable system for bookings and payment. The Clerk has agreed to take responsibility for forms and BACS payments and a sub group of the committee will meet shortly to set up a new form and terms and conditions of hire. This work will be in addition to the clerks already established responsibilities and we feel that it is right that she should be paid for this.

Theatre on the field

The Illyria outdoor theatre company performed to a (distanced) audience 210 on Saturday 10 July. It was a very enjoyable event and raised over £800 for Hearn Field funds.

The next theatre event is Friday 27 August - A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Disabled toilet access

There was an incident recently in which the toilet was left unlocked by a member of the public who knew the lock combination. The light inside was damaged and we are fortunate that this did not result in a fire. Cllr Boarer has now changed the combination so that the toilet is currently locked except for events. We would like some direction/ guidance from the Parish Council as to how they would like us to proceed with this. We must be aware that if we want to provide toilet facility on the field this will require daily monitoring, cleaning and supervision which we cannot ask volunteers to carry out.

The Parish Council discussed the advantages and disadvantages of opening the toilet for public use and it was agreed that further research was required. In the meantime, Cllr Hussey agreed to look into the cost of hiring a portaloos.

Water bill

We are grateful to Cllr Pattinson who has read the meter daily since the last meeting. His findings have been shared and it seems that there is no excessive usage currently and no indication of a leak. However, the meter is extremely old (dating from when this was agricultural land) and it may be that South West water needs to inspect and replace it. It is possible to turn off the outside tap currently used mainly by dog walkers. (This was installed initially for the outside sink for Reach Outdoors and has an isolation tap in the changing room toilet).

The clerk advised that she had contacted South West Water about replacing the meter. The Parish Council would need to complete a form to apply for a meter accuracy test. However, it states that if the meter is found to be working correctly, there will be a charge.

After discussion, it was agreed to ask Cllr Pattinson to continue monitoring the usage by regularly reading the meter. Cllr Boarer also offered to look into replacing the outside tap with a push button tap to prevent someone from leaving the tap running. It was also suggested that water butts could be used to collect rainwater for watering the wildflower area.

- 10.2 Members noted the Hearn Field Committee's desire to streamline the bookings system and approved additional hours for the clerk to manage Hearn Field bookings and other Hearn Field administration.

210721.11 CAR PARK

Cllr Boarer advised that he was still trying to source quotations for the resurfacing of the car park entrance. He had received two prices so far. A third contractor was suggested and Cllr Boarer will endeavour to seek a further quotation. All quotations to be received in writing together with details of contractors' guarantees.

Members discussed the practicalities of resurfacing the car park as it would prevent access to the parking for Westborough Court for approximately one day. Arrangements would therefore need to be made. Cllr Hosking suggested carrying out a Land Registry search to establish rights of way over the land.

210721.12 DEVON LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP

Members received a copy of the first edition of the Parish and Town Council Wildlife Network – Devon Local Nature Partnership newsletter. It was agreed that the Parish Council should sign up to receive subsequent newsletters.

210721.13 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Bunce reported that he and Cllr Humble had met with DCC's PROW Officer, Johnathan Rowlands, on 5 July on Gulmswell Lane. They discussed the removal of wood, trees and boulders from the lane to allow access and they have asked DCC to progress this. Cllr Bunce informed members that he will be contacting Western Power to find out when they will next need access to the land so they can give Johnathan Rowlands a date to work to. He reported that they had also looked at the other footpaths. The path from Wren Cottage to St Marychurch Road was overgrown and Cllr Bunce advised that he had trimmed and cleared it. The other issue is between Higher Netherton and Lower Netherton as land is being sold. Currently the Mare and Foal Sanctuary clear the footpath as a gesture of goodwill but once the land is sold responsibility will return to DCC/P3.

210721.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None

210721.15 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.

210721.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 1 September 2021 at 7.30pm. The venue is likely to be the Village Hall (to be confirmed).

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Chairman

County & District Councillor's Report 21st July – HWC

Reacting to the Prime Minister's statement, Steve Brown, Director of Public Health Devon reiterated a message of caution. "The government's intention is to no longer make it necessary by law to follow restrictions that include the wearing of face coverings and social distancing. Instead, it will be down to us all to be personally responsible for our behaviours and actions.

"I am pleased to hear clarification from our Prime Minister that the wearing of face coverings in crowded places – which would include public transport and any indoor space where there are other people – is still recommended, despite it no longer being a legal requirement."

Case numbers in Devon are rising sharply, mostly in the younger age groups. Thankfully, that's not reflected yet in the number of coronavirus-related hospitalisations or deaths in the county, but those numbers are also rising.

Coronavirus is airborne, and it spreads more easily when people are close to one another. So try to keep your distance from others when in public spaces. Continue to wear face coverings when indoors in public places where there are other people. That includes public transport, and it may include shops and other indoor premises.

Wash your hands properly and regularly. Good hand hygiene is especially important as a protector against viruses.

Try to arrange to meet friends outside rather than indoors as the risk of catching or spreading coronavirus is greatly reduced outside. But if you're indoors, please make sure that there's plenty of fresh air. Please look out for each other. Know who may be struggling and support them. If in the company of someone who is uncomfortable with others not wearing face coverings for example, wear your face covering.

School communities across Devon completed over 23,000 active journeys during this year's Sustrans Big Pedal, the UK's largest walking, wheeling, cycling and scooting to school challenge.

During the competition, which took place between 19-30 April, Devon school children were physically active – walking, cycling, wheeling and scooting to school, and completing physical activities – for a total of nearly 240,000 minutes.

Data released by Sport England suggests there was a decline in the physical activity levels of children due to the pandemic, with almost a third of children engaging in less than 30 minutes of daily physical activity in the 2019 – 2020 academic year. If the children taking active journeys during Sustrans Big Pedal had travelled to school by car instead, this could have created 14 tonnes of CO₂ and 27kg of NO_x. That's enough to fill over 510,000 party balloons with harmful CO₂ emissions.

The devastation inflicted on future generations and the environment if we don't act to reduce carbon emissions now, was laid bare at Devon's Climate Assembly by one of the UK's top climate scientists.

Professor Richard Betts MBE, of the Met Office and Exeter University, is a Lead Author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and led the Technical Report for the UK's 3rd Climate Change Risk Assessment.

He gave a 'sobering' analysis on what would happen if countries didn't achieve net-zero by the middle of this century – and global warming continued unchecked. The presentation was part of the first weekend of the Devon Citizens Assembly – a vital part of the Devon Carbon Plan process.

A new study has concluded that community-owned energy schemes have significant environmental benefits and can save local communities money. The Report was commissioned by Devon County

Council (DCC) and the South West Energy Partnership, part of the European Local Energy Assistance programme.

The report concluded that for a 30MWp solar farm the additional benefits would generate an additional £15.9m in economic value to the Devon economy. The initial fund created by the group is then able access further funding to invest in community projects, generating additional value. Evidence shows that investing in these community projects generates more in benefits than the cost of the investment.

As this money is spent in the local economy it will generate further rounds of economic activity, supporting additional jobs.

From solar PV to hydro projects, Devon has approximately 25 community energy schemes, more than any other county in England – and the majority of these got off the ground following support by Devon County Council. The report was completed by CAG Consultants and is based on Treasury Green Book compliant methodology to determine the socio-economic benefits.

The latest progress report on Devon County Council's (DCC) Devon Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2021-2022 has been published. The plan has been drawn up in partnership with the police, health and mental health providers, the voluntary and community sectors, Network Rail, Highways England, The Samaritans, the Devon Prisons Service and Exeter University.

Suicide Is a rare event, but when it does occur it can have a devastating impact upon families, friends, neighbours, colleagues, and, therefore, suicide prevention and support for those bereaved by suicide is a priority for Public Health.

While the latest data for 2020 does not show any significant rise in suicides in Devon, the rate has been rising since 2018, in line with the national trend. And, as a result of the pandemic, there has also been an increase in common mental health problems in the county, often triggered by the loss of a loved one, lockdowns, losing a job or money worries.

In response to this in 2020/2021, 400 people from 60 agencies across Devon have received training in 'Understanding Grief', 'Suicide awareness' and 'Suicide Bereavement'.

The Suicide Bereavement Service has been commissioned, which will include the Devon STP area of Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay, a further £705,000 (over three years) has also been awarded by NHS England to develop a suicide prevention programme across the area.

Other projects include the production of an interactive map to help identify high frequency locations, and an online hub is being developed which will provide information, resources, and information for bereaved families on where to get support. This is because being bereaved by suicide can increase the risk of a person ending their own life.

Alistair Dewhirst

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