

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Combeinteignhead on 2 March 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Humble (Chair), Boarer, Brampton, Cooper-Smith, Evans, Hussey and Pattinson

Also present: County Cllr Dewhurst and two members of the public

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

020322.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr Bunce
- District Cllr Haines
- County Cllr Bradford

020322.02 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 declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

020322.03 OPEN FORUM

A member of the public wished to raise three items:

- She had been unable to view the minutes of the previous meeting on the website. The clerk advised that having been on holiday, these hadn't been uploaded but this would be done immediately after the meeting once they had been approved this evening.
- They wished to clarify what the Parish Council's complaints procedure is. The clerk advised that the Parish Council had not adopted a procedure but suggested that they wrote in the first instance to the clerk and/or the Chair.
- They were interested to hear about any work which has been done around climate change in the parish. The Chairman advised that a brief update will be given at item 6.

020322.04 POLICE REPORT

4.1 Crime Report

There was no crime report submitted but Cllr Hussey advised that PC Orchard has been on leave.

4.2 Councillor Advocate Scheme:

Cllr Hussey reported that he has received information about a project focusing on wildlife persecution. The project is bringing the persecution of bats and badgers to Parish Councils' attention in relation to planning applications.

He advised that there was limited attendance at the last PACT meeting. He has spoken to clerk and suggested that he moves the meetings to the Village Hall. There was a discussion about whether the Parish Council and/or the Village Hall would support meetings in the Village Hall by contributing to the cost of the hall hire. The Chair advised that in the past, there has never been a charge. Cllr

Hussey suggested that the Parish Council might work together with the police as a way of engaging with the parish. A general discussion followed about possible formats and how such meetings could be promoted.

020322.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

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

He also advised that PC Orchard has arranged a meeting to discuss green laning on 24 March at 7pm in Stokeinteignhead Village Hall.

020322.06 DELEGATE REPORTS

6.1 Climate – Cllr Hussey informed members that on 23 March, Western Power Distribution has a net zero communities forum which he will attend. Cllr Evans offered to promote this on the website. Cllr Evans also suggested that the Parish Council starts building content about climate change on the website which could be signposted from Facebook. Cllr Hussey spoke generally about the role of ACT and their recent appeal to communities to reduce their carbon footprint. They also now have funding for an overall co-ordinator.

When looking across the District, the Strand Centre, Dawlish is hosting a Sustainable Dawlish event on 12 March, 10am-4pm.

Members also discussed the Annual Parish Meeting as a forum to generate interest and share ideas about how to address climate change in the community and how best the Parish Council can engage more with ACT and disseminate information in the community.

Cllr Cooper-Smith offered to support Cllr Evans with social media and it was agreed that they would work with Cllr Hussey to share information digitally.

County Cllr Dewhirst made reference to the Devon Climate Emergency website and the emerging carbon plan which is full of practical information such as insulating houses. Secondly, TDC are working very closely with ACT; the portfolio holder for Climate Change is also a member of ACT and they would be very supportive of the Parish Council. TWIG (Teign Wildfide Interest Group) may also be able to help.

020322.07 MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2022 and authorised the Chair to sign them as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

The Chair highlighted two matters arising from the minutes:

- She suggested that the noticeboards needed the Parish Council's logo and contact details to make it easy for people to access information. Other local information might also be included.
- Jubilee celebrations – to be discussed under the Hearn Field item.

020322.08 PLANNING

8.1 New applications/appeals/notifications

8.1.1 21/02706/FUL – 2 Albert Cottages, Combeinteignhead
Erection of dwelling

Members had no objections to this application.

8.2 Decisions

8.2.1 22/00149/AGR – Land at Ngr 289065 70610, Land to North of Home Farm, Netherton
Agricultural feed stores

Members noted that TDC has confirmed that prior approval is not required to carry out this development.

- 8.3 It was reported that local residents have asked whether enforcement action is now being taken at Higher Osier Court following refusal of the planning application. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the Enforcement Officer for an update.
- 8.4 Concern was raised about the untidiness of the land in front of Teignview Cottage. It was agreed to contact the Enforcement Officer and ask that he looks at the site in relation to the Conservation Area and the planning conditions.

020322.09 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

9.1 Expenditure

The following payments were approved:

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (Feb)	£35.71
DD	Clerk	Salary (Feb)	£363.77
DD	South West Water	Supply to Hearn Field	£33.65
DD	T Boarer	Petrol and chainsaw oil (cutting up fallen tree in Hearn Field)	£25.72
DD	DALC	Councillor training	£54
DD	Stoke-Coombe Magazine	Hearn Field advert	£65

9.2 Income

Members noted income received (29 January – 24 February 2022):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
February	Various	Hearn Field events & bookings	£48
February	Lloyds	Interest	£0.10

9.3 Bank Balances at 24 February 2022

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£15,939.01	£12,463.96	£4,327.23	£32,730.20

020322.10 HEARN FIELD

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

Storm damage to the tree at the bottom corner of the field

Sadly, one of the pair of trees at the Combe Cellars entrance was felled by storm Eunice during Friday 18th March. We immediately made the area safe. Cllr Boarer has been working with help during this week to cut up the larger more awkward branches. There remains the standing trunk, which is safe and can remain, and a number of leaning branches which are currently unstable and will be made safe in the next week. The area has been roped off and a sign erected instructing walkers to stay clear of it. Next weekend a group of volunteers will gather to carry this work forward by beginning to plan/construct an area using the larger branches for sitting and as a climbing/play space for children.

We are extremely grateful to Cllr Boarer who volunteered to carry out this skilled work which would otherwise have cost the PC a great deal of money. We have asked him to invoice the PC at least for fuel and maintenance of his chainsaw.

We shall need to fund the processing of the greenery and small branches into chippings to put below the remaining tree. This has been arranged.

Wood shed Coffee bar

This continues to run very well and is proving to be a very pleasant meeting place for the parish. The community Police surgery there was very successful.

Car Park

We understand that Cllr Boarer is seeking quotes for this repair work.

Cllr Boarer advised that he had obtained an estimate for digging out the entrance and concreting it. It would be approximately £3000 to carry out the work. Members agreed for the work to go ahead provided the total cost does not exceed £3500.

Driveway

The debris along the edge of the tarmacked driveway has been cleared by a volunteer.

Jubilee

We await information from the PC as to the way forward.

Members discussed forming a community group to include Hearn Field, the Village Hall and the Parish Council. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the Hearn Field Committee meeting next week. Cllr Brampton would also raise it at the next Village Hall Committee meeting on Monday. It was acknowledged that there were probably of volunteers but it also required a person to pull it all together.

The Chair shared some information from a company who provides Jubilee mugs and asked whether the Parish Council wished to purchase these for members of the community. It was agreed that other options ought to be considered as well.

Booking from Stoke School

Whilst we have agreed that we are currently only taking bookings from residents of the parish we would like to feel that this would include Stokeinteignhead Primary school as most of our village children go there. We would like the PC to approve an ongoing arrangement which allows for Stoke School to use the field as and when they may request it. This was agreed.

Hearn Field Committee

We have been told that Sue Duggleby and Ann Forward intend to stand down at the AGM. We are grateful that they will continue to help with events. We are fortunate to have two volunteers who would like to join the committee, Martin Wakefield whose wife Sue is running the coffee shop and Annie Drew who is part of Devon Open studios . Both have been active supporters already and their skills will be welcomed.

Cllr Evans left the meeting at 8.48pm.

020322.11 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

No footpaths issues.

Members received two notifications about temporary traffic affecting the parish (Arch Brook Bridge to Teignharvey and Cross Park to Coombe Cottage). It was agreed to put these up on the noticeboards.

020322.12 CORRESPONDENCE

None

020322.13 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

None

020322.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 6 April 2022 at 7.30pm in Combeinteignhead Village Hall.

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Chair

County Councillor's Report 2nd March – HWC

In the light of the Prime Minister's announcement about the end of the pandemic, Devon's Director of Public Health has made the following announcement:

"What is clear is that it is vital that people continue to look out for each other, and do all they can to reduce risk, especially to those who are more vulnerable. That means being respectful of other people's concerns and personal situations. **The public health advice is that anyone who tests positive for coronavirus, or who shows symptoms of having it, including a high temperature or cough, should stay at home and avoid contact with others. The same can be said for any other infectious illness, such as flu, or vomiting and diarrhoea.** We need to get to a place whereby it's commonly accepted that when someone's not well and there's risk of spreading that virus, that they stay home to reduce the risk of transmission to others."

Trading Standards is urging householders, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, to be on their guard for rogue traders who might try to cash in on the damage caused by recent storms.

Heart of the South West Trading Standards Service is urging householders to always reject offers of goods and services from cold callers, which could include people claiming to be tree surgeons or roofers, and other tradespeople who call or knock on the door uninvited. There is concern that desperate householders may drop their guard and be duped by unscrupulous traders.

Trading Standards' advice:

- If damage is weather-related, speak to your insurance company first before agreeing to have work done. The company is likely to have a list of approved traders and may well want to instruct them to undertake any necessary repairs
 - Do not agree to have work done by anyone who cold calls
 - Ask friends and family for recommendations.
 - Try to get at least three quotes for work
 - Make sure you know the trader's name and address. If things go wrong, it is usually easier to arrange a repair or refund with a local trader.

Residents can report rogue traders or get advice from the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

'Let's Talk Teenagers' is a three-part webinar for parents and carers to help them understand and support their teenagers and pre-teens to navigate the challenges they might face as they grow up in today's world. The sessions cover different subject areas starting with communities and family life (March 8) and followed by respectful relationships (March 15) and building stronger families (March 22), all at 7pm.

It's the result of a Devon partnership of professionals and local networks that work together to keep children and young people safe, support parents who are struggling and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.

The course is delivered by parenting experts Emma Stephens and Chloe Hosegrove from the Safety and Resilience Consultancy. The 'Let's Talk Teenagers' project is part funded by the Safer Devon Partnership in partnership with the South Devon Community Safety Partnership, the Office of the Police and Crime

Commissioner, and Devon County Council, and Teignbridge Council, and is open to parents and carers from across Devon.

The 90 minutes sessions will be delivered on Teams, and a free booklet will accompany the webinar, which will be sent out to delegates after the event. Find out more or sign up for the webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lets-talk-teenagers-tickets-266793405257>.

Devon County Council approved its lowest council tax rise for seven years – this is because councils are only allowed to increase their budget by 2.99%. In previous years they have been able to increase by up to 3% on top of this for social care- however that was spread over three years but could be used in one go – and so they did.

It means council taxpayers in Devon will be asked for £1,556.46 for a Band D property to help fund vital services for the most vulnerable children and adults and our highway network.

The Conservative budget was approved at last Thursday's full council meeting by 35 votes to 12 with seven abstentions. An alternative Liberal Democrat budget was defeated by 42 votes to 12.

But there will still be spending increases of over 10 per cent on both children's services and adult services and health to keep up with a rocketing rise in demand. These increases mask some worrying figures – staffing levels in the Adult and children's services will rise by 498 to 3, 101. We will be spending not quite £1 million extra on these staff to tell people that we are cutting £3.5 million in care and support for older people, £3 million in support for people with learning difficulties and £1.4 million to support people to live independently at home.

When it comes to Highways we are cutting £250k from retaining walls and bridges, £700k from safety work, £120k from network management, £300k from drainage maintenance and £100 from cyclic cleaning (gullies) – this is on top of inflation pressures of £1.56 million. Something I feel terrible about - we are planning to increase waste to landfill by 4,750 tonnes and reducing our recycled waste by 10,000 tonnes at a time when we should be decreasing the former and upping the latter.

Finally, we are cutting £120k from our Locality budgets, £462k for grant funding to communities and £329k for community grants. I guess the one bright spot is that our Libraries are planning to purchase 200,000 children's books

The Council will take £22.9 million from emergency reserves and there will be cuts of £30 million. This is all without the Children's High Needs Block budget which is expected to reach a staggering deficit of £110 million by the end of next year. All in all, a disaster for our County – it did not have to be this way.

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