

Hacombe-with-Combe Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

19 May 2022

Present: Parish Councillors Humble (Chair), Boarer, Brampton, Bulleid, Bunce, Evans, Hussey & Pattinson

In attendance: County Cllr Dewhurst

Speaker: District Cllr Jackie Hook (TDC Member for Climate Change, Coastal Protection and Flooding)

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

Members of the Public: 14

APM190516.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Parish Councillor Relf
- Parish Councillor Cooper-Smith
- Elizabeth Deane (Hearn Field Committee Chairman)

APM190516.02 CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Cllr Humble gave a verbal report as follows:

Meetings

She informed the meeting that she had been Chair of the Parish Council for a year and has just been re-elected. Cllr Boarer is Vice Chair.

The Parish Council returned to face to face meetings in the main hall of the Village Hall where there is plenty of space for the public. They are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except August). There is an open forum at the start of each meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

The Parish Council now has a full complement of Parish Councillors in all wards (6 x Rural, 2 x Urban, 2 x Hawthorne).

It's main responsibilities are to:

- Manage the annual precept (local tax) and other monies in the interests of parishioners and the local area
- Look after and run the Hearn Field and Pavilion
- Look after the public car park in Combeinteignhead
- Review / comment to Teignbridge on local Planning matters
- Manage Public Rights of Way in partnership with Devon County Council and local landowners
- Look after all trees on parish land to ensure safety
- Liaise with Devon County Council, including on Highways issues
- Liaise with the Village Hall Committee on community events
- Have an Emergency Plan just in case. Maintain the defibrillator located outside the Wild Goose Inn
- Work with Devon Constabulary Community Police

The Parish Council has increased the hours of the parish clerk to give more support to the Hearn Field Committee and reflect an increased workload.

Hearn Field

A large part of what the Parish Council does involves managing Hearn Field which is a public open space. The Parish Council has welcomed new members of the Hearn Field Committee and it is very grateful of the support it receives from its many volunteers who it relies on to organise and manage events.

The space is supported by a sea wall and the Parish Council is responsible for its ongoing repair. The entrance to the Hearn Field car park has also been resurfaced.

The Woodshed Coffee Bar has opened on Hearn Field and is a great success.

The tree damaged by the storm has been turned into a natural climbing frame and seat.

Last year saw the return of the November 5th Bonfire and Firework display which went with a bang. It is now an all-ticket event and was sold out this year.

We have seen the return of live theatre performances to Hearn Field. The next two, Peter Pan and Midsummer Night's Dream, are being performed by Illyria Theatre.

The Platinum Picnic preparation is under way and will take place on 3rd June.

Planning

Teignbridge District Council is the decision-making authority on planning applications. The Parish Council, however, is invited to and has commented on planning applications where needed. It has also responded to Teignbridge District Council's consultation on the revised Local Plan.

Car Park

The Parish Council is responsible for the village car park. In the last year, the Parish Council has spent some money to tidy it up. New signage has been erected and the entrance has been resurfaced. Further work is planned to increase and maximise parking spaces.

Village Hall

This is run by a charity (not the Parish Council) and is a very important part of the community. The Parish Council has supported the Village Hall with a small grant and volunteering. Events such as the recent Greek Night build our community. The Coombe Breakfast runs monthly and volunteers are needed. The Committee is also redecorating the hall this weekend so if you can help speak to Cllr Stuart Brampton, who is also a member of the Village Hall Committee.

Liaison

The PACT Liaison meetings with Devon Rural Police Officers have been re-established. The dates are published on the noticeboards.

Parish Council meetings are well supported by Cllr Alistair Dewhirst (DCC) and Cllr Mike Haines (TDC).

FLICS (Forging Links in Combeinteignhead and Stokeinteignhead) is a monthly film club run in both Combeinteignhead and Stokeinteignhead and builds relationships between our communities.

Ongoing issues

Planning related: The Parish Council continues to work with Teignbridge Planning and Enforcement Officers regarding planning matters in Buckland Barton, Combeinteignhead village conservation area and locations in open countryside to preserve the quality of life in our unique area.

Improved communication is also a focus including better use of social-media.

The Parish Council also intends to focus on the Climate Emergency and look at how it can respond. This will also include the environment and wildlife. It also wishes to look at how it can help and support individuals and groups to make a difference. The Parish Council has invited Teignbridge District Councillor Jackie Hook to share some ideas about how the Parish Council and the community can respond positively.

APM190522.03

SPEAKER – CLLR JACKIE HOOK

Cllr Hook informed the meeting that she had been TDC's Member for Climate Change, Coastal Protection and Flooding since May 2019. There is a role for everyone in the community to help tackle climate change. She emphasised that if you just make a start, however small, other things will follow and grow.

There are a number of immediate sources of information:

- Friends of the Earth
- Local Government Association
- ACT (Action on Climate in Teignbridge)

Parish Councils can be an inspiration; they can look at what they have themselves and do something about their own assets. The Parish Council should do what it can within its powers.

She also recommended networking and communicating within the community and with other communities as well.

The Parish Council can sign up to Devon Carbon Plan at devonclimateemergency.org.uk. Details of other projects across Devon can be found which might inspire something which can be done in this community.

Some other ideas include:

- Repair Shop
- Community Fridge
- Community Video – to introduce what you are going to do.
- Car sharing
- Allotments and community orchards
- Promoting tree planting and food production in gardens
- Car park – EV chargers
- Sustainable procurement policy
- Managing land – increasing biodiversity and reducing carbon footprint
- Emergency Action Plan
- Neighbourhood Plan – would enable the community to put an extra level of policies in when TDC considers planning applications.
- Undertake and energy audit of all buildings (insulation, solar panels etc)
- Community Bus
- Manage grass verges – wildflowers, biodiversity etc
- Nominate a wildlife warden

Every time you make a decision, ask yourselves whether you have thought about carbon emissions.

The Parish Council should comment and challenge TDC's Local Plan.

When commenting on planning applications, always consider policies S7 and EN3. Every application should be conforming to these policies.

Lobby where you can and take part in all consultations.

Stay positive and act positive. Concentrate on the opportunities that there are.

APM190522.04 OPEN FORUM AND QUESTIONS

Cllr Hussey thanked Cllr Hook for her positive suggestions and guidance and hoped those present at the meeting and other people in the parish might consider being part of a group who can, with the support of ACT, take these ideas forward.

A question was asked about Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas and the planning restrictions that are placed on the development of these buildings to improve energy efficiency. Cllr Hook advised that she has raised this herself with TDC Planners. Whilst it was acknowledged that there needs to be a balance between conservation/heritage and climate, it was the consensus of the meeting that more should be done to make it easier for Listed Buildings and those within Conservation Areas to improve their energy efficiency.

APM190522.05 CLOSE

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and invited them to continue to share ideas over a drink.

Signed
Chair