

# Hacombe-with-Combe Parish Council

[www.haccombewithcombe.co.uk](http://www.haccombewithcombe.co.uk)

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Combeinteignhead on 7 December 2022 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors Humble (Chair), Boarer, Brampton, Bulleid, Hussey and Pattinson

**Also present:** County Cllr Dewhirst and one member of the public

**Clerk:** Suzanna Hughes

### **071222.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- Cllr Bulleid
- Cllr Relf
- Cllr Cooper-Smith
- District Cllr Haines
- County Cllr Bradford
- PC Orchard & PCSO Bunce

### **071222.02 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.

Cllr Brampton declared an interest in item 10.

### **071222.03 OPEN FORUM**

Funds have been received from British Heart Foundation and Teignbridge towards the cost of purchasing a defibrillator for Hacombe; clarity was sought about how to proceed with the application for funds from the County Council. It was confirmed that County Cllr Dewhirst would send a link to the application form to the community group so that an application can be made direct to the County Council by the group (rather than through the Parish Council) now that they have a bank account and constitution.

### **071222.04 POLICE REPORT**

- 4.1 Crime Report:  
PC Orchard advised that he was not in a position to provide a regular monthly crime report at the moment as the force is transitioning to a new IT system. He did, however, circulate a Community Speedwatch report and monthly gazette.
- 4.2 Councillor Advocate Scheme:  
Cllr Hussey advised that at the last PACT meeting advice was received about security for the Pavilion. The next PACT meeting is on 9 December at 1pm. He also advised that he was unable to attend the Councillor Advocate meeting at the end of November.

### **071222.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

County Cllr Dewhirst gave a report (copy attached).

### **071222.06 DELEGATE REPORTS**

Cllr Hussey advised that he and Cllr Bulleid had both attended some of the sessions over the two-day Devon Community Resilience Forum event. He has information from two of the sessions, fundraising and flood resilience, and would be happy to share this with members.

## 071222.07 MINUTES

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

## 071222.08 FINANCE

### 8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (Nov)	£70.38
DD	Clerk	Salary (Nov)	£585.37
Online	A&S Robinson	Reimbursement for drinks purchased for bonfire bar	£509.89
Online	JRH Farming Ltd	Hedge trimming – Hearn Field	£180
Online	R Hussey	Rubble bags	£8.49

### 8.2 Income

Members noted income (29 October – 2 December 2022):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
Nov	Lloyds	Interest	£1.33
Nov	Woodshed Coffee	Hearn Field	£230
Nov	Way Ahead	Bonfire ticket sales	£2244
Nov	Reynolds	Bonfire glow toys	£69.04
Nov	Cake Fairy	Bonfire donation	£20
Nov	Sum Up	Bonfire bar	£524.41
Nov	R Vaulter	Donation	£393.37

### 8.3 Bank Balances at 2 December 2022

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£19,973.54	£12,467.29	£5,828.74	£38,269.57

8.4 Members noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on the new rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2022. Clerk's salary will be backdated accordingly.

8.5 Members considered a draft budget for 2023/24. Final agreement on the budget and precept request will be made in January's meeting.

## 071222.09 PLANNING

### 9.1 New applications/appeals/notifications

None

### 9.2 Decisions

9.2.1 22/01759/VAR – Tideland's House, Shaldon Road, Combeinteignhead  
Variation of condition 2 on planning permission 22/00563/HOU (two storey rear extension) to amend design

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional permission to vary planning condition 2, as proposed.

### 9.3 Update on enforcement matters, including:

- Teignview Cottage  
There was no further update. It was agreed to chase the Enforcement Officer.
- Lower Osier Court  
There was no further update. It was agreed to chase the Enforcement Officer.
- Higher Osier Court  
It was noted that part of the barn has now been enclosed as per the planning conditions but it was not yet known whether the soundproofing was adequate enough. However, it was noted that a resident has written direct to TDC about noise concerns and removal of hedgerow. It was also noted that a pipe has

been installed directing water onto the lane. It was agreed to monitor this and report to the relevant authority should the arrangement seem permanent.

- Little Park

The clerk advised that having written to the Enforcement Officer, he confirmed that he is aware of the matter raised in November's meeting. In this instance it is noted that the Certificate of Lawfulness (reference 19/00676/ENF) does allow for the stationing of one caravan on the land. Following contact with the owner it appears that they are replacing the caravan with another structure that is being built on the land. Whilst it is much bigger, providing it complies with the definition of a caravan, once completed, then no planning permission is required providing it is only used ancillary to the permitted use of the land. He is currently seeking further details to clarify whether it does comply with the definition of a caravan.

- 9.4 Members received and considered correspondence from Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council regarding its concerns about the planning and enforcement process.

County Cllr Dewhirst advised that TDC's Overview and Scrutiny are preparing a report on the effectiveness and public perception of the planning enforcement functions. In his view, the report makes some very good suggestions.

After a discussion, it was agreed to write to Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council expressing an understanding of their concerns and empathising with the points they have raised. However, the Parish Council agreed that it should wait to see the outcome of the report referred to by Cllr Dewhirst before suggesting any further action.

#### **071222.10 CAR PARK**

Members received a request from a resident to trim the tree at the rear of the container. It was agreed that Cllr Brampton would contact Southern Tree Services for advice and a quote.

#### **071222.11 HEARN FIELD**

- 11.1 Cllr Hussey circulated a report as follows:

##### Bonfire Night

A wonderful night with many favourable comments received from the public. Many thanks to Julia, the team leaders and all the volunteers who made this happen. A profit of about £735 was realised which is slightly up on last year (£602).

##### Theatre and Events

Outdoor theatre bookings in the calendar for 2023: "Robin Hood" 20th May, "Twelfth Night" 21st June and "Pride and Prejudice" 8th July. The theatre and events group met in November to thrash out administrative and contract details for 2023 theatre bookings, and they're now liaising with the theatre groups in these matters. Details will be presented to the next HF Committee. Thoughts and investigations have begun into further activities for 2023 and theatre groups for the 2024 season. This for further discussion at the next HF Committee meeting in January.

##### Woodshed Café

The cafe continues to be an asset to the community as a venue to meet with friends and with the local policing team usually every first Friday of the month at 11am. The Parish has received a payment of £230 from the Cafe for the use of the facility in November.

##### Pavilion repairs and maintenance

Following earlier emergency repairs to the Pavilion roof Martin reported that by the second week of November dampness in the toilet walls had dropped by 10%. The water cylinder thermostat is now adjusted so water temperature at the cylinder and at taps is within legionella guidelines. A powder fire extinguisher is now fitted in the Woodshed, a disabled grab rail in the toilet and trip hazards are highlighted in yellow.

#### Pavilion security

Preliminary discussions with PC Orchard suggest the best course of action is to have security contractors view the site. As well as quoting to provide and instal they'll also advise on the best positioning of equipment. We'll then be able to decide whether to use a contractor or alternatively fit equipment ourselves.

#### Mower shed roof

Two quotes were received for the replacement of the mower shed roof with felt (£1250 and £750). A third quote was submitted by Cllr Boarer for a tin roof which would be more durable (£1000). After a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Evans that the Parish Council accepts the quotation from Cllr Boarer for a tin roof as this would be more hard-wearing and would last longer. This was agreed by all.

*(NB. Cllr Boarer declared an interest in this item and abstained from voting).*

#### Grounds & Gardens

The gardening team met in November to discuss tasks and teams.

The HF Committee Chairman met with one of our neighbours to discuss issues of communication specifically around hedge trimming in the autumn. It was also requested that the HF Committee agendas and minutes are published online. A preliminary request to install a pedestrian gate between our properties was also received and referred to this meeting (Refer agenda item 11.2).

- 11.2 To receive a request from a resident to install a pedestrian gate into their property from the NE corner of Hearn Field

After discussion, members agreed to refuse a request from a resident to install a pedestrian gate into their property from the NE corner of Hearn Field on the following grounds:

- Hearn Field was bequeathed to the Parish Council in 1983; it has an enduring responsibility to maintain the integrity of Hearn Field as a public open space for the enjoyment of the parishioners of Haccombe-with-Combe.
- The existing access from a private property was inherited by the Parish Council when the field was bequeathed; the Parish Council itself has never actually granted any direct access from a private property on to the field.
- Over the years the Parish Council has received other informal requests for direct access which have been refused. Granting access would create a precedent making it very difficult to refuse future requests.
- There is already a public access point from the field to land known as Marshland Gardens. This is well-maintained and gives adequate access without the need to create a further access point.

It was also noted that, at any time, access to the car park can also be restricted and the gates locked.

#### **071222.12 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Cllr Hussey advised that the group have met since the last Parish Council meeting. He also reported that three of the group have completed the Carbon Cutters training programme. He has also been looking further into the Power Allotments scheme and potential sites in the parish. He has identified four potential parcels of land on Ridge Road which are sufficiently south facing, are not visible from the estuary, are near power cables and is steep land. Once parcels of land have been identified, Devon County Council will prioritise the sites. If anyone knows of any other suitable land, they can be added to the map.

#### **071222.13 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

No report.

#### **071222.14 CORRESPONDENCE**

Members discussed whether it should become involved in the organisation of further defibrillator training as suggested by the defibrillator group in Haccombe. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would be happy to help publicise any training which is organised.

**071222.15 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

**071222.16 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA, PARISH MAGAZINE, NOTICE BOARDS ETC**

None

**071222.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 4 January 2022 at 7.30pm in Combeinteignhead Village Hall.

.....  
Chair

## County Councillor's Report 7<sup>th</sup> December – HWC

Donna Manson was appointed last week to the post of Devon's new Chief Executive. She has been Chief Executive of Scotland's largest rural authority, The Highland Council, since 2018, where she led the authority in developing an ambitious, sustainable, and connected vision for Highland during a time of immense change and challenge.

The Council reported that 'Donna has a track record of improvement, best value and successful budget delivery, rebuilding substantial reserves and resilience within The Highland Council, while implementing significant investment projects.'

Her background is in Education and Children's Services in three Scottish councils, having started her career in teaching.

Her appointment, while agreed by a panel of senior officers, councillors and key stakeholders, must first be ratified at Devon County Council meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Donna is expected to join Devon in February. Jan Spicer, our interim Chief Executive of the Council will remain in post until that time.

With temperatures set to drop this week, Devon's highways teams say they're prepared to face whatever the elements throw at the county's roads. Depots across the county are fully stocked with 24,000 tonnes of salt and the upgrade of the winter fleet has continued, with eight of its 37 frontline gritters replaced with newer models this year.

These gritters are kitted out with touchscreen controls to adjust the plough attachments, enabling drivers to pull over and make adjustments without leaving their cab. To ensure resilience of staffing numbers, contractor Milestone Infrastructure is ensuring that three gritter drivers per route are on standby throughout the season.

Devon's fleet of gritters run on sustainably sourced Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), which is a waste product from the food industry. The fuel produces 90% less CO<sub>2</sub> than regular diesel which will help meet Devon County Council's net zero targets by 2030.

The well-trained gritter drivers frequently work during the night, often in the worst of conditions when the public are advised to stay at home. Their courage and commitment to treat Devon roads is commendable. People across Devon are asked to support the work of our gritter drivers by ensuring cars are parked considerately in villages and towns to ensure the gritting vehicles can negotiate the gritting routes, helping us to keep them safer on the roads in bad weather.

Last winter, around 8,300 tonnes of salt were used on Devon's roads. That was below the average winter figure of around 13,000 tonnes of salt. Devon's roads are monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by staff at Devon's Network Operations Control Centre in Sowton, Exeter.

More than 3,500 grit bins are located across Devon to support community self-help on roads which are not on the gritting network. These supplies must only be used on the public highway. Empty grit bins can be reported via our "Report It" webpages.

More information and advice is available on the winter travel webpages or for updates on Twitter follow @DevonAlert

Finally, Christmas is a time that many people look forward to – a chance to catch up with friends and family and indulge a little in the things that make us feel good. But it can be an expensive time of year, and this year perhaps more so than in recent times.

So, Recycle Devon has produced an 'advent calendar', and each day is sharing a different idea or tip on how to keep costs down this Christmas. They're publishing it on the Recycle Devon Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts.

On top of our usual monthly spending, it's estimated that a typical household in the UK will spend almost £1,130 extra this December. This is based on an average spend of £621 on presents and £509 on decorations, food and other Christmas items.

We all deserve a joyful Christmas, but do we really need to spend this much?

Almost a third of us admit to throwing away more food over the festive period than at any other time, with 11% of us buying food, that then goes off and is thrown away before Christmas Day.

Making a few small changes such as freezing food, checking use by dates and portion planning can lead to big savings while still enjoying festive food.

Do you buy a new Christmas jumper every year? One in three people aged 35 or under do, leading to a whopping 65 million Christmas jumpers stashed in our wardrobes.

Swapping with friends and family, buying from a charity shop or temporarily transforming one you already own are just a few ways to cut down on cost and unnecessary consumption.

Buying gifts for friends and family can soon add up. Why not reduce costs by opting for Secret Santa instead, or give a gift promise? Offering to babysit, look after a pet, cook a favourite meal or spend time together on a day out can be a thoughtful and much appreciated gift. Perfect for that person who has everything! Have the conversation with friends and family – they may be relieved at saving money too!

Recycle Devon will be sharing tips such as these and much more every day in December. Follow Recycle Devon on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter from 1st December to find out how you can have a magical Christmas without it costing the Earth.

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