

# Haccombe-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 1 March 2023 at 7.30pm

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

**Also present:** County Cllr Dewhirst and three members of the public

**Clerk:** Suzanna Hughes

### **010323.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Bulleid
- Cllr Cooper-Smith
- Cllr Hussey
- County Cllr Bradford
- District Cllr Haines

### **010323.02 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.

### **010323.03 OPEN FORUM**

The Village Show was raised and the matter of licensing was discussed so that numbers and live music can be managed. It was agreed that this would have to be followed up with the licensing authority to find out what is permitted under a TENS licence. [An application for a premises licence had been made in 2020 but there was an issue identifying the boundary of the licenced premises.]

### **010323.04 POLICE REPORT**

4.1 Crime Report:  
No report.

4.2 Councillor Advocate Scheme:  
The next PACT meeting is Friday 10 March at 11am on Hearn Field.

### **010323.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

County Cllr Dewhirst gave a report (copy attached).

In the absence of the District Councillors, Cllr Dewhirst reported that a 2.99% increase in council tax has been agreed (£5.54 for a Band D property). The Council will be giving back £5.54 to every council tax payer at the end of April. Funding is available for a Climate Change Officer, more money has been put into Scrutiny, £2m into industrial development and £500,000 into the pension scheme. No cuts are proposed to services; the Teignbridge 100 scheme is being increased to build 100 socially rented houses. TDC is the only Council in Devon which has 100% council tax relief.

### **010323.06 DELEGATE REPORTS**

None

## 010323.07 MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 February 2023 and authorised the Chair to sign them as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

## 010323.08 FINANCE

### 8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity (Feb)	£76.34
Online	Clerk	Salary (Feb)	£393.37
Online	Clerk	Mileage (November-March)	£49.50
Online	James Deane	Mower fuel	£27
Online	DTX	Domain renewal x 2 ( <i>haccombewithcombe.co.uk</i> <i>combe-in-teignhead.co.uk</i> )	£30
Online	T Boarer	Hearn Field gate post	£69.24
Online	Event Hire Solutions	Portable toilets for Village Show	£288

### 8.2 Energy contract

Members received rates from Opus Energy and Ecotricity. After a comparison of the tariffs, it was agreed to switch energy provider to Ecotricity on a 28-day rolling contract (standing charge 33.16p and unit price 49.37p).

### 8.3 Income

Members noted income (28 January – 23 February 2023):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
Feb	Lloyds	Interest	£6.36
Feb	Various	Pavilion	£48
Feb	Wood Shed Coffee Bar	Hire	£408

### 8.4 Bank Balances at 23 February 2023

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£18,031.53	£12,481.83	£5,828.74	£36,342.10

## 010323.09 PLANNING

### 9.1 New applications/appeals/notifications

9.1.1 23/00198/LBC – The Wynyates, Home Farm Barns, Haccombe  
New party walls and remove current concrete block doorways

Members had no objections to this application.

9.1.2` 23/00009/FAST – Poachers Croft, Hiller Lane, Netherton  
Appeal against the refusal of 22/01103/HOU: Upward extension to create new first floor with new pitched roof and dormer windows, balcony, single storey rear extension, canopy, garage extension, raised terrace, and alterations to fenestration

This was noted; there was no further opportunity to comment.

### 9.2 Decisions

9.2.1 22/02047/HOU – Churchway, Haccombe  
Single storey side extension and replacement garage

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission

### 9.3 **Update on enforcement matters, including:**

- Teignview Cottage  
From a recent visit to the area, it was noted that some steps have been taken to stack the building materials to improve the appearance of the site but the Enforcement Officer still considers that further improvements could be made. As such it was considered that time should be given to see if further activities are carried out to complete the building works. He has written to the owner to advise them that the works need to be completed by the end of the summer. At that time the matter will be reviewed and if necessary an Untidy Land can be served.
- Caravans associated with 22/01635/AGR  
Still awaiting an update from Enforcement.
- Little Park  
Still awaiting an update from Enforcement.
- Higher/Lower Osier Court  
Still awaiting an update from Enforcement.

### 9.4 **Teignbridge Local Plan 2020-2040 Consultation**

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning/local-plans-and-policy/live-consultation-teignbridge-local-plan/proposed-submission-local-plan-2020-2040/>

The following observation was agreed:

In the Local Plan 2020-2040 site GC16 (page 137) is unsound. Whilst it is acknowledged that mitigation will be required to make development of this site compliant with Teignbridge policies on Landscape in the Teign Estuary, Ecology of the South Hams SAC and the setting of Heritage assets, mitigation requirements are not strong enough to ensure that they will be effective. Potential negative impacts on Air Quality are not mentioned. The SA Report Summary of findings (page 125) identifies Uncertain Effects for GC16 in relation to Natural Environment and Landscape. SA Report Appendix A page 22 makes recommendations under SA-A: SA-B and SA-K for what must be done and what should be ensured.

The HRA, page 152, misnumbers East of Buckland as GC17 although it is numbered GC16 elsewhere. It is suggested that the text is amended in Teignbridge Local Plan at page 137 GC16, East of Buckland Road 'Land ..... for NO MORE THAN 30 homes MUST SECURE CERTAINTY OF MITIGATION BY INCLUDING and MONITORING DELIVERY OF:

#### **010323.10 HEARN FIELD**

Marshland Gardens on the Hearn Field shoreline has been cleared of rubbish and growth tidied by a working group of the Hearn Field grounds team.

Cllr Boarer was thanked for putting in the new gate post.

#### **010323.11 EMERGENCY PLANNING**

This was deferred until next month.

#### **010323.11 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Cllr Hussey is still waiting to hear about Power Allotments.

#### **010323.13 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

Nothing to report.

#### **010323.14 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The date and format were discussed. A provisional date of 18 May at 6.30pm at Hearn Field with drinks and nibbles.

**010323.15 CORRESPONDENCE**

Members considered an email from a regular correspondent. It was agreed that the issue being raised was vexatious under the Council's 'Vexatious or Unreasonable Complaints Policy'. It was agreed that the Chairman would respond and formally advise the correspondent that the Council is registering the issue as vexatious and that the Council will not be responding any further on the matter.

**010323.16 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*

**010323.17 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA, PARISH MAGAZINE, NOTICE BOARDS ETC**

Details of the Annual Parish Meeting will be advertised when confirmed.

**010323.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 5 April 2023.

.....  
Chair

## County Councillor's Report 1<sup>st</sup> March

Next year's budget has been agreed by Devon County Council, with council tax going up by 4.99 per cent. The increase will mean the yearly bill for an average Band D property will rise by £77.67 to £1,634.13 for the Devon County Council part of the Council Tax. This does not include the huge 15% increase in the Police precept; the Fire Authority and Parish Council precepts and of course the Teignbridge District Council tax which has declined from an upper 9% to 8% of the Council Tax make up.

Council approved the ruling Conservative group's budget plans on 16<sup>th</sup> February, which will see total spending increase from £629 million to £696 million next year – a rise of 10.5 per cent.

The Budget was rejected by the opposition Liberal Democrats who had their own amendment to pay for more pothole and road repairs and 20 mph zones. Labour members supported the budget, despite the Group describing it as "far from being a good budget" and "a bad budget for Devon".

Extra money in the budget will mostly go towards spending increases of 18.4 and 8.8 per cent on children's and adult services respectively. However, the council tax rise and central funding from government has not been enough for Devon to set a budget without making cuts elsewhere.

As a result, cuts, alternative funding and additional income of £47.5 million have been identified, including £26.4 million of savings in adult social care and £12 million taken from reserves.

Addressing councillors, cabinet member for finance Cllr Phil Twiss said it was an "extraordinary budget for extraordinary times."

But Lib Dem opposition leader Julian Brazil took issue at Cllr Twiss being "proud" of the budget. "I'd be embarrassed about this budget," he said, accusing Cllr Twiss of being from the "school of Trussonomics."

In my speech, I expressed real concern over the deliverability of the nearly £50 million of cuts and savings, noting that proposed savings in the previous three budgets had not been achieved.

One Tory councillor, voted against his own party's budget and slammed the government, calling on it to take back control of adult social care and children's services. "We're really, really struggling. It needs to be given back," he said. "Financially we cannot cope. Why should our residents suffer with such a huge burden on their taxes? Central government need to pull their fingers out of their derrieres and get it sorted for us," Cllr McGeough added. "It's not right. It's not fair."

The Independent and Green groups also rejected the budget. The Independent Leader addressing the big rise in spending on Devon's underperforming children's services said "a good news story you would think for children. I'm not convinced there is a solid plan for the extra (money) to improve outcomes, and Ofsted are definitely not convinced." The government has threatened to intervene over the authority's long-term failings in Children's Services.

Councillors approved the budget by a margin of 40 votes to 13.

Devon County are teaming up with Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce to host the New Ways to Recruit and Retain Staff in 2023 event.

With the region's job market still facing a range of vacancies, this free event aims to help employers, organisations and charities to find out about alternative ways of recruiting and retaining staff.

The event will be held at Exeter Racecourse on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April from 8:30am – 1pm, focuses on supporting employers to consider filling vacancies using a wider talent pool of people, how to support those already in employment, to better understand workplace culture and to review how traditional recruitment methods can be adjusted to attract a different audience.

Speakers on the day include Mike Adams OBE, Founder of Purple Tuesday, who will discuss what organisations must do to be disability inclusive, as well as Helen Hart, from Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce's Local Skills improvement Plan Project Executive, and Ruth Gripper, Research Impact Manager at the University of Exeter.

There will also be discussion groups on topics including:

- Workplace Culture – exploring how a positive, inclusive culture can impact your ability to recruit and retain great candidates for your business.
- Differences in our wiring: Flipping the narrative – encouraging a healthy and open dialogue around some of the common strengths and abilities to be found in people with neurodiverse differences such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia or dyspraxia and how we can best support some of the common needs that arise.
- Reaching a wider jobs market: Inclusive recruitment – how to make your recruitment process more inclusive from writing the job description through to the interview.
- Being a mindful manager – Andrea Adey from Mindful Employer will empower employers to take the lead on matters of workplace mental health and wellbeing.
- Access to Work – Job Centre Plus Disability Advisors will discuss Access to Work, a Department for Work and Pension grant scheme which provides money to help people with a disability or long-term health condition stay in work to do their job.

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