

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Combeinteignhead on 5 July 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors G Humble (Chair), S Brampton, J Evans, R Hussey, H Martin, S Pattinson & M Wakefield

Also present: County Cllr Dewhirst and 6 members of the public

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

050723.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Cooper-Smith
- Cllr Lockton
- Cllr O'Regan
- County Cllr Bradford
- District Cllr Radford
- District Cllr Taylor

050723.02 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 of requests for dispensation.

050723.03 OPEN FORUM

Residents expressed concerns about the speed and size of vehicles travelling through the centre of the village. Properties are being damaged and pedestrians are at risk. County Cllr Dewhirst explained the process for requesting a 20mph speed limit; other suggestions included improved signage, Vehicle Activated Signs, the presence of a speedwatch team and other traffic calming measures. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Hussey would liaise with PC Orchard with a view to organising a meeting to discuss how to approach road safety in the parish.

A resident asked whether 'pick your own flowers' requires planning permission.

A resident advised that the footpath running up from Yarner in Netherton is overgrown and needs cutting back.

050723.04 POLICE REPORT

4.1 Crime Report:

No crime report received.

4.2 Councillor Advocate Scheme:

Cllr Hussey advised that the next PACT meeting will be on 21 July at 11am at Hearn Field.

050723.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Cllr Dewhirst gave a report – copy attached.

District Cllr Radford circulated a written report:

'Committee places have now been formalised. I am on Strata (computer software comms for Teignbridge, East Devon and Exeter) and have attended the first introduction meeting with another one booked for July. Other Committees on which I sit: Audit Scrutiny (meeting 12 July) and shadowing recycling household waste and environmental health.

News in the ward: Cllr Taylor has been busy in Coffinswell after reports of a homeless person sleeping in an abandoned caravan. After much work and investigation the person has moved on and the caravan has been removed. We have experienced numerous incidents of fly tipping in the ward which is a burden for us all as the local parish has to fund the cost if on parish land. July is a very busy month for Cllr Taylor and I, so we will both be present at your next meeting.'

050723.06 DELEGATE REPORTS

6.1 The Chair advised that she attended the Group Planning Forum and the presentation given by Ros Eastman, TDC, has been circulated to members. The main point from the meeting was that TALC needs to be reinstated in some format. Whilst TDC support the idea in principle, there is no confirmation yet whether it will put any resource into the administration.

050723.07 MINUTES

Members approved and authorised the Chair to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 June 2023 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

050723.08 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
DD	Ecotricity	Hearn Field electricity (June)	£211.96
Online	Clerk	Salary (June)	£358.57
Online	Clerk	Mileage + paper (April-July)	£44.50
Online	HMRC	PAYE (Q1)	£240.40
Online	E Deane	TENS licence (£21), Theatre food (£59.39)	£80.39
Online	T Boarer	Mend puncture on mower	£25
Online	M Boarer	Pavilion cleaning (2 hours)	£30
Online	R Hussey	Mower fuel	£29.18

8.2 Income

Members noted income (2 June – 30 June 2023):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
June	Lloyds	Interest	£7.96
June	Wood Shed Coffee	Income and contribution to electricity	£451.68
June	Private bookings	Hire of Hearn Field	£516
June	Reach Outdoors	Hire of Hearn Field (2023)	£1990
June	Illyria Theatre	Theatre profits	£1040.88
June	Village Show	Income	£2018.42

8.3 Bank Balances at 30 June 2023

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£27,017.34	£12,510.67	£6,343.43	£45,871.44

8.4 Covid recovery fund

At the recent Hearn Field Committee meeting, ideas for how the Covid recovery funds could be used to improve the facility at Hearn Field for the benefit of the community were discussed. A small group of Hearn Field Committee members will be thinking about this. The Parish Council discussed other possible ideas about how the funds could benefit the community generally including road safety/traffic calming and improved village signage.

050723.09 PLANNING

9.1 New applications/appeals/notifications

None

9.2 Decisions

None

9.3 Enforcement

It was noted that further activities have been observed on land linked to application 22/01635/AGR: Barcombe Lane (up from Taplow Cottage) – this is within the Conservation Area. This is a designated red lane i.e. an agricultural track only, for access to fields only - no through track. Multiple tons of chippings and dry cement have been deposited. In wetter weather, this will come down into the road and cause drain blockages resulting in flood damage and traffic hazard. It is understood that the perpetrators have been duly advised and have done this without permission of other lane owners. They have also been advised against damage to Devon banks as this is being undermined with a digger. The work being undertaken is not necessary if used only by agricultural vehicles as per its designation.

There is further dumping of industrial waste at the entrance to the field, some covered when digger in action, some covered with blue tarpaulin. Again, likely to be related to business activity, not agricultural.

There are multiple caravans still in place. There are also 3 commercial vehicles (truck, van and cherry picker). Waste has been deposited on top of the field and signs of erection of wooden structure which we believe is on block footings. There is also evidence that waste materials are being dumped (this was not referred to in the Enforcement Officer's previous response).

On the other side of the valley there are 2 further caravans (not associated with 22/01635/AGR). There are local concerns about the rising prevalence of these in the parish which are being sited without permission.

It was agreed to write to the Enforcement Officer, copying in Ros Eastman (Business Manager – Strategic Place) and the Leader of TDC.

050723.10 HEARN FIELD

Members received and noted the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Hearn Field Committee held on 27 June.

The Village Show has been penciled in again for next year (28 May 2024). A locality grant enabled the Committee to purchase a marquee for use at this year's and future Village Shows.

There was agreement from the Parish Council that the Hearn Field Committee should look again at pursuing a premises licence.

It was agreed that storage boxes should be purchased to organise equipment in the shed.

An enquiry has been received from Kingskerswell Colts FC to use Hearn Field for 5-a-side football. The Hearn Field Committee recommended that the Parish Council accepts the proposal for a period of 12 months (subject to details/insurance being checked). The proposal was supported.

A proposal was also put forward to allow a small budget for the provision of refreshments for volunteers. This was agreed. It was further agreed that all payments should be approved by Cllr Hussey (as Chair of the Hearn Field Committee) who will also keep a record of the payments incurred.

050723.11 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

No report.

050723.12 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- 12.1 Members received advice from County Cllr Dewhirst about the use of the grit/salt spreader which states that DCC does not provide insurance. The vehicle towing the gritter requires insurance over and above its domestic insurance (could possibly be arranged through the Parish Council's insurers). The same would apply for the person doing the gritting. In terms of liability for work done (or not done) then this is a general liability that applies to anyone who does anything in public or in private, i.e. you have a duty to do your best in a reasonable manner.

It was noted that the grit/salt spreader does not currently work efficiently and therefore would require maintenance if it were to be used in the future. After further discussion, it was agreed that it should not be the responsibility of a parish councillor to carry out this role. It was agreed that the bins in the parish should be checked to see if they require re-filling prior to the winter. The Emergency Plan will also need to be updated. The gritter will remain stored until it can be disposed of. Cllr Wakefield advised that there is no grit bin in Hawthorn Rise.

- 12.2 Following a request from a resident in the open forum, the Chair advised that she would arrange for the path up from Yarner (Netherton) to be strimmed. She would also introduce the new parish footpath warden, Faye Hussey, to the Public Rights of Way Officer, Johnathan Rowlands.

050723.13 CORRESPONDENCE

- 13.1 Members received a request for a dog bin in Haccombe. Cllr Hussey referred to a discussion he had had previously with Rob Harvey, TDC's Community Environment Warden, to discuss the issue which had previously been raised by a resident. It was agreed at that time that dog fouling in the Haccombe Valley wasn't a particular problem. Despite this, he did paint some 'pick up after your dog' templates on the road and has refreshed these a couple of weeks ago. He advised at that time that Street Cleansing would not install a bin in this rural location. Cllr Hussey agreed to survey the area again and will let Rob Harvey know if it is an issue which requires pursuing further.

050723.14 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

Cllr Evans sought approval from members to purchase the fireworks for this year's display. It was agreed to purchase the same package as last year.

050723.15 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA, PARISH MAGAZINE, NOTICE BOARDS ETC

Cllr Evans reminded members that their website profiles need to be updated.

050723.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on 6 September at 7.30pm.

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Chair

County Councillor's Report 5th July – HWC

The Devon Windrush Flag was raised at County Hall to mark 75 years since the Empire Windrush arrived in Tilbury Dock and its 492 passengers disembarked to begin a new life in Britain.

Members of the Devon Windrush Group joined the Leader; our new Chairman, Percy Prowse; Chief Executive Donna Manson; the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Devon; and the Lord Mayor of Exeter, for the flag-raising.

The event was a chance to pay tribute to the UK's Caribbean community for their immense contribution, and to acknowledge that many of the Windrush generation suffered hardship, prejudice and abuse – experiences that unfortunately many of their descendants still experience today, including those living in Devon.

And finally, the flag raising was an opportunity to recognise that our county has become increasingly diverse over the last 10 years – and as a society we are all the better for it. The number of Devonians who identify as either being Asian, Black and other ethnically diverse people, as a proportion of the population, has increased by 71 per cent between the 2011 Census and the 2021 Census.

In 2011 243,500 people, approximately 4.6 per cent of the population, identified as ethnically diverse people; ten years later this has increased to 392,000 and 6.9 per cent of the population. It seems apt, therefore, that Windrush Day should also present a chance for us to check the progress of our own commitment to inclusivity – our Race Equality Action Plan.

As Chair of the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny committee I ensured that councillors heard that our own commitment – to stamp out intolerance and develop a more inclusive culture within the Authority through its Race Equality Action Plan – is making progress. The plan was put into place following an internal audit last year to help us tackle 'structural racism' within the council.

At the Committee, the progress report included:

- Improved support to staff who raise concerns and a new policy to resolve issues
- New wellbeing, recovery and resilience service for staff who have experienced racism from next month
- 'Zero tolerance' approach when staff are racially abused
- New Prayer and Contemplation facilities with improved disability access
- New Race Equality Staff Group and a Race Equality Delivery Group
- Increase in the size of the equality, diversity and inclusion team and its budget
- New anti-racism webpage with staff resources and information
- Improved risk assessment to safeguard staff who work in the community from racism
- Staff encouraged to report racism and other forms of discrimination
- A new living in the UK course for international recruits through Learn Devon

The Cabinet Member for waste says it's unfair to ask all council tax payers to pay for the DIY waste of those who can afford to make their own home improvements.

Councillor Croad commented following a Government announcement last week stating their intention to stop councils charging for DIY waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Charges were introduced for some DIY waste in 2011, in response to swingeing cuts to local council's funding.

It was said then that by introducing charges for items such as kitchen and bathroom refurbishments, those costs would be met by households who can afford to make such home improvements, rather than the general public.

The Government's decision will mean that Devon will lose around £1 million income – money used to maintain the comprehensive service across all of the 19 Household Waste Recycling Centres in the county. Plans therefore to stop councils charging for DIY waste will make it harder to maintain the Household Waste

Recycling Centres service as it is. Cllr Croad said previously that such changes could mean us having to consider reducing opening hours.

Transport Secretary Mark Harper officially opened the brand-new railway station at Marsh Barton in Exeter. The ceremony was carried out ahead of the station opening to passengers the next day when the first service started at 0538.

The station will be served by hourly Great Western Railway services between Paignton and Exmouth, with half-hourly services at peak times.

The two platforms are linked by the pedestrian overbridge which has ramps to facilitate cyclists and provide disabled access to the whole station.

You might be interested to know that one of the first things I had to do as a new County Councillor, twelve years ago, was approve the planning application for this station . . .

Two new high-tech speed cameras have been installed on roads in Devon with a history of speeding issues. New bi-directional digital cameras will replace older Gatso cameras on Exeter Road in Exmouth and the A385 Ashburton Road in Totnes. All of these routes have had problems with collisions and speeding vehicles, prompting numerous complaints from residents to local councils and the police.

The cameras, which have been funded by the Vision Zero South West road safety partnership, have been erected on bright yellow posts for maximum visibility and have the ability to enforce speed in both directions simultaneously.

Vision Zero South West is undertaking an ambitious programme of new camera system installation, either replacing outdated technology at existing sites or introducing brand new schemes where an evidenced problem exists.

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