

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Combeinteignhead on 4 October 2023 at 7.30pm

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

Also present: County Cllr Dewhirst and District Cllr Radford

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

041023.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Brampton
- Cllr Lockton
- Cllr Hussey
- Cllr O'Regan
- District Cllr Taylor
- County Cllr Bradford

041023.02 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.

041023.03 OPEN FORUM

There were no comments.

041023.04 POLICE REPORT

4.1 Crime Report:
No crime report received.

PC Orchard has changed roles and is no longer the Neighbourhood Beat Manager. A replacement will be appointed and in the meantime PCSO Saul Bunce remains in post.

4.2 Councillor Advocate Scheme:
The next PACT meeting will be with PCSO Saul Bunce at the Hearn Field Pavilion on Friday 20 October at 10am.

041023.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Cllr Dewhirst gave a report – copy attached.

District Cllr Radford reported on behalf of Jane Taylor. She wished to inform members that the Council should contact her if there are any planning issues.

Cllr Radford advised that he has been asked to join Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group and would report more on this next month. He also informed members that Kingskerswell Parish Council have arranging a defibrillator training session to which members of this Parish Council would be welcome to attend. He would forward details to the clerk for circulation.

041023.06 DELEGATE REPORTS

The Chair advised that she was now unable to attend the parish/town council meeting on 12 October at Forde House and invited any other member to attend in her place if they were available.

041023.07 MINUTES

Members approved and authorised the Chair to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 September 2023 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

041023.08 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
DD	Ecotricity	Hearn Field electricity (September)	£267.36
DD	ICO	Data Protection Licence Renewal	£35
Online	Clerk	Salary (September)	£375.95
Online	HMRC	PAYE (Q2)	£240.60
Online	Dart Forest Trees	Tree condition survey	£654
Online	E Deane	TENS Licence	£21

8.2 Income

Members noted income (2 – 30 September 2023):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
Sept	TDC	Second instalment of precept	£4361.50
Sept	Private bookings	Hire of Hearn Field	£24
Sept	Lloyds	Interest	£11.70

8.3 Bank Balances at 30 September 2023

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£27,416.56	£12,540.13	£6,343.43	£46,300.12

041023.09 PLANNING

9.1 New applications/appeals/notifications

None

9.2 Decisions

9.2.1 23/01454/CAN – Land opposite Coombe Garage, Combeinteignhead
Remove laurel bushes and small laurel trees

Members noted that TDC does not object to the proposed works.

9.2.2 23/01405/NPA – Charlecombe Farm, Combeinteignhead
Application for Prior Approval under Part 3 Class Q(a) and (b) paragraph W of the GPDO for change of use of the two agricultural buildings into two smaller dwellings and two larger dwellings, with associated demolition of 2 further buildings

Members noted that TDC has refused to grant prior approval.

9.3 Enforcement matters

9.3.1 Updates on issues previously raised:

- 1 Albert Cottages

Members noted that an application to discharge conditions 3 (materials) and 4 (gate fixings) on planning permission 19/01656/FUL for boundary wall works has not been approved. Works that have already been undertaken at the site which are not in accordance with the planning permission are now being investigated through a separate planning enforcement case. The Parish Council is particularly concerned about the height of the wall which has been built and the materials used which are not in-keeping with the Conservation Area.

- Teign View Cottage
The Parish Council's comments about the lack of works that have been carried out have been noted by the Enforcement Officer and he has advised that he will have a look at the site when he is next in the area to see if it is in a condition that would warrant formal action being taken. Once he has any further information he will contact the Council again.
- Land associated with 22/01635/AGR
No further correspondence has been received from TDC. The clerk will continue to follow this up.
- TPOs
The clerk advised that she had written to TDC about the issues around TPOs which were raised at the last meeting. This has been formally logged by the planning department and forwarded to officers in Design & Heritage to respond. As yet, no response has been received. It was agreed that the clerk should follow this up.

Cllr Cooper-Smith left the meeting.

- Little Park
Members received correspondence from a resident about development at this property which does not have planning permission. Previously, the Enforcement officer had indicated that the engineering works already carried out would require permission. Furthermore, in the past couple of months, a second building framework has been erected on the site. A request was made that the Parish Council raises the matter again with Planning Enforcement. This was agreed.

041023.10 CAR PARK

- 10.1 Members discussed the repainting of the white lines and whether this should be undertaken by volunteers or a contractor. Cllr Pattinson agreed to explore costings for both options.
- 10.2 Members received correspondence from a resident requesting that the hedge is cut back. Cllr Brampton had agreed to do this. The Chair also advised that she has been asked to trim under the noticeboard.
- 10.3 Members discussed whether repairs are necessary to the tarmac following the motorbike fire. The Chair advised that Cllr Hussey has pulled out some metal work from the tarmac and has offered to put down some chippings.

041023.11 TREES

Members received the tree condition report. The following works were recommended within 6 months:

- Fell one small, dead horse chestnut tree at Hearn Field, Combeinteignhead
- Reduce the crown of a Monterey pine both in height and laterally via thinning by removing dominant leaders throughout the crown approximately 2 metres in length. (As this is a tree with high landscape value, it is recommended that this is carried out sensitively only to reduce the crown via thinning at the ends of the branches. This should not affect the overall shape but lighten the branches from wind loading.)

It was agreed that the clerk should obtain three quotations for these works.

It was noted that other works were recommended within 12 months including the felling of two dead elms at the bottom of Hearn Field and broken hanging branches/fallen cherry tree leading up to the 0.2acre woodland area (Parish Council asset). It was agreed that ownership of the trees should be established before any works are carried out. The Chair suggested asking a surveyor to define the boundaries of/map out the 0.2 acreage.

It was also noted that the report described the unmetalled county road leading to the 0.2 acreage as a footpath. It was agreed to ask this to be amended.

District Councillor Radford left the meeting.

041023.12 HEARN FIELD

Members received and noted the minutes of the Hearn Field Committee meeting on 20 September.

Members were asked to approve the draft contract between the Parish Council and Kingskerswell Colts Youth Football Club for occasional use of Hearn Field for U7 and U8 five-a-side mini-soccer matches per year.

A member, not present at the meeting, asked that the following points are considered:

- Effect on grass quality and impact on field if being marked/having repeated spectator area especially if using football boots on field.
- Dogs on the field- currently dog walkers can take dogs off the lead on Hearn field. Will this still be the case when there are small children playing on the field?
- Hearn Field was donated to the parish for the use of the parishioners. How does Kingskerswell Football Club come under that category?

To these points, and after a discussion, members responded as follows:

Younger members of the parish would be able to join Kingskerswell Colts FC if they were not able to access other clubs and therefore intermittent use would be of a benefit to those younger parishioners. The impact of the grass has already been considered. Given the age of the participants and frequency of the matches, it was agreed that the impact on the grass would be minimal. With regard to dogs, it was agreed that the football club should manage this with notices at the entry points asking users of the field to keep dogs under control whilst matches are being played.

Having addressed these points, members agreed to adopt the proposed contract.

Members noted the proposed theatre dates. Five dates have been scheduled for 2024. These were approved.

It was noted that the mower will be serviced and a sum of up to £500 has been agreed for repairs if necessary. Members approved this expenditure.

There are only 34 tickets left for Bonfire Night.

041023.13 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

No report.

041023.14 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

The Chair has spoken to the PROW officer and will arrange a meeting with the Faye Hussey who has taken over as the P3 warden.

A request has been made for a grit bin on Hockmore Drive. The most suitable location is by the noticeboard. County Cllr Dewhurst has offered to grant £150 from his locality budget if the Parish Council is willing to contribute £200. This was agreed.

041023.15 CORRESPONDENCE

None

041023.16 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

None

041023.15 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA, PARISH MAGAZINE, NOTICE BOARDS ETC

None

041023.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on 1 November at 7.30pm.

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Chair

County Councillor's Report 4th October - HWC

More than 140 properties are thought to have been flooded across Devon during the recent flash floods.

Officers have been on the ground visiting the worst affected areas to investigate the extent of the damage caused by the torrential rainfall. City and district authority "street scene" teams have also been clearing debris from affected areas.

Residents are being advised to check if their property is at risk of flood at: Check the long term flood risk for an area in England – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and find out if they are eligible to sign up for a FREE flood warning: Sign up for flood warnings – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). Follow @EnvAgencySW on X (formerly Twitter) for the latest flood updates or visit: Check for flooding – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has produced an information leaflet in partnership with the Environment Agency on what to do before, during and after flooding. The UKHSA website also has health advice and guidance for anyone cleaning up after a flood.

As part of the ongoing flood recovery effort, Devon are working with Teignbridge District Council and the Environment Agency to organise community engagement events. The drop-in sessions will be held at the Victory Hall, Kenton and Matthews Hall, Topsham

Devon County Council have agreed to give care leavers – young people who have been in the care of the local authority – protected characteristic status. It's recognition that young people's experience of being in the care system can be a potential source of discrimination similar to other protected characteristics such as race or disability.

A Notice of Motion put to members of our Councillor, made the case. It said that a study has shown that 70 per cent of care experienced people die early; that more than half of the people who are in custody up to the age of 21 years old have been in care; and that a quarter of the homeless population is care experienced.

County Councillors unanimously supported the Motion, which means that we will do more to ensure that care experienced young people are not discriminated against.

It means, for example, that Devon will make sure that the experiences of young people in care and care leavers will be considered in all of its decisions. But it is also a foundation on which to develop better support across Devon as whole, not just in the services that we are responsible for.

Officers will therefore work with partners to improve support for care experienced people in all aspects of their lives including housing and accommodation, health, employment, as well as education.

Young people with care experience attended the meeting and spoke passionately to councillors about the importance of the Notion of Motion to all children in care and people who have been in care.

At the same meeting it was agreed that the Council would support Parish Councils who wished to pay for a 20 mph speed limit, or extension to one, if they so wished in their community.

This is a significant move by the Council, and I have written to the Chief Highway Officer asking for details as to how this will be effected and I can report to you that the Chief Officer has promised to bring proposals to the November Scrutiny meeting.

There have been numerous calls for 20 mph speed limits in the villages I represent and due to the restrictions currently in place I have not been able to progress this important safety measure.

Devon County Council's Cabinet has been asked to re-consider its previous decision to decommission the council's mobile library service.

The Cabinet took the decision in July to decommission the mobile library service. But I "called in" that decision to allow for further scrutiny in the committee I chair.

Last Thursday (28th September), in a majority vote, members of the council's cross-party Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee agreed new recommendations that Cabinet will now consider when it meets on Wednesday 11th October.

Those recommendations are that the Cabinet:

- Reconsiders the decision to decommission the mobile library vehicles and looks again at continuing to provide the mobile library service
- Gets precise figures on leasing vehicles to review opportunities to continue to provide a cost effective service
- Looks into opportunities to reduce cost of delivery including commercial sponsorship opportunities on vehicles, crowdfunding and or support from Parish Councils and community groups
- Develops alternative library provision before taking the decision to remove services

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