

# Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Combeinteignhead on 6 December 2023 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors G Humble, (Chair for this meeting), S Brampton, J Evans, R Hussey, H O'Regan, and M Wakefield

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

**Clerk:** Suzanna Hughes

### **061223.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Cooper-Smith
- Cllr Martin
- Cllr Lockton
- Cllr Pattinson
- District Cllr Taylor

### **061223.02 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 Wakefield declared an interest in item 11 and agreed to absent himself from the meeting when the Woodshed Café is being discussed.

### **061223.03 OPEN FORUM**

Two representatives of the Parish Magazine were present to answer questions about their application for a small grant to be discussed at item 8.6.

### **061223.04 POLICE REPORT**

PC Orchard has now been replaced by PC Ben Chadwick as the Neighbourhood Beat Manager. The next PACT meeting is on 15 December at Hearn Field.

### **061223.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

County Cllr Dewhirst gave a report – copy attached.

District Cllr Taylor sent an update:

The Alexander Theatre appears to have been saved and the Council has done a U-turn. Well done to all the campaign groups. The traders of Newton Abbot are still fighting for Queen St and their livelihood. They have now formed Queen Street traders and residents QSTAR association which is strongly supported by Austin's. They have a Facebook page and have called for an election of the Town Council where there is a vacancy. We should shortly be getting a police officer for the Rural beat starting in January.

### **061223.06 DELEGATE REPORTS**

None

### **061223.07 MINUTES**

Members approved and authorised the Chair to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 November 2023 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

## 061223.08 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

### 8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
DD	Ecotricity	Hearn Field electricity (November)	£312.92
Online	Clerk	Salary (November)	£375.97
Online	Argos Fire Protection	Fire Risk Assessment	£420
Online	M Wakefield	Cleaning of Hearn Field Pavilion (2.5 hours)	£50
Online	R Hussey	Rubble sacks	£8
Online	South West Water	Water	£90.45
Online	A Robinson	Bonfire night – drinks	£316.96
Online	Devon Garden Machinery	Mower servicing and repairs	£1993.66

### 8.2 Income

Members noted the income (28 October – 2 December 2023):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
Nov	Woodshed Coffee Bar	Income and contribution to electricity	£295
Nov	Way Ahead Group	Bonfire night ticket sales	£2430
Nov	Sum Up	Bonfire – sales of refreshments	£777.49
Nov	Reynolds	Bonfire – glow toys	£117.03
Nov	K Thorrington	Bonfire – cake fairy donation	£15
Nov	Lloyds	Interest	£13.86

### 8.3 Bank Balances at 2 December 2023

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£27,997.53	£12,565.53	£6,343.43	£46,906.49

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 2023. Clerk's salary will be backdated accordingly.

8.5 Members considered and the draft budget and precept request for 2024/25. Final agreement on the budget and precept request will be made in January's meeting.

8.6 Members considered applications from the following organisations for a small grant:

- Stoke/Combe Parish Magazine - it was agreed to allocate £250 towards the development of the magazine as a viable product
- Combeinteignhead Village Hall – a contribution was supported but more information/quotations would be required before agreeing a sum

## 061223.09 PLANNING

### 9.1 New applications/appeals/notifications

9.1.1 23/01980/FUL – Building known as Buckland Barn, Buckland Road, Newton Abbot  
Provision of an equestrian building

Members had no objections to this application.

### 9.2 Decisions

None

### 9.3 **Enforcement matters**

#### 9.3.1 Updates on issues previously raised:

- 1 Albert Cottages  
No further update had been received from TDC. It was noted that the height of the wall has now been reduced but the materials and gate fixings are still out-of-keeping with the Conservation Area. The clerk will write again asking how enforcement action is progressing.
- Teign View Cottage  
No further update has been received from TDC. The clerk will write again to ask whether TDC will be taking formal action due to the lack of works being carried out at this property in the Conservation Area.
- Land associated with 22/01635/AGR  
At the Enforcement Officer's request, photographs of the site have been forwarded to him so that further action can be taken.
- TPOs  
Following concerns that trees had been felled at Gable View (formerly Tidelands), members were advised that TDC's Temporary Tree Officer visited Gable View; he compared the original TPO from 1977 with the actual trees on site. There are no trees there except for a mature red oak which has been pollarded (no amenity value), and a mature cedar tree which has a little amenity value, but not outstanding. Both were not listed by the original TPO, although the original TPO shows the position of the cedar as T12 but lists it as a beech. Therefore, this TPO is obsolete and should be revoked/rescinded.

The owner is commencing landscaping of the grounds of the property and is intending to remove a branch from the cedar tree. They do not need to make an application for this, because there is no TPO stating that a cedar tree is subject to a TPO.

It was agreed that all members should look at the trees locally to them which are of significance/under threat with a view to making a TPO application to protect them in the future.

- Little Park  
No response has been received to the email sent to the Enforcement Officer reporting a second building framework erected on a brick and concrete base with no planning permission. The clerk will continue to chase a response.

#### 9.4 **Teignbridge Local Plan 2020-2040 Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) Addendum consultation**

The Chairman proposed that the Council supports the amendments which increase the protection of the environment from climate change. There are no changes which directly affect the parish itself.

#### **061223.10 TREES**

Members received three quotations to carry out works as recommended in the most recent tree report (fell the small, dead horse chestnut and sensitively reduce/thin the Monterey Pine in Hearn Field). After a discussion, it was agreed to accept the quotation from Nick Courtier for £800.

#### **061223.11 HEARN FIELD**

Members received the following report:

##### **Woodshed Café**

*Having declared an interest in this item, Cllr Wakefield left the meeting for this item.*

For information: The last PC delegated to the HF Chairman, with support from the "HF four", to undertake a review of the business arrangement between the PC and Woodshed Cafe. Recommendations from the review to be subject to PC consideration and approval.

The review has found that the current arrangement, whereby profit is split 50/50 between the cafe and PC after all costs, is unsustainable. An alternative business model has been developed, and if this is adopted will be acceptable to the cafe. This is offered for consideration, as follows:

Proposal: That the cafe pay the Parish Council a monthly sum calculated at 12.5% of turnover (£ sales) in the period. Electricity will continue to be paid to the PC as a separate item. It was agreed to support this proposal.

### **Combe Village Show**

For information: Please see attached "Combe Village Show" 2024  
Key proposals:

Date 26th May 2024 (Bank Holiday) - this date was agreed  
Opening time 11am - 7pm (extended two hours) - these opening times were agreed  
Budget £1,951 (last year's profit after all costs) - this budget was agreed

### **Bonfire Night**

For information: Another wonderful bonfire night. Many thanks to the amazing team lead by Julia with Charlotte and Annie, the team leaders and all the volunteers, who made this happen. This year a profit of £1,380 was made compared to £735 last year.

### **Covid Recovery Funds**

For information: Meeting of Covid Recovery Funds working group Thursday 14th December 7:30pm.

### **Pavilion Safety**

For information: The Pavilion has had a fire risk assessment completed, conforming with Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This found no major additional controls required. However, there might be a need for improvements that involve minor or limited cost. These to be addressed at the next HF Committee.

### **Pavilion Improvements**

For information: Three quotes have been received to replace the two fire doors. These now need further clarification before presenting to the next PC and instructing a contractor.

### **Outdoor Theatre 2024**

For information: The theatre team have made firm bookings for "Peter Pan" in June (Father's Day), and for the "Hound of the Baskervilles" in early August. Provisional bookings are in place for July and late September/early October. These have been secured on a profit share basis only. Full details to follow.

## **061223.12 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**

No report.

## **061223.13 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

The clerk was asked to contact Highways about the drainage outside Spring Cottage. After persistent rain, a large puddle extends into the middle of the highway and is slow to drain making it hazardous for road users and difficult for the resident of Spring Cottage to leave the property.

Cllr Brampton suggested that the Council looks at providing more grit bins in the parish. It was suggested that Cllr Brampton puts together a costed proposal for the Council to consider at a future meeting.

**061223.14 CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr Hussey reported on correspondence he has been exchanging with Rob Harvey (Community Environment Warden) regarding a request from a member of the community for a dog bin in Netherton. TDC's assessment indicates that a dog bin is not required in this location. The Parish Council will therefore need to make a decision whether or not to support the request and fund a bin (and the ongoing emptying) regardless of TDC's assessment that it is not necessary.

**061223.15 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

**061223.16 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA, PARISH MAGAZINE, NOTICE BOARDS ETC**

None

**061223.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on 3 January 2024 at 7.30pm.

.....  
Chair

## County Councillor's Report 5<sup>th</sup> December

Children in Devon and their families will see a new model of support services, in line with national Government guidance. Since first introduced in the late 1990s in response to the Government-led Sure Start initiative, Children's Centres in Devon have supported thousands of young children and their parents, with targeted early years support and other services.

But last year, the Government proposed a new initiative, and now the Department for Education and the Department for Health and Social Care are working with local authorities across the UK to roll out their 'Start for Life' programme and develop Family Hub programmes in accordance with local need.

Devon have announced that we want to start a transition from Children's Centres to Family Hubs in Devon. This would include working with partners and stakeholders to shape the model, which is likely to take 12 months, with a view to developing a county-wide Family Hubs programme to begin in 2025.

The Hubs will focus on a partnership approach for early help and support for families and children aged 0 to 19 including support for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Exactly which services each Family Hub will deliver will develop from what local families need, but examples of the sorts of advice, information, intervention and support that Family Hubs in Devon may deliver could include:

- early help and prevention services, delivered by Devon County Council
- wider early years services and education
- Public Health, Public Health Nursing and Midwifery services and support, as part of the government's Best Start in Life initiative
- activities, support and opportunities being made available locally by community groups, charities and the voluntary sector
- drug, alcohol and domestic abuse or violence support
- wider health support for children and young people including mental health support and neurodevelopmental support
- community activity based short breaks offered for disabled children and young people
- youth services
- services for families with adolescents
- Children's Centres in Devon are currently run on our behalf by the charity, Action for Children.

Action for Children is already working closely with other councils including in Plymouth and Torbay to develop Family Hubs. They will now also work with us to start the process of introducing Family Hubs to the rest of the county.

Our current contract with Action for Children expires at the end of March 2024, but Cabinet have agreed a new 12-month contract with the charity, from April 2024, to develop and start to pilot the new Family Hubs model across the county. In the meantime, Children's Centres in Devon will continue to support families.

Devon are launching a major drive to establish a wide network of community libraries in Devon's rural areas. They will be developed as an alternative to the current mobile library service which will be discontinued by February.

Devon's Cabinet agreed to decommission the mobile library vehicles and to help community groups and parish councils set up new community libraries.

This came after I called the decision in to Scrutiny and cross party councillors asked the Cabinet to rethink their proposals to terminate the service. The Cabinet heard from residents that the service was a lifeline for many vulnerable people in rural locations. The request to re-think was supported by our Queen, the Children's Laureate, and a number of Devon authors as well as councillors across Devon.

The Cabinet heard that the four library vehicles are close to becoming obsolete and are increasingly off the road for repairs and maintenance. It would cost £637,000 to replace them, £736,000 to lease the vehicles over three years and £799,000 for five years. Later in the meeting the Cabinet agreed to spend nearly £57 million on improving the road from Newton Abbot to Trago Mills.

Devon are going to receive an extra £6.663 million this financial year, that is up to the end of March '24, from the funding redirected from the scrapped HS2 rail line extension to Manchester. It will be followed by the same amount next year, and then there will be a minimum of £208.6 million between now and 2033/34.

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management, has pledged that the funding will help address some of the repair backlog on Devon's 8,000 miles of roads, the biggest highway network of any authority in the country.

We will be using some of the money to carry out patching work and other repairs before potholes deteriorate further this winter due to wet and freezing conditions of the season.

The majority of the funding for this financial year will enable the council to bring forward resurfacing schemes earmarked within its future works programme.

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