

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Combeinteignhead on 3 January 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors S Pattinson, (Chair for this meeting), J Evans, R Hussey and H Martin

Also present: County Cllr Dewhirst and County Cllr Bradford

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

030124.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Humble
- Cllr Brampton
- Cllr Cooper-Smith
- Cllr Wakefield
- Cllr Lockton
- Cllr O'Regan
- District Cllr Taylor
- District Cllr Radford

030124.02 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.

030124.03 OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

030124.04 POLICE REPORT

PC Ben Chadwick is the new Neighbourhood Beat Manager and is currently undergoing his induction. He hopes to be able to attend future meetings of the Parish Council when available. The next PACT meeting is on 31 January at Hearn Field at 10.30am.

030124.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Cllr Dewhirst gave a report – copy attached.

County Cllr Bradford apologised that she had been unable to attend very frequently as she was often committed elsewhere on Wednesdays. She reminded members that she sits on Children's Scrutiny, Public Rights of Way and Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education and is happy to help with any matters relating to these Committees. She spends a lot of time dealing with Highways issues and she encouraged members to report potholes online. She has had notice from DCC that resurfacing works will be starting on Shaldon Road with overnight road closures from Monday 22 January – Saturday 27 January, 1900hrs - 0600hrs. She will send the information to the clerk for circulation. It was noted that the road is also closed from Monday 8 January – Friday 12 January from Park House to Cross Park. Cllr Bradford also advised that she sits on the Licencing Committee at TDC and is Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee. She is therefore happy to help with any queries relating to these.

District Cllrs Taylor and Radford were unable to attend the meeting but advised that they have a Full Council Meeting in January and will have more information on the Chancellor's Autumn budget which will be coming into effect from now until 1 April.

030124.06 DELEGATE REPORTS

None

030124.07 MINUTES

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

030124.08 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
DD	Ecotricity	Hearn Field electricity (December)	£355.14
Online	Clerk	Salary (December)	£591.97
Online	HMRC	PAYE (Q3)	£294.60

8.2 Income

Members noted the income (3 – 29 December 2023):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
Dec	Bonfire	Cash	£171
Dec	Lloyds	Interest	£14.32

8.3 Bank Balances at 29 December 2023

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£24,875.73	£12,565.53	£6,343.43	£43,784.69

8.4 Members considered and the draft budget and precept request for 2024/25. After discussion, the budget was agreed. It was noted that whilst reserves are healthy and can be drawn on if required, the budgeted expenditure exceeds the proposed income which, in the longer-term, is not sustainable. It was agreed that it would be prudent to increase it by 4% in 2024/25. This is significantly below the current rate of inflation. A sum of £9133 would be demanded. It was also noted that the current year's council tax for an average Band D property in the parish is £21.70 compared to an average of £96.11 across Teignbridge.

During the discussion, members considered whether a budget would be needed for proposals previously discussed relating to traffic calming/speed reduction in the parish. These matters had been raised by members of the public. It was agreed to ask Cllr Brampton, who had been co-ordinating this, if there is still appetite amongst those parishioners to pursue this. County Cllr Dewhirst advised that a 20mph speed restriction has recently been introduced in a parish in South Hams at a cost of £12,000.

030124.09 PLANNING

9.1 New applications/appeals/notifications

None

9.2 Decisions

None

9.3 Enforcement matters

No further updates.

030124.10 HEARN FIELD

Members received the following report:

Covid Recovery Funds

For information: The working group met on Thursday 14 December, and identified a number of priorities for the Hearn Field. Further details to follow as they're developed and costed by the working group. Project headings as follows:

- Car park surface and presentation
- Security, safety and wildlife value of north boundary (see below)
- Storage facilities
- Field surface in front of the Pavilion
- Access, flow and use of space in the Pavilion
- Events and activities support
- Pavilion internal presentation
- Other

Proposal: That a management plan be initiated along the HF boundary with the road to Combe Cellars. After years of flail cutting the hedge is now very "porous" and also lacking species diversity. The boundary to be rejuvenated by hedge laying in the local Devon style. Three contractors have viewed the site, discussed plans and quoted. Propose to engaged one of them to lay 1/3 of the boundary in Feb/Mar 2024, and volunteers to do some interplanting to improve species diversity. Budget: hedge laying 70 metres @ 15/m = £1,050 plus 70 hedgerow whips @ 1.50 = £105 = total £1,200. An alternative plan for future hedge trimming to maintain its condition long term.

The remaining 2/3 of the hedge will benefit from one or two seasons growth before laying. This creates the opportunity to apply for grants to help complete the work.

Members approved this expenditure.

Memorial tree

For information: The memorial tree purchased to commemorate Ron Vaulter has survived the summer and now been planted. It's positioned near the north boundary, and will benefit from reduced competition when the hedging work is done. I'll contact Ron's friends from the Shaldon Kestrels Cycle Club who funded this tree, and Parishioners who knew him to discuss a suitable written tribute.

Teign Gig Regatta

For information: There's a local Gig Regatta using the Hearn Field Pavilion and shoreline this next Saturday 6th . Boats launching from the Combe Cellars slipway from 8:30 to 9:15am.

Sauna

For information: The Committee has accepted a booking from a company wishing to attend the field with a sauna tent. It is thought that this will start on Tuesday 23 January at 11am with a view to running weekly if is considered appropriate.

Open Studios

Charlotte has requested use of the Pavilion for this year's Devon Open Studios from 7 - 22 September 2024. This was agreed on the same terms as usual. She will liaise with the Woodshed Café to co-ordinate opening hours.

Hearn Field Committee

Next meeting Wednesday 17 January 2024, 7:30 pm at the Hearn Field Pavilion

030124.11 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

It was agreed that climate and environment would be considered alongside all new initiatives.

030124.12 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Members received a comprehensive response following the report made to DCC about the pooling of water in the highway outside Spring Cottage:

'The works we undertook here in the past financial years were to repair a section of broken pipe that was identified during a CCTV survey. With this repair complete the system is as it is expected to be. Since then the pooling has been a lot less severe and has drained away quicker, with reports of flooding at this location significantly decreasing and it not being seen to the same extent when I am in the area during and following rain. Having been in the area yesterday and there being no pooling across the highway.

These gullies have been inspected as per our routine programme and have been marked as operating as expected since the works took place, with the last inspections taking place in May 2023. With the 2 on the corner having been jetted on the 7th of December 2023.

I understand there is pooling in this area during and shortly after rain but this is expected after heavy rain events, especially with the amount of rain events we have had in the past few months meaning ground water levels are high as well as in streams and other water courses. In severe weather the capacity of our drainage system can be overwhelmed by the amount of water on the road from local run off, with Combeinteignhead the low point for a large amount of area as can be seen during rain with the amount of water running from the Newton Abbot direction. Additionally the drains here runs into a system under the carpark which drains into the stream, where the stream is high this will also limit the amount of water that can be drained. Again this is expected and there is little that can be done to prevent this. This is why the Met Office, Environment Agency and Councils issue flood warnings and tell people to avoid the road and to protect their property as in this extreme weather there is little we can do.

I will continue to monitor this location but any improvements to the drainage system would be difficult due to it likely not being an issue with the gullies but the system further on which is all under private land and drains into the stream which also has limited capacity.'

It was noted that a vehicle has been abandoned at the top of the steps adjacent to Teign View Cottage. There are no number plates but the police have identified it by the VIN. They have no information about it and say it is therefore a Council matter. It is understood that TDC has been informed. Cllrs Dewhirst and Bradford offered to follow the matter up with DCC and TDC.

030124.13 CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Hussey advised that he is waiting for a price and installation cost of a new dog bin for consideration at a future meeting.

030124.14 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

None

030124.15 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA, PARISH MAGAZINE, NOTICE BOARDS ETC

None

030124.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on 7 February 2024 at 7.30pm.

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Chair

County Councillor's Report 3rd January 2024

Stacey Sheppard, the founder of The Tribe in Totnes, Devon's first female coworking space and part of Devon's Work Hub network, is spearheading a campaign to shop local.

She has created an 18-page downloadable gift guide (<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/uhyzizgdtzsfu8nmzodz6/h?preview=Tribe+Christmas+Gift+Guide+2023.pdf&rlkey=ikdhce33gwk381qnar2ejoldq&dl=0>) that features women-owned businesses, many of whom are connected to The Tribe, and their products that would make fantastic Christmas gifts. She has also created an advent calendar on Instagram which she shared every day up to Christmas. Behind each window is a different woman-owned businesses that people can shop with this holiday season.

The current business landscape is challenging for all small businesses. The 2023 Small Business Report found that 60% of small businesses fear closure in the coming year due to inflation, increased costs, and an economy teetering on the edge of recession.

Research by NatWest has shown that there is huge unrealised economic potential linked to female entrepreneurship in the UK and supporting female entrepreneurs who could play an integral role in kickstarting the economic recovery by unlocking £250 billion in economic value.

Stacey said: "The convenience of shopping with huge multi-national companies like Amazon cannot be denied, but in doing this we risk seeing the many independent businesses that populate our highstreets disappear from the map. So, it's important that we act if we want to see these businesses survive."

Inspired by the likes of entrepreneur Holly Tucker who founded the online marketplace notonthehighstreet.com and who now champions the nation's entrepreneurs. Stacey decided to do what she could to highlight all the incredible women-owned businesses in Devon that need our support.

Stacey says: "According to research by Holly Tucker, if we all bought one gift from an independent retailer, we could re-allocate £2.7 billion and that would go a really long way to helping these businesses survive."

Bespoke + Local is one of the businesses included in the gift guide. Founder Alison Logan curates luxury gift boxes which feature products from local Devon artisans. Alison says: "Collaboration within communities is so important to ensure local business grows and thrives. At Bespoke + Local, we proudly champion over 30 talented Devon artisans. By choosing a Bespoke + Local gift box, you directly support these individuals and help to keep artisan craft alive across many local communities in Devon."

The council are again reminding people not to dispose of potentially dangerous waste at the recycling centres after a World War Two mine was recently found at Torr Quarry Recycling Centre in Kingsbridge. The recycling centre had to be evacuated after the discovery, and the Royal Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team were called to dispose of the mine safely.

The incident isn't a one-off – repeatedly over the years items such as mortar shells and similar potentially explosive items have been left at recycling centres.

Often it is not possible to tell if the explosive device is still live and as such sites have had to be evacuated, and emergency services and bomb disposal experts called.

Visit the website at www.devon.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/centre/for advice on the materials you can and cannot take to the recycling centre.

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