

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 April 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors G Humble (Chair), S Brampton, A Cooper-Smith, J Evans, H Martin and M Wakefield

Also present: County Cllr Dewhirst, District Cllr Radford and four members of the public.

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

030424.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Pattinson
- Cllr O'Regan
- Cllr Lockton
- Cllr R Hussey
- District Cllr Taylor
- County Cllr Bradford

030424.02 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 Evans declared an interest in item 13.1.

Cllr Cooper-Smith declared an interest in 9.3

030424.03 OPEN FORUM

Three members of the public spoke in support of their request for funding to be considered at item 13.1. A small group has reinstated the tug-of-war competition between Stokeinteignhead and Combeinteignhead. Last year's event was held in Stokeinteignhead and attracted over 300 local residents generating a great sense of fun, shared purpose and a warm community ambience for all those who attended. Combeinteignhead won. The squad includes serving and ex-military and police personnel and trains regularly; the moral boost for all those involved is palpable. Unfortunately, the old training rope has now broken. The team has decided that this year it would also like to compete in two National Tug-of-War competitions at the Devon County Show and Widecombe Fair. They would also like to win back the Honour of Shaldon from a Birmingham team who have won for the last five years running. The squad need to be equipped with a 30-40 metre marine (which costs approximately £300), extra thick long-sleeved rugby shirts, shorts and long thick socks and specialist footwear. The total needed is around £3000. All the proceeds from the event in September will be going towards the village hall roof fund so the Tug-Of-War team won't benefit from that in terms of funding. County Cllr Dewhirst offered a sum of £300 from his locality budget.

A resident referred to the concerns he raised at the last meeting about activities at 2 Holywell Cottages. He has shared an email with photographs with the Parish Council to help members to visualise these concerns. These relate to the destruction of hedging/wildlife site, filling in the marshland with hard core, the removal of a boundary wall (and the potential impact this would have on flooding for local properties), a matter of 'land grab' (which he has followed up with Coombe Cellars) and the general untidiness of the site. An application for a Certificate of Lawfulness was submitted in June for a boat shed. There are concerns that this is visible from the Teign Estuary and Templar Way. This has not yet been determined. The clerk advised that TDC requested an extension to determine this and have

until 18 April. Whilst this item will be discussed at 9.3, the Chair proposed that the Parish Council writes to TDC challenging the Certificate of Lawfulness on the basis that the applicant states there is no change of use of the land which is untrue. The boat shed, which is sizeable (7m x 6,5m), is set on a permanent concrete base. Use of the land has therefore changed from car parking to a permanent structure and therefore a full planning application should be submitted. The application also states that it is not visible from a public footpath which is incorrect. The construction is very visible from two well-known public footpaths and the Teign Estuary. The resident also advised that there is a water vole project running down the stream. A concrete base will take away their ability to access the banks.

030424.04 POLICE REPORT

No crime report.

030424.05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Cllr Dewhirst gave a report – copy attached.

District Cllr Radford reported that attended a meeting of Full Council. He has met with the Director/CEO of Strata (the company that provides all the Council's computer equipment) to gain more of an insight into what is being provided and whether it offers good value for money. The infrastructure for electric vehicles is being put in place. He is on a Task & Finish group looking at cost savings and efficiencies. A Working Group is being set up to look at the 1200 parcels of land owned by TDC with a view to disposing of land where appropriate. He has met with Cllr Evans at Hearn Field and was very impressed with the facility.

030424.06 DELEGATE REPORTS

The Chair attended the Parish and Town Council meeting at TDC about working more closely together. She reported that everyone has the right intentions – to improve the working relationship between parishes, towns and district – and it was useful to get to know other councillors from local councils, but we will have wait and see if the reality matches the intentions.

030424.07 MINUTES

Members approved and authorised the Chair to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 March 2024 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

030424.08 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

| Payment type | Payee | Details | Amount |
|--------------|--------------|--|---------|
| Online | Clerk | Salary (March) | £399.97 |
| Online | HMRC | PAYE | £264.40 |
| Online | DGM | Mower repairs | £443.24 |
| Online | NetwiseUK | Website hosting, support and maintenance | £396.00 |
| Online | Village Hall | Annual Meeting refreshments (2023) | £72.10 |

8.2 Income

Members noted income received (2 – 27 March 2024):

| Received | Received from | Details | Amount |
|----------|---------------|----------|--------|
| March | Lloyds | Interest | £13.92 |

8.3 Bank Balances at 27 March 2024

| Current account | Savings account | Sea Wall account | Total |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| £19,348.13 | £12,620.66 | £6,343.43 | £38,312.22 |

030424.09 PLANNING

9.1 New applications/appeals/notifications

None

9.2 Decisions

None

9.3 **Enforcement matters**

2 Holywell Cottages

Following representation in the open forum (item 3), it was agreed to support the Chair's proposal to challenge the Certificate of Lawfulness application for the reasons stated at item 3.

It was also agreed to write to Coombe Cellars expressing the Parish Council's concerns that they are allowing the destruction of wildlife site on their property.

Finally, it was agreed to write to TDC's Enforcement Officer asking him to pursue an Untidy Land Notice.

1 Albert Cottages

No further update.

Teignview Cottage

Some further minor work has been carried out done including the demolition of the remaining wall and some more of the wall has been rebuilt. It was agreed that Cllr Brampton would look at the planning permission conditions to ensure they are being complied with.

Land associated with 22/01635/AGR

No further update. At the last meeting, it was noted that the Enforcement Officer had written to the owner requesting that the vehicles and piles of building materials are removed by the middle of March. These have not yet been removed. It is unknown whether a site visit has been made, however members were happy to give appropriate directions to gain access. It was not thought to be appropriate to accompany the Enforcement Officer to this site.

Little Park

No further update.

Agricultural building, Netherton Ridge, Ridge Road, Netherton

The Enforcement Officer has advised that the works to construct a new fodder and machinery store was approved under reference 20/00313/AGR. It was noted that at the time, the Parish Council had no objections.

Members discussed generally whether there would be any benefit in asking to meet with the Enforcement Officer about the growing number of cases in the parish. Concerns were expressed about whether this would be good use of officer time (particularly as TDC has only one Enforcement Officer). It was agreed to suggest to him that he could let us know when he is visiting the parish and a member/s could make themselves available to accompany him when appropriate.

030424.10 HEARN FIELD

Cllr Evans gave the following report:

Events

The following are all the confirmed dates for our upcoming events on Hearn Field:

- Village Show – Sunday 26 May, 11am-7pm. Still looking for volunteers.
- Outdoor Theatre
 - Peter Pan by Immersion Theatre – Sunday 16 June, 6:30pm. Tickets available at www.ticketsource.co.uk
 - Love Riot (a new adaptation of the 18th century play The Belle's Strategem) by Miracle Theatre – Friday 5 July, 7pm. Tickets available soon.
- The Hound of the Baskervilles by Illyria Theatre - Saturday 3 August, 7pm. Tickets available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/illyria
- The Secret Diary of Henry VIII by The Three Inch Fools – Wednesday 21 August, 7pm. Tickets available at www.eventbrite.co.uk

Hedge works

Thank you to Councillor O'Regan who organised for the planting of hedge whips within the laid hedge. All are looking good waiting to burst into leaf.

Disabled toilet

The disabled toilet pan has been replaced by Councillor Wakefield and the new altro flooring will be fitted soon.

Woodshed Café

Trade at the Woodshed has been a bit slow for the last couple of months due to the poor weather and illness. The Woodshed will remain open, however, when Reach Outdoors are on site w/c 13th as they are a small group. The Woodshed will close for the next Reach Outdoors booking in June (3rd -12th) for a week and a half.

Premises Licence Application

The Hearing was postponed, at very last minute, from Wednesday 27 March to Wednesday 3 April. The Premises Licence was not granted. The Village Show will therefore operate this year under a TENS licence. TDC will write formally with their reasons for refusal. These reasons will help the Parish Council consider whether or not to appeal the decision or reapply.

There was a discussion about the inappropriate tone of an email to the clerk from TDC's Monitoring Officer in response to an email she had sent seeking a more detailed explanation for the last minute postponement of the original Hearing. District Cllr Radford advised that District Cllr Taylor has written to the Monitoring Officer about this.

030424.11 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

The abandoned car is still behind Lilac Cottage. County Cllr Dewhurst thought that it is a TDC matter. A form can be completed on TDC's website reporting it.

030424.12 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

After discussion, it was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall on 1 May at 6.30pm before May's Parish Council meeting. It would be an opportunity for residents and volunteers to chat generally with Parish Councillors. Tea, coffee and cake will be offered.

030424.13 CORRESPONDENCE

13.1 Members considered a request for funding from Combe Tuggers (see item 3 – open forum). After a discussion, it was agreed to make a small grant of £300 towards the cost of purchasing a new rope. District Cllr Radford also offered a grant of £50 from his locality budget.

030424.14 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 Wakefield advised that the flooring contractor who had been lined up to replace the flooring in the disabled toilet at Hearn Field has not come back with a date for the work despite numerous attempts to contact him. Cllr Wakefield has therefore contacted the other contractor from whom a quote was received (slightly higher) and he is prepared to start the work on 22 April. It was agreed to proceed on this basis.

030424.15 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA, PARISH MAGAZINE, NOTICE BOARDS ETC

Cllr O'Regan has sent some photographs of the newly planted hedge whips which could be included on the website site and/or social media.

030424.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on 1 May 2024 at 7.30pm.

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Chair

County Councillor's Report 3rd April

An agreement has been signed between the County Council and the Government which will see an extra £95 million of national funds set aside to reduce the deficit on special needs education.

Our cumulative spending on education for children with special needs and disabilities (SEND) over the past 10 years is set to create a deficit of £163 million by the end of the 2023/24 financial year and £206 million by the end of this financial year.

In common with many councils, we have been negotiating with the Government for extra funding for special needs education under the so-called Safety Valve programme. We have also set aside £10 million this year to help bring down the deficit.

The new agreement will see the Government contribute £38 million by the end of March with the remaining cash being spread out over the following eight years.

We will contribute a further £5 million a year from its revenue budget and £20 million from reserves to bring the deficit back into balance by the end of the agreement.

The SEND Action Plan that Devon has agreed with the Government includes:

- focussing on improving early intervention through strengthened universal and targeted support
- supporting young people from 14 to 25 to access appropriate education and training and ensure a planned transition into employment, independent living and their next steps into adult life
- ensuring sufficient special school places along with the establishment of Specialist Resource Provision and improved use of Alternative Provision
- working with partners to improve the inclusive capacity of Devon's mainstream schools
- working with partners to improve the way services in Devon – including health and schools – work together to provide seamless support for children and families

Adoption services for Cornwall Council and the Isles of Scilly will join the Regional Adoption Agency, Adopt South West, from Monday 1 April 2024. It means that the region covered by Adopt South West now includes the local authority areas of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Somerset.

Adopt South West was established in 2018, following the Government's introduction of Regional Adoption Agencies, bringing together adoption teams from neighbouring authorities to create a single agency in the South West.

The aim of a Regional Adoption Agency is to improve the recruitment of adopters, to help children move into their permanent families as promptly as possible and to offer robust adoption support across a wider region.

Many of Cornwall Council's adoption team members have transferred to Adopt South West, which ensures their adoptive families continue to get support from the same familiar faces.

Children with a visual impairment in Devon have helped the Council to design a new custom-made armband and lanyard to help others more easily recognise that they have a disability. And both designs have been a big hit with young people who say that these aids have had an immediate impact and made a big difference to their day-to-day lives.

More than 600 children and young people in Devon live with a visual impairment. But, because it's a disability that isn't visible to others, this can lead to children and young people not being treated with the care and consideration that they are entitled to.

Usually those who are visually impaired use an awareness aid, such as the internationally recognised white short 'symbol cane' or white 'long cane'. But these aids are designed with adults in mind, and children told us at the Council's Rehabilitation Office for Visually Impaired Children (ROVIC) service that they needed something to suit their age group.

One nine-year-old girl shared that sometimes her cane made her feel embarrassed. So, with help from young people, designs for two new visual awareness aids that children felt 'comfortable and confident' using were produced.

Devon has become home to the first registered "habitat bank" in the country. The County Council and Exeter City Council have worked closely with Devon-based BioGains Limited to register the privately owned 3.2 hectare site in Duryard Valley Park.

The pioneering initiative follows the introduction of the new Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) planning laws which require all qualifying planning permissions to demonstrate that development of a site will achieve a net gain in biodiversity of more than 10% compared with beforehand. If developers are unable to deliver habitat enhancements on-site, they can either choose to undertake the work elsewhere themselves or they can purchase them from a provider of a habitat bank.

The habitat bank in Exeter will be enhanced predominantly into lowland meadow, which is a national priority habitat. There will also be around 260 metres of new and enhanced species-rich hedgerow and some small areas of scrub.

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