

COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held at the Community Centre on Monday, 9th, October 2017, at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Peter James (In the Chair) Julia Clark, Wendy Druce, Yvette Gubb, Doug Seymour, Celia Withers, David Woodbury, Helen Mallinder.

In Attendance: County Council Cllr Andrea Davis District Cllr John Lovering, 3 parishioners, Parish Clerk.

The meeting was opened with prayers.

Prior to the meeting a cheque presentation was made to the Parish Council by the Ilfracombe and District Lions. A contribution of £1,011.09 was made to assist with the Air Ambulance Lighting Scheme.

136/17 Public Session – to receive, and reply to matters from Parishioners

- a) Hangmans Lane – a parishioner raised a number of issues relating to the surface of the Lane, blocked drains, and defective manhole cover. Cllr Julia Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council owned the Lane, and that there was an agreement with the School, via the County Council, to share the maintenance. The Parish Council would cost out the work required, arrange a meeting with the School, and monitor the extent of vehicle use.
- b) Combe Martin – ATM cash machine – a parishioner asked if there were plans to locate an ATM in Combe Martin following the closure of the Lloyds Bank Branch. He was advised that details from Barclays Bank had been passed to the Clerk.

137/17 Apologies for absence.

None received

138/17 Declarations of Interest/Requests for dispensations

Cllr David Woodbury declared an interest in item 8 a

139/17 County and District Councilors' Reports

Devon County Council

Cllr Andrea Davis reported on the following issues:

a) North Devon Link Road

Key points include a recommendation from DCC Cabinet to that the South Molton to Barnstaple stretch of the Link Road should be widened to provide more overtaking opportunities. In addition, a series of junction capacity and safety improvements from South Molton to Bideford. DCC is being asked to agree a long-term strategy for a bid of £88 million for upgrade and road widening. Planning application in late 2018, with a Full Business Case submitted to the Government in 2020. (detailed report held on file).

Cllr Ian Lawton raised an issue relating to the completion and timetable for the work on the Muddiford Road. Cllr Andrea Davis confirmed that the work was progressing well and would be completed on time.

Cllr John Lovering raise an issue relating to the provision of more overtaking lanes on the Link Road. Cllr Andrea Davis confirmed that they would be an increase in the overtaking opportunities in line with the current recommendation's.

b) Extra cash for Devon's Schools

Schools across Devon stand to gain £7.5 million more from the Government's proposed new funding formula. The County Council campaigned against the previous formula, and hope the announcement will go some way to alleviating the pressure on funding, and allow Schools to maintain current standards of education.

The Government has also announced an increase in the high needs budget for our most vulnerable children by £300,000.

North Devon Council

District Cllr John Lovering reported that plans for a new Leisure Centre in Barnstaple were progressing. The Leisure Centre will be built on the site of the Tarka Tennis Centre, and will include an 8 lane Swimming Pool. A planning application will be considered in December, and the contractors will be engaged on a design and build basis.

Cllr Julia Clerk asked why a Bowling facility was not planned for the new Facility. It was explained that finances were not available to consider this facility.

Garden Waste collections over the winter months – Cllr Yvette Gubb referred to the recent press release. Residents are reminded that their garden waste will be collected every four weeks during the winter months. For more information and to check your collection dates online, see North Devon Council's website www.northdevon.gov.uk/collectiondates.

140/17 **Police and Vandalism Report**

The Police newsletter for September has been received and has now been circulated to members.

Crimes reported in September 2017 were:

Combe Martin

- Violence with Injury 2
- Violence without injury 4
- Criminal Damage 1
- Public Order Offences 1

140/17 **Minutes of the last meeting**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings held on 11th, September, , 2017, be confirmed and signed as a true record (all in favour).

141/17 **Planning**

a) Applications

Cllr David Woodbury declared a personal interest in the following item:

63819 – CREATION OF NEW PARKING AREA AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AT 7 FIVE TURNINGS

Applicant – Mr. David Woodbury

RESOLVED to advise the planning authority that as the applicant was a member of Combe Martin Parish Council no comments/observation will be made on the application.

63714 –CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL BUILDING TO FORM ONE UNIT OF HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION.

Applicant – Mr. Oliver Young

RESOLVED to advise the planning authority that this Council has no objections to the proposed development.

63627 – FOOTBALL GROUND AIR AMBULANCE LANDING LIGHTS

Applicant – Combe Martin Parish Council

RESOLVED to advise the planning authority that the Council no comments/ observations on the application, as the land is in ownership of the Parish

b) Planning correspondence

Notice of Appeal

61999 – ERECTION OF ONE DWELLING (AMENDED PLANS) LAND TO REAR OF GRASMERE HOUSE KING SREET COOMBE MARTIN

Applicant – Mrs. Pauline Taft

Noted appeal unsuccessful

142/17 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

a Min 126/17b – Eberleigh House flats

Cllr Doug Seymour reported back on the meeting. (Full report on file)

b Min129 /17c – Email objecting to dog mess

Cllr Peter James reported that following residents' concerns over the level of mess in the Parish, North Devon Cllrs had been invited to tour the Parish. It was suggested that to alleviate the problems residents record details of offenders and pass onto North Devon Council

AGREED – Cllr Peter James to check data protection issue.

c Min 102/17i – new building at Hollands Park and Existing store

Cllr Peter James confirmed that a summary note of the Working Party had been circulated to all members in early October. The report from the Working party was accepted.

d Min108/17-Parade Toilets

Cllr Doug Seymour reported on the progress of the sale of the toilets.

He advised the Parish Council that there were decisions to be made about the removal of the barriers prior to the sale. Cllr David Woodbury commented that it should be the responsibility of the purchaser to remove the barrier. Further discussions took place.

RESOLVED: that delegated power been given to Cllrs Doug Seymour and Peter James to contact the Solicitor seek advice, progress the sale, and report back to Parish Council

e Min 88/17b – permits for spaces at High Street Coach/Car Park

Cllr Ian Lawton declared an interest in this item

There are two available spaces in the above car park. It had previously been agreed to arrange a ballot to allocate the spaces. AGREED to invite application for the spaces by placing an article in the Parish Newsletter with a closing date of the 1st November 2017. Ballot to take place at the Parish Council Meeting to be held on the 13th, November 2017. Waiting list to be set up, if required.

143/17 Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies

Coastal Communities Team – Public Meeting, 8th October 2017 had been attended by 30 Parishioners

The Chairman, Cllr Peter James reported back that 23 projects were progressing well, at differing timescales. One project (Business hub) had been dropped. He reported that Leader 5 is still open for application, and

a future bid is a possibility. More volunteers to join the Coastal Community Team are always welcome.

144/17 **Correspondence**

Exmoor National Park – Consultation on the draft Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan.

The Chairman reported that he had met with Mr. K Mullins, in respect of his requests for information. The Chairman had also received correspondence from Mr. Mullins.

There has been reference to requests from Mr. Mullins might be considered

145/17 **Dates of future meetings**

AGREED – dates for the following meetings.

Parish Council Interim Meeting – Monday 23rd October 2017 at 7.00pm

Parish Council Meeting – Monday 13th November 2017 at 7.00pm

Meetings to be held at the Community Centre.

146/17 **Finance**

a) Monthly balance in account:

Balance b/fwd at 31st August		161,401.48
Less outstanding chqs		10,452.36
		150,949.12
Income		
Rents	1,063.41	
Car Parks	12,855.00	
Senior Citizens (Com Centre)	353.45	
Interest	1.02	
Admin	38,867.23	
Grants	3,127.85	
Total income		53,267.96
Expenses		18,103.82
Balances carried forward		186,113.26
Plus, outstanding cheqs		646.03
Balance in bank at 29th September 2017		186,759.29

b) Summary of Car Park Taking to 29/09/17

2016/17	2016/17	2017/18 to 29/09/17	2017 to 29/09/17
Meters	Meters & Season tickets	Meters	Meters & Season tickets
95,440	114,987	80,061	94,321

Comments – income taken in 2017/18 likely to be in excess of 2016/17 takings. A full summary of monthly takings is available on request.

- c) Invoices for payment.
Proposed by Cllr Clark, and seconded by the Chairman that the list of accounts prepared for the meeting be approved. RESOLVED: That all listed invoices be approved for payment, except for BemroseBooth Paragon cheque no 7153 – more details required.
- d) Loomis
Noted that the annual increase for the services of Loomis will increase by 4 percent plus VAT per month.
- e) Payment Card Reader for Parish Council office.
Cllr Doug Seymore reported that this matter had been discussed at previous Meetings, and that he would liaise with the Clerk to action the provision of a card reader for the office.
- f) Parish Council Wreath for Remembrance Parade
AGREED – to make a donation of £35 for the Remembrance Day Wreath

147/17 **Car Park Charges**

Cllr Helen Mallinder declared an interest in this item
After a discussion it was AGREED that Cllr Yvette Gubb, in conjunction with North Devon Council, would review the current arrangements at the Cormelles Car Park, and report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

148/17 **Exclusion of Public and Press and Restriction of Documents**

RESOLVED

- a. That, under section1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as they involve the disclosure of sensitive and confidential information, and the items contain exempt information as defined by the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12a Part 1.
- b. That all reports and documents relating to the items be confirmed as “Not for publication”

a) **St Peters Mews – Rents**

Cllr Doug Seymour reported that following correspondence with solicitors there were issues relating to outstanding payments. The Chairman, raised a concern at the cost to the Parish Council of engaging Solicitors to collect rents, and that this arrangement should be reviewed. AGREED that the Chairman would draft a letter to the Solicitors regarding the high costs of their services, and that the Clerk and Cllr Doug Seymour would look to locate a file on St Peters Mews.

- b) Report back from Personnel Sub Committee – Meeting held on the 2nd October 2017.
Cllr Wendy Druce had circulated a copy of the minutes to Cllrs prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising.
- c) Set date for Special Meeting to discuss the outcome of the operational review.
AGREED: that a Special Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 30th October 2017 at the Community Hall to consider the findings from the operation review. Notices to be displayed.
- d) Departure of the Parish Clerk
AGREED: that the Clerk arrange a financial audit, and a review of the Parish Council's financial management systems.
AGREED: that the Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Doug Seymour, investigate a new system of entry and security for the Parish Council Offices, and findings reported back to the next meeting of the Council.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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Chairman