

# COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held at the Community Centre on Monday 8 October 2018 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Ian Lawton (Vice Chair), Doug Seymour, Wendy Druce, Julia Clark, David Woodbury, and Yvette Gubb.

In Attendance: District Cllr John Lovering, Parish Clerk (minute taker), and ten parishioners. County Cllr Andrea Davis arrived at 7.35pm.

Cllr Ian Lawton chaired the meeting.

The meeting was opened with prayers.

## **219/18 Public Session – to receive, and reply to matters from Parishioners**

Mr Trevor Kibble raised his concerns about the Parish Council's commitment to improving the bathing water quality on the beach. He read out the email that he sent to Cllr Peter James following the recent meeting of the Combe Martin Water Watch Group in September. He was supported by seven parishioners some of whom are members of the Combe Martin Water Watch Group. Mr Kibble said that the Council should take the lead on this issue and a more pro-active role in the Combe Martin Water Watch Group. Cllr Ian Lawton said that Cllr Peter James had made an important contribution to the group, but was currently dealing with some health issues. Cllr Lawton said that he would speak to Cllr James and report back to Council. Both Cllrs, Yvette Gubb and David Woodbury are members of the Combe Martin Water Watch Group.

Mrs Nicky Tossell asked for an update on the river wall in Bowling Green Lane and said that the road behind the Castle Inn pub has been puddling with water again following recent rainfall. In respect of the river wall, Cllr David Woodbury said that the Environment Agency (EA) has confirmed that the wall is not a designated flood defence. The Parish Council would like the EA to carry out flood defence modelling on the wall, but first need to establish ownership. So far, our enquiries have drawn a blank.

Mrs Tossell also asked whether a tonnage restriction could be placed on the A39 during the A399 road closure. Cllr Ian Lawton said that he would raise the question with County Cllr Andrea Davis.

Mr Paul Holman and Ms Laura Lethaby from the Combe Martin Youth Football Club (CMYFC) asked whether the CMYFC could utilise the 'basketball area' at the far end of the pitch at Hollands Park for its training sessions over the winter. CMYFC would like permission to dig out the mound in the middle, re-seed the

area, chop down the trees and make the area safe. Cllr Doug Seymour said that the Hollands Park Working Party was meeting with representatives of the adult Football Club on 25 October 2018 to discuss the new building and a new lease. He said that Council should not make a decision on the CMYFC's request until after that meeting, and not before further information has been provided by CMYFC.

Ms Katherine Armitage, member of the Combe Martin Water Watch Group, raised her concern about the recent media reports of 'nuclear mud' being dumped off the coast of Cardiff from the Hinkley Point C construction project. Cllr Yvette Gubb said that she was going to raise the issue further down the agenda and ask this Council to write to the Welsh Assembly.

Two parishioners left the meeting at 7.30pm.

220/18 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs, Chris Wyer, Celia Withers, and Helen Mallinder. Cllr Peter James was not in attendance.

221/18 **Declarations of Interest**

Declarations dealt with per agenda item.

In relation to planning applications, any decisions or observations made by Cllr Yvette Gubb during this meeting are based upon the information available at the time. Such observations and decisions might well change in the light of any information which comes before Cllr Gubb in her capacity as a District Councillor when sitting on the North Devon District Council's Planning Committee.

222/18 **To consider any requests for dispensation**

None.

223/18 **Finance**

a. To receive the reports on the monthly balances.

The Finance Clerk circulated the finance reports prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

b. To consider the advice and quote for replacing the defective light at Western Gardens.

**RESOLVED:** To accept the quotation and replace the defective lighting unit.

c. To consider the email from MST Auctions about fireproof cabinets and the pricing options for these items from the August 2018 meeting.

Cllr Wendy Druce provided the Clerk with a telephone number for a company in Tiverton that sells fireproof cabinets. She also suggested that the office contact Pilton Auctions in Barnstaple.

**RESOLVED:** To make a decision about the purchase of a fireproof cabinet at the Budget meeting.

County Cllr Andrea Davis arrived at 7.35pm.

## 224/18 County and District Councilors' Reports

### Devon County Council

County Cllr Andrea Davis circulated her report to Parish Council members in advance of this meeting. She highlighted the following issues from her report.

#### **Food Waste**

A very successful Food waste conference called 'The Cutting Edge' was held in Crediton recently. It looked at Food Waste Prevention opportunities across Devon.

The initial idea for a conference on food waste prevention came from the joint working group of Devon local authorities, the Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee that is DCC, Torbay Council and the 8 district councils of Devon.

The committee is set up to achieve the aims and objectives of the Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon. This is due to be updated early next year when the Government publishes its own Strategy later this year. The aim of the conference was to get the participants involved in developing the food waste prevention element of the Strategy.

The focus on food waste prevention took on new energy when an analysis of 1800 black bags/bins from across Devon and Torbay was carried out on behalf of the Joint Committee in October 2017. The results showed that despite nearly all the authorities collecting food waste separately, 30% of the rubbish in those black bins was food waste. Overall, 40.8% of the contents of the residual bin were found to be recyclable with the current systems – the cost of sending this material to disposal instead of recycling is £6.7 million.

This has led to behavioural change campaign work focussed on helping householders to reduce their food waste such as the Guilty Food Waste Secrets Competition to win a FridgeCam. The messages are communicated by the authorities' RecycleDevon team, in schools, at roadshows and via social media.

#### **Recycling**

Devon has consistently been one of the top four recycling counties in the UK over several years.

Unfortunately, three quarters of households (76 per cent) continue to include items in their recycling collections that are not accepted locally – this can cause problems in the recycling process. More than half of those households (54 per cent) put at least one item in the general rubbish that could be recycled.

Please help by recycling:

- Recycle more bathroom items. Almost a quarter (24%) of plastic shampoo and shower gel bottles and 19% of cleaning product bottles don't get recycled. By recycling more empty containers you will help increase Devon's recycling rate.

- Make use of your local food waste collections - any cooked or uncooked food waste, including bones and carcasses, can be put in your food waste collection or used for composting.
- If you're at all unsure about how to recycle a specific item, [www.recycledevon.org](http://www.recycledevon.org) can show you exactly what needs to go in the recycling bin where you live.

### **Highway Update from Devon County Council**

*A reminder of how to report a highway problem.....*

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

*Phone 0345 155 1004 or 0845 155 1004*

Really good progress has been made over the last few months in completing structural works on the road network. By the end of August, DCC had completed over 50% of all the work on the non-principal network.

There was some concern amongst County Councillors about progress with the gully cleaning programme last year. This year Skanska are ahead of programme at approximately 60% complete. Work started with earnest on the 1st October on the cleaning works allowed for within the extra monies that were given to the highways team this year.

And finally, many of the salt bins are full and ready for the winter. Teams are also out replenishing the grit bins and good progress is being made on this. If you come across a bin that has been missed please report it to the number above, thank you.

### **Structural repairs A399 and B3230**

Both works are vital. The roads need to be closed during the works for safety reasons.

The A399 Combe Martin scheme will stabilise an embankment next to the highway while the B3230 Blakewell scheme involves the construction of a new retaining wall to stabilise the road.

Both schemes were timed to avoid the peak summer season and the B3230 Blakewell scheme was planned in consultation with local businesses so it falls outside their busiest periods.

It is essential that both schemes are completed before the cold weather and by carrying them out at the same time DCC will be reducing the total length of time road works are in place in the area.

However, there are contingency plans in place and County Cllr Andrea Davis has been assured that both sets of works will be constantly monitored and could be reopened under traffic lights if it is safe and practical to do so.

Official diversions are in place and the A39 from Blackmoor Gate to Barnstaple could be another option for some motorists.

Cllrs thanked County Cllr Andrea Davis for her report. Two Cllrs raised issues relating to the road closures.

Cllr Ian Lawton asked County Cllr Andrea Davis whether highways could place weight restrictions on the A39 past Arlington and on the C460 while the roadworks to the A399 and the B3230 were being carried out. In respect of the C460, Cllr Lawton also said that there is shrubbery encroaching the road on the sharp bend by Rectory Cottage and a spring traverses the road which is damaging the surface.

County Cllr Davis said that weight restrictions could not be applied to A roads and that she would enquire about C roads. She said that she would pass on the information about the shrubbery and spring to the highways and structural teams.

Cllr Julia Clark said that she had received a telephone complaint from a parishioner about the two road closures. The parishioner had posted his complaint on the What's on Combe Martin Facebook page to which Cllr Clark had responded. The parishioner sent his apologies for not being able to attend the Council meeting, and on his behalf, asked Cllr Clark to raise his concerns.

The parishioner's son had an accident sustaining a damaged vertebrae and broken ribs. An ambulance was called and took over an hour and a half to arrive. The parishioner blames the ambulance delay on the two road closures and is of the view that the closures are putting lives at risk. He also considers that the A399 roadworks are unnecessary and a waste of Council funds.

County Cllr Davis said that DCC sends all agreed closures and information about the diversion routes to the Ambulance, Fire and Police Services in advance of road closures. The timing of the B3230 road closure was done in consultation with local businesses and made public several months ago.

Thorough assessments were undertaken on both roads and the works deemed essential. These works are being undertaken before the cold weather and heavy rains hits to prevent further de-stabilisation and unplanned road closures. Generally, unplanned road closures have to wait longer for repairs to be carried out.

County Cllr Davis suggested that the parishioner write to DCC and the Ambulance Service with their complaint.

### **North Devon Council**

Cllr Yvette Gubb reported on the following issues:

#### **Partnership delivers significant savings to the public purse!**

An innovative partnership between North Devon Council and local social housing provider, North Devon Homes, has achieved key savings which will benefit communities across North Devon.

The partnership has worked to support an improved visibility of priorities, allowing resources to be co-ordinated and targeted in a way which has benefitted communities and citizens across North Devon. The joint review concluded that an increased supply of better quality affordable homes were being delivered, that

there was better use of existing properties to reduce the strain on the public purse, and that consequently, there had been reduced pressure on budgets, with potential savings to the public purse of over £70k.

### **Recycling is the theme of this year's Local Democracy Week**

Reducing single use plastics and the impact of recycling on North Devon made up this year's theme for Local Democracy Week (LDW).

LDW events kicked off on Monday 8 October 2018 at North Devon Council with a question-time event giving pupils from The Park Community School, Pilton Community College and Braunton Academy the chance to quiz the panel on reducing single use plastics and how much responsibility the Council has in helping reduce this.

LDW is an opportunity for pupils to find out about local politics as well as raising awareness of the power they will have in the future to shape their communities through it.

Events continued during the week with visits to the Council's offices and recycling facilities for South Molton Primary School children along with a talk about the impact of recycling on North Devon.

Further events are planned for later in the year with political speed dating taking place in November and a mock planning committee taking place in December.

### **Additional funds available to help some North Devon Households**

Additional funds are available for disabled adaptations and improvements to North Devon households following the introduction of a new housing policy for Devon.

At a meeting of its Executive on Monday 6 August, North Devon Council members agreed to adopt a new Devon-wide Housing Assistance Policy for Better Care Fund (BCF) for the North Devon district. The new policy means that the Council can provide more Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs), Accessible Home Grants and Healthy Housing Grants. These grants will provide support and facilities to households in need meeting the BCF priorities of reducing admissions to hospital and residential nursing care homes.

Through the fund, the Council has received an increase in funding for housing with more money coming directly from the Government to provide improvements. The increased funds have been provided following redistribution of those not needed by other Devon Councils to North Devon as part of the policy.

Cllr John Lovering reported on the following issues:

### **New Safe Sleep service is launched**

On 1 October, North Devon Council and Freedom Community Alliance will open the doors of the first winter shelter project for North Devon's homeless. Dubbed the Safe Sleep Service, the project aims to provide a warm and safe place for up to 20 rough sleepers who will receive a light meal, bed down and be given breakfast each morning between 1 October 2018 and 31 March 2019, ensuring that homeless people in North Devon are able to choose to sleep in a secure, warm and dry place this coming winter.

Along with providing a free and safe place for homeless people to sleep, the project will enable individuals to establish and maintain strong and effective relationships with welfare professionals from a range of government and voluntary organisations. This 'in-reach support', provided from the Safe Sleep venue at the Freedom Centre in Newport, Barnstaple, will enable homeless individuals to overcome common obstacles to finding accommodation – such as lack of I.D. or a rental deposit – and create an environment in which people will be able to proactively help themselves by accessing the necessary assistance to reintegrate with our community and find homes.

The Freedom Centre is an ideal location for the Safe Sleep project, enabling homeless people to not only have a warm and safe location to bed down, but also access the free clothing store, shower facilities and comforts that allow for non-threatening sociable engagement. Freedom Community Alliance's staff, who already have experience delivering night shelters as part of the Council's emergency shelter statutory compliance, will ensure the smooth running of the service. An additional benefit of holding the Safe Sleep service at the Freedom Centre is the multi-agency housing hub that is based in the same building; ensuring Safe Sleep service users are able to access all the help they need to move from homelessness to appropriate accommodation in one location.

### **Help fight flytipping – follow the SCRAP code**

Did you know you could be fined and prosecuted for flytipping even if you paid for someone to take your old bathroom suite or broken fridge away?

North Devon Council is reminding householders and businesses they have a duty of care to use registered private waste collectors to ensure their rubbish is disposed of legally – and if waste is found flytipped, they could face a hefty fine.

When using private waste collectors, the advice is to always follow the SCRAP code:

**S**suspect – beware of rogue waste collectors

**C**heck – ask for their waste carrier registration

**R**efuse – do not be tempted by unsolicited offers to take your rubbish away

**A**sk Questions – ask where your rubbish is going

**P**aperwork – make sure you get a proper receipt listing the rubbish removed and including the carriers' details.

All private waste collectors must hold a Waste Carrier Licence. Always ask to see their licence and check it is valid on the Environment Agency website or by calling 03708 506 506.

If you need to dispose of large items from your home and aren't able to take them to the tip yourself, you can book a bulky waste collection from North Devon Council for as little as £15. The council can collect certain household and garden items, including furniture and white goods. Check the council's website for a full list of items and prices at and call 01271 374776 to book a bulky waste collection.

### **225 /18 Vandalism and Police Reports**

The Police newsletter for October 2018 was sent in advance of this meeting and circulated to Parish Council members.

Crimes reported in September 2018 were as follows:

**Combe Martin**

Violence with Injury	2
Violence without Injury	3
Other Theft	1
Criminal Damage	2
Possession of Drugs	2

**Berrynarbor**

Other Offences	1
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**East Down**

Crime Recorded	1
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226/18 **Minutes of the last meeting**

To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10 September 2018.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2018 be approved as a true record of that meeting.

County Cllr Andrea Davis and the remaining eight parishioners left the meeting at 8.05pm.

227/18 **Planning**

**a) Applications**

**62/19/18/003** – PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS ON THE SOUTH FACING ROOF OF STABLE BUILDING. RETROSPECTIVE. Verwill Farm, Verwill Lane, Combe Martin. Applicant – Mr D Elson

**RESOLVED:** To advise Exmoor National Park Authority that the Council does not have any objections to this retrospective planning proposal.

**62/19/18/004LB** – LISTED BUILDING CONSENT PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS ON THE SOUTH FACING ROOF OF STABLE BUILDING. RETROSPECTIVE. Verwill Farm, Verwill Lane, Combe Martin. Applicant – Mr D Elson

**RESOLVED:** To advise Exmoor National Park Authority that the Council does not have any objections to this retrospective listed building consent planning proposal.

**b) Planning Decisions**

Planning app - 65242 – Permission for development.

This was noted by Council.

**c) Planning Appeals**

Appeal ref – APP/X1118/W/18/3202063 – Appeal dismissed.

Appeal ref - APP/X1118/W/18/3197384 – Appeal allowed.

These were noted by Council.

**228/18 Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies, if any**

**Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum**

Cllr David Woodbury attended the September Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum. Items discussed included funding cut proposals by Somerset County Council to road gritting, and improving superfast broadband and mobile coverage on Exmoor.

The funding cuts to road gritting received a lot of criticism and concerns were raised about road safety and accessibility. Cllr Woodbury said that a representative from Somerset County Council Highways has been invited to attend the next Forum meeting in November to discuss the issue further.

In respect of mobile and broadband coverage, Cllr Woodbury said that he would contact the team looking at the broadband network to ensure that the areas of Exmoor that border Combe Martin are being included in the exercise.

**Combe Martin Museum**

Cllr Julia Clark reported on the Combe Martin Museum. She said that the Museum met on 24 September 2018. Cllr Clark was not present at that meeting, but gave a synopsis of the items discussed.

The children from Combe Martin Primary School are using the Museum up to three times a week as an 'extra classroom'.

Barbara ran beach events during Carnival this year. More volunteers in future would be appreciated to help with these events.

The Tour of Britain event went well. Cllr Clark thanked Pat Chesterton and her team for all their hard work.

The Museum will be closed over the Christmas period from Friday 14 December 2018 to Tuesday 8 January 2019.

Two new young volunteers are being interviewed to help out during the weekends and school holidays.

The MacMillan coffee morning held on Tuesday 20 September 2018 was successful.

The Museum collection is continually updated and there will be a display celebrating the centenary of the end of the First World War.

The 100 Club needs nine more people. If you are interested in joining, please contact the Museum to find out more.

**229/18 North Devon Off-Street Parking Order**

To consider the recommendations for changes to this Council's car parks arising from the Car Parking meeting held on 1 October 2018.

**RESOLVED:** To accept all of the recommendations for changes to this Council's car parks arising from the Car Parking meeting held on 1 October 2018.

The following recommendations will be put forward for inclusion in the next North Devon Off-Street Parking Order. Our proposals will go before a Committee at North Devon Council and, if approved, will be advertised in the North Devon Journal in mid-December. Members of the public will have 28 days to make any comments on them.

### **Short Stay Permits**

#### **Recommendations:**

- To extend the short stay permits to Cormelles Car Park;
- To issue a 10 day permit as well as a 4 and 7 day permit; and
- Set new charges for these permits to:
  - 4 day permit – reduce from £25.00 to £18.00
  - 7 day permit – reduce from £35.00 to £30.00
  - 10 day permit – set at £40.00

### **Long Stay Permits**

#### **Recommendations:**

- To extend the 6 month and annual permits to all car parks with the exception of the High Street/Coach Park car park.
- To maintain the permit exclusivity of the High Street/Coach Park car park. High Street/Coach Park permit holders restricted to using their permits in that car park only.

### **Hollands Park Car Park**

**Recommendation:** To make Hollands Park car park free all year round.

### **Seven Day Parking Restriction**

**Recommendation:** To remove the 7 day parking restriction from our car parks.

### **Summer Tariffs at Kiln and Parade Car Parks**

**Recommendation:** To remove the charges for 5, 6, and 7 hour parking at Kiln and Parade car parks in the summer season.

## **230/18 Correspondence**

1. Hollands Park sports area – email. Mr Paul Holman made representations in the Public Session about levelling off and making good the 'basket ball' area at Hollands Park for use by the Combe Martin Youth Football Team.

**RESOLVED:** Subject to the Asset Management Group asking for and receiving further relevant information, to allow the Combe Martin Youth Football Team to level off and make good and safe the 'basket ball' area and use it for training sessions. The work is to be carried out at the expense of the CMYFC and they must enter into a user agreement with the Parish Council.

2. Combe Martin Water Watch Group and bathing water quality – email. Mr Trevor Kibble made representation during the Public Session. The Clerk sent a separate email about the Combe Martin Water Watch Group to Cllrs prior to this meeting.

**ACTION:** Clerk to re-circulate email.

3. CPRE Housing Seminar – email. Seminar being held on 12 October 2018 to discuss ‘Devon’s Real Housing Need’. Noted.

4. South West Water (SWW) Notice of Intention to Carry out Works at Lorna Irwin SPS – letter. Contents noted. Prior to receiving this Notice, there has been a correspondence exchange between Council and SWW regarding SWW’s proposed work and an offer of compensation made.

**RESOLVED:** To accept SWW’s offer of compensation.

Correspondence received after preparation of the agenda.

5. Combe Martin Football Club (CMFC) request to pay invoice for emergency plumbing work at the Hollands Park club house – email.

**RESOLVED:** This Council is not responsible for paying for services incurred by the football club. To write to CMFC on these terms.

231/18 **To Confirm Proposed Dates for Future Meetings**

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 12 November 2018 at 7pm at the Community Centre.

232/18 **Action Plan**

SWW repairs to the outfall pipe – The Parish Clerk and Senior Workman met with representatives from R & M Utilities in early October 2018 to discuss the plans for the repairs to the outfall pipe on Combe Martin beach. The plans will include a compound site on Marine Drive at the top of Kiln Car Park. Work is anticipated to start at the end of October 2018.

233/18 **Parks and Open Spaces** (if any)

None.

234/18 **Beach**

Cllr Yvette Gubb raised her concerns about recent news reports regarding the dumping of mud and sediment from the construction site of the Hinkley Point C power station in Somerset off the coast of Cardiff. Cllr Gubb proposed that this Council write to the Welsh Assembly with a request asking for independent Government testing of the mud and sediment to ensure that it is safe for dumping.

**RESOLVED:** To write to the Welsh Assembly expressing Council’s concerns about the dumping of mud and sediment from the Hinkley nuclear power station and ask for further safety testing to be undertaken.

235/18 **Footpaths**

To elect a P3 Co-ordinator to manage the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme.

Cllr Ian Lawton agreed to take on the role of P3 Co-ordinator with help from Cllr Celia Withers. **ACTION:** Clerk to send Cllr Lawton a definitive map.

Cllr John Lovering left the meeting at 9.15pm.

236/18 **Exclusion of Press and Public 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”**

237/18 **Asset Management Group**

Cllr Doug Seymour reported.

The Asset Management Group made the following Motions (these were circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting):

The Asset Management Group has been reviewing the Council’s Asbestos register and recommends that asbestos surveys are carried out, as a matter of urgency, on some Council buildings.

**RESOLVED:** To delegate the Power to Act to the Asset Management Group to carry out asbestos surveys where they are required.

The Asset Management Group has sought a quote for Gas Safety/fire proofing works to be carried out in the communal area of the Eberleigh House flats to ensure compliance with current regulations.

**RESOLVED:** To proceed with the quote for the Gas Safety/fire proofing works to the communal area of Eberleigh House flats.

238/18 **Lighting at West Challacombe Lane**

Cllr Yvette Gubb gave a report.

**RESOLVED:** To write to Devon County Council and query responsibility for the light in question.

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Vice Chairman