COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an interim meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held at the Community Centre on Tuesday, 26 July, 2016, at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Peter James (Chairman) Julia Clark, Wendy Druce, Yvette Gubb,

Helen Mallinder, Ian Lawton, Lin Wheelan, Celia Withers.

In Attendance: District 4 parishioners, Parish Clerk.

## 90/16 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ian Lawton, Helen Mallinder and Lin Wheelan.

91/16 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Subject Reason

Yvette Gubb Planning application number Neighbour

61359

Yvette Gubb Planning application number Neighbour

61379

92/16 **Planning applications**

District Councillor Yvette Gubb drew the meeting’s attention to the fact that any observations or decisions which she made regarding planning applications at this meeting were based upon the information available at the time. Such observations and decisions might well change in the light of any information which might come before district councillors when sitting upon North Devon District Council’s planning committee.

Cllr Yvette Gubb declared an interest in the following two applications and left the room.

61359 – EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS TO DWELLING AT WHITE GATES, WOODLANDS

Applicant – Mr Hutton

It was NOTED that the proposed extension is large in proportion to the existing property.

RESOLVED to recommend that the application be APPROVED, subject to the planning authority satisfying itself that the proposal will comply with

regulations on overlooking of neighbouring properties, and SUDS will be used as appropriate.

61379 – SITING OF REPLACEMENT SIGNAGE (ONE EXTERNALLY

ILLUMINATED AND FIVE NON ILLUMINATED) AT CHANNEL VISTA

GUEST HOUSE, 4 WOODLANDS

Applicant – Mr Bourner

It was NOTED that the lighting included in the proposal complies with Exmoor National Park's Dark Skies policy.

RESOLVED to recommend that the application be APPROVED.

93/16 **Footpaths**

Mill Weir Lane

It was AGREED that the potholes along Mill Weir Lane have been filled in.

94/16 **Beach, Seaside and Parade Areas**

a Report on sewage incident at head of the Beach, 12 July, 2016

On Tuesday, 12 July, 2016, there had been a sewage spill from a manhole close to the slipway at the top of Combe Martin Beach. Cllr Yvette Gubb had called out South West Water and the Environment Agency had been notified. The head of the Beach was closed off. SWW had responded very promptly, had pumped out the sewers, brought in a crane to lift one of the manhole covers and had cleared the blockage. The drains were jetted and later all the drains in the vicinity of the Beach were thoroughly cleaned a second time. SWW had made good the sand at the head of the Beach before leaving the incident.

The Environment Agency had declared that the event was an Abnormal Situation, and notices had been displayed until 10am on Thursday, 14 July, 2016, and the head of the Beach remained closed until the same time.

Liquid had seeped from the sealed manhole on the top of the Beach, and this is to be monitored in case it happens again, although this is unlikely as the drains have all been cleared thoroughly.

The cause of the problem was a mixture of fat and pieces of plastic which had blocked the drain, and if fat and plastics such as wet wipes continue to be put down the drains, the problem will happen again.

South West Water had checked the attenuation tanks as soon as they arrived on site and the tanks were functioning correctly, the problem being the fat and plastic in the drains.

b Meeting with South West Water and Environment Agency

Following the event, a meeting had been held with SWW and the EA on Tuesday, 26 July, 2016, to discuss means to raise awareness of the reasons for the blockage and how villagers can help to prevent this re-occurring.

SWW will be visiting businesses to discuss good practice relating to drains, and it was agreed that it would be worthwhile to do a letter drop to all households in Combe Martin explaining the problem and asking people to stop putting fat and any plastics, especially wet wipes, down the drains.

RESOLVED to:

i join SWW and the EA to send out a joint letter asking people to stop putting fats and any plastics, especially wet wipes, down the drains. SWW will produce the letters and pay for the Post Office to deliver them.

ii ask the Shammickite's Editor to put items in the Shammickite on a regular basis reminding people of this issue.

iii stress that this problem had nothing to do with the attenuation tanks, which are functioning as they should.

iv Cllr Peter James will ask the Carnival Committee to allow SWW to put a caravan or stand at one of the opening events to promote good use of drains.

v ask businesses and residents around Seaside to let the Parish Council know if anyone smells sewage odours, as this is an indicator of an imminent blockage.

vi write to South West Water and the Environment Agency thanking them all for their prompt response to the incident, and to thank SWW for carrying out such a thorough handling of the problem and re-instating the Beach so well.

vii thank Cllr Yvette Gubb for dealing with the problem from the start.

c Showers at Kiln Public Toilets

RESOLVED to write to North Devon Council asking why NDC has removed the showers and asking that they be re-instated.

d Icon Ski Race

The Race had gone very well, with 102 kayaks on the Beach at the end. RESOLVED to promote the event in Combe Martin for next year's event.

e Wall at the Parade

NDC's engineer visited the site during the last week and had advised on Friday that the seating area below the wall be coned off, and that the wall needed to be made secure.

RESOLVED:

i to check with the insurance company whether it is possible to claim for the works.

ii that quotes to make the wall safe should be obtained, and further investigation carried out to check that the remainder of the wall is secure. Investigation may require scaffolding and the removal of trees/growth.

95/16 **Parks**

a Skatepark ramps

An enquiry had been made about buying the skatepark ramps through the Police's Community Support team, and someone had come to view the ramps. There had been no feedback following the viewing. The ramps are stored outside under plastic sheeting to protect them from the weather but, as there is no air circulation around them, they are suffering from condensation. It was AGREED that it would be necessary to consider what to do with the ramps in the very near future.

b Cherry tree at lower end of Adams Hay

The cherry tree at the lower end of Adams Hay is growing too close to a neighbour's wall. RESOLVED to have the tree removed at the end of the summer, and to advise the neighbour that this will be done, and when.

c TAP Fund

Parracombe PC is interested in buying play equipment so would be willing to enter into a joint TAP fund application. Parracombe PC will decide by mid August if it is

happy to buy Playdale equipment and, if so, an application can be made in time to meet the deadline for the first round deadline.

RESOLVED to choose what play equipment to purchase at the August Council

meeting, and where it should go.

96/16 **Hollands Park**

Anti-social behaviour at Hollands Park

An email had been received about problems with cars parking late at night at Hollands Park, making a lot of noise as they arrived and left, and whilst they were parked, preventing neighbours from sleeping. A lot of litter was left in the Park, and it was possible that drugs were being used.

Residents of Hollands Park spoke to confirm this information. PCSO Ade Drury had been out together with another officer, which had eased the problem for a time, but the problem was now happening again. Similar problems had occurred last winter.

Councillors said how sorry they were to hear of these problems and sympathized with neighbours' distress. The Chairman will be meeting PCSO Drury on her return from leave, to discuss possible solutions to the problem.

It was AGREED to also contact Inspector Bartlett to ask for more police resources to be applied to the problem.

97/16 **Highways**

The wall on the first left-hand bend of the A399 going out of Combe Martin has been

hit by a vehicle. Members identifying such problems are requested to contact Devon County Council direct, either by telephone or online, as advised by the County Councillor.

98/16 **Lighting**

Devon Association for Renewable Energy – Energy efficient floodlighting scheme

It was AGREED to participate in DARE's Energy efficient floodlighting scheme project.

99/16 **Coastal Communities Fund**

a Expansion of Working Party

The Chairman had received expressions of interest in becoming members of the Coastal Communities Fund Working Party from two people.

RESOLVED that the Working Party be given Power to Act to co-opt people onto the Working Party to expand the resources and input of the group.

b Grant application to form a Combe Martin Coastal Communities Team

Ellen Vernon, NDC, had advised that it would be necessary to form a bigger Working Party as agreed above. The Working Party then needs to agree what the long term goals and aims will be for Combe Martin, remembering to include opportunities within this initial planning process to enable specific projects to be supported in due course. Once the aims have been agreed, Ellen Vernon would be happy to work with the Working Party to firm up a bid to become a Coastal Communities Team.

It was AGREED to put an item in the Shammickite asking for people who are interested in this project to let Council know. As this would be too late to meet the grant application deadline for the Coastal Communities Team bid, the interim Working Party including the volunteers, were granted Power to Act to progress the grant application for a Coastal Communities Team.

100/16 **Properties - Eberleigh House**

The lock on the front door of Eberleigh House is worn out and no longer works. The workmen are instructed to get into the building, fit a new lock and repair the door.

Cllrs Julia Clark and Celia Withers declared interests in the following item.

101/16 **Community Centre**

a Heating controls for central heating

Furber Heating has visited the Community Centre but is still exploring options for

improving the control of the central heating.

b Future use of the Community Centre

Chairman reported that he had discussed the hiring of the whole Community Centre with an interested party. This would not affect the Senior Citizens. The interested party had been asked to provide this Council with a business plan and a detailed proposal of how it would like to use the building, as the organisation was interested

in a long term lease.

102/16 **Car Parks**

RESOLVED to ask County Cllr Andrea Davis whether it would be easier for her to have a parking permit issued to her, and the cost for attendance at Parish Council meetings invoiced direct to DCC, rather than her having to claim for each occasion she attends meetings. If so, to issue a permit.

103/16 **Correspondence**

a Rural Housing Enabler - Awards for All application

The Awards for All grant application had had the relevant sections completed and returned to the Housing Enabler to complete the final sections. When this is received back, it will be submitted to the grant provider.

RESOLVED:

i that this Council will deliver the forms to households.

ii the draft letter to accompany the surveys is approved.

iii the template survey forms are approved, apart from Q14. Cllr Celia Withers is to draft an amendment to Q14, and email this to councillors for approval.

b Carnival

There were no objections to the Carnival decorating the Fairy Queen Float in the Coach/Car Park on Carnival day.

c NDC - Consultation on Council Tax

Members will complete NDC's Consultation on Council Tax individually.

The meeting closed at 7.49pm.

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Chairman