

COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held at the Community Centre on Monday 10 December 2018 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Peter James (Chair), Ian Lawton (Vice Chair), Julia Clark, Wendy Druce, David Woodbury, Yvette Gubb, Celia Withers, Helen Mallinder, and Chris Wyer.

In Attendance: District Cllr John Lovering, Parish Clerk (minute taker), and one parishioner.

The meeting was opened with prayers.

260/18 **Public Session – to receive, and reply to matters from Parishioners**

The parishioner said that the light on 'Bowling Green' by the entrance to Cormelles Car Park has not been working since August 2018 and the area is very dark. Cllr Yvette Gubb said that the light has been reported to the lighting maintenance contractor and it is liaising with the relevant authority about the repair. **ACTION:** The Parish Council office to chase the status of the repair.

The parishioner also said that Bowling Green Lane opposite the Castle Inn has been awash again with rain water. The rain water is not able to disperse properly and is filling up the potholes and making them worse. Cllrs, Yvette Gubb and Julia Clark informed the parishioner that the matter has been reported to Devon County Council as it is responsible for highways. To help prevent the ponding of water, the Parish Council workmen have been out to the site and cleared out the gullies on the 'Bowling Green'.

The parishioner left the meeting at 7.15pm.

261/18 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Doug Seymour. Apologies were also received from County Cllr Andrea Davis.

262/18 **Declarations of Interest**

Declarations dealt with per agenda item.

263/18 **To consider any requests for dispensation**

None.

264/18 **Finance**

a. To receive the reports on the monthly balances.

RESOLVED: That the reports on the monthly balances (including the list of payments) be approved as a true record of the Council's finances.

b) To consider the street lighting quotations for two lights that are not working along Rosea Bridge Lane.

Both quotations are a lot more expensive than usual. Council asked for a breakdown of the proposed repairs. **ACTION:** Clerk to request the information from the lighting maintenance contractor.

265/18 **Budget**

To approve the recommendations arising from the November 2018 Budget Meeting (the notes of the Budget Meeting were circulated to Council Members prior to this meeting):

- a) To agree the sum of money proposed for a new or second hand trailer for the workmen.
- b) To pay for the checks and maintenance (including the associated costs of replacement pads etc) of the three defibrillators in the village.
- c) To consider installing CCTV at Hollands Park and the Parade.

RESOLVED:

1. To adopt all three recommendations.
2. That the notes from the November 2018 Budget meeting be approved as a true record of that meeting.

266/18 **Precept**

To consider the Parish Grant and Precept for 2019/20, and decide on provisional figures.

RESOLVED: To raise the Precept in line with the November Rate of Inflation.

The Parish Clerk left the meeting at 7.50pm.

Devon County Council

County Cllr Andrea Davis circulated her report to Council members prior to the meeting.

Highways Update

The additional funding of £6.5 million that was given to Devon County Council (DCC) Highways this year is being spent specifically in three areas:

- Highway drainage;
- Highway patching; and
- Pothole repairs.

Highway drainage funding is split into two elements; Cyclic drainage and Routine drainage. Cyclic drainage deals with such things as gully emptying, ploughing and ditching, leaf sweeping, and cleaning the main road, grips, buddle holes, and

easements. Routine drainage targets specific problem areas on the network usually through the installation of piped drainage schemes or concrete haunching.

There has been an additional £1.69 million added to the above aspects of cyclic drainage countywide. Of this the vast majority of the budget has been committed with around 40% having actually been spent on the ground.

In relation to routine drainage schemes, the Neighbourhood Teams have had an additional £380,000 added to their revenue budgets countywide so that they can carry out individual drainage schemes at known problem areas. There are a number of these taking place across the county and currently most of the budget has been committed with around 25% actually spent on the ground.

£150,000 has been added to the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Teams budget for resolving drainage issues countywide at known problem sites on their network, but ultimately affecting the highway. It is hoped that these schemes will prevent run off from the PROW network entering the highway so reducing the likelihood of flooding or other water related issues. Again, these schemes are ongoing, and all will be completed by the end of the financial year.

An extra £500,000 has been allocated countywide for a programme of jetting and camera surveys. This links in with the gully emptying programme and if the crews identify any problem gullies which they can't unblock or where they believe there is an issue, these are added to a list of jetting sites. The problem could be anything from tree roots, to a blockage with stones, leaves or debris right through to a collapsed pipe. The jetter is deployed initially to see if they can resolve the issue and in a lot of cases the high-pressure jetting hose can clear the blockage. If not, a camera survey can be undertaken if appropriate to help to identify the problem. A scheme is then drawn up and carried out from either DCC's revenue or capital drainage budget as and when funds and other priorities allow.

DCC has also added and now spent an additional £400,000 countywide on the annual grass cutting budget. While not immediately associating grass cutting with highway drainage, there is a tie in between the two. In previous years DCC has only cut visibility splays, which has unfortunately meant that in areas that haven't been cut, DCC has had difficulty getting to some of the drainage features such as the back ditches and grips due to the overgrown nature of the verges. This year, DCC has cut a 1 metre strip of grass on the primary and secondary salting routes which has enabled access to gullies that need cleaning out. DCC has also carried out a full width verge cut on the category 4 to 8 roads. This has enabled DCC to get better access to the ditches that need cleaning out.

Countywide there has also been a £2 million injection into the routine patching budget from the £6.5 million fund and a number of schemes have successfully been completed countywide with more to follow. Currently all the budget has been committed with around 20% completed on the ground, and the remainder programmed for completion this year.

North Devon Council

Cllr Yvette Gubb reported on the following issues:

Industry Award for Ilfracombe's Harbourmaster

Ilfracombe's harbourmaster has picked up an internationally recognised award for services to the port and dredging industry.

Captain Georgina Carlo-Paat received the DPC (Dredging and Port Construction) Magazine Commendation for Services to the Industry Award at a ceremony last month; an achievement which highlights an outstanding individual who has made a positive impact and contribution to the industry.

The 2018 Dredging and Port Construction Awards promote innovation, efficiency and sustainability in the dredging industry. The industry is constantly evolving to keep pace with the wider maritime sector, introducing new, more environmentally friendly means of operations, incorporating new technology such as sensors and digitalisation, and also taking on more ambitious projects.

Have Your Say on Proposed Changes to Off-Street Parking across North Devon

North Devon Council is inviting the public to comment on proposed changes to car parking charges and arrangements, including Barnstaple long stay parking permits, Rolle Quay car park charges, and Combe Martin annual and half-yearly permits at Kiln, Parade, and Cormelles car parks.

All the proposed changes from North Devon Council, and Parish and Town Councils, were advertised on Thursday 13 December. A public consultation period of 28 days began and is open until Thursday 11 January. Anyone wishing to comment on any of the proposed changes can do so by writing to North Devon Council. A copy of the proposed Off-Street Parking Places Order can be viewed on the North Devon Council website at: www.northdevon.gov.uk/parking/.

Once the consultation is closed, the feedback will be presented to Councillors to decide whether the proposals should be put into place.

Cllr John Lovering reported on the following issues:

Exciting Future for North Devon's Theatres

A new contract has been awarded for the operation of North Devon's theatres. North Devon Council is delighted that theatre company Selladoor Worldwide will be taking over the operation of both the Queen's and Landmark theatres from January 2019.

Construction of New Artificial Grass Pitch for North Devon will kick off in the New Year

North Devon Council has agreed to allocate the final funding required to build a new full-size 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) at Tarka Tennis Centre.

At a meeting of the council's Executive on Monday 3 December 2018, it was announced that the project had been awarded £445k by the Premier League and FA Facilities Fund. Councillors then agreed to use £48k of S106 funding to add to the £286k already allocated by the council back in May.

The project will cost almost £800k and is now fully funded. Work will commence once planning conditions have been signed-off. The target is to open the new facility before the start of the next football season.

267/18 **Vandalism and Police Reports**

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

Crimes reported in November 2018 were as follows:

Combe Martin

Violence with Injury	1
Violence without Injury	5
Vehicle Offences	2
Other Theft	2
Possession of Drugs	1

Berrynarbor

No crime

East Down

Violence without injury	1
Other sexual Offences	1

268/18 **Minutes of the last meeting**

To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 12 November 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2018 be approved as a true record of that meeting.

269/18 **Planning**

There were no planning applications or correspondence to consider.

270/18 **Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies, if any**

Combe Martin Primary School

Cllr Ian Lawton reported.

Cllr Lawton said that he had hand-delivered the letter to Combe Martin Primary School about the proposed permit system for parking at Kiln Car Park.

Combe Martin Community Land Trust Steering Group

Cllr David Woodbury reported.

The governing document setting up the Community Land Trust has been submitted to the Financial Conduct Authority and once approved, the Trust as a legal entity will be able to communicate with the community, engage with local land owners, identify schemes and access grants and funding. The Trust is in the process of drafting a communication plan and will have a stand at the Fresh Start Fair in February 2019 at the Village Hall.

Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum

Cllr David Woodbury reported.

Cllr Woodbury attended the November meeting of the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum. He said that a full audio recording of the meeting is available on the Exmoor National Park's website. He highlighted the following issues:

Speeding through Exmoor National Park

Representatives made it clear that there was little support or intention to introduce a lower blanket speed limit within the boundaries of the Park. Influenced in part by the fact that there is a mix of unfenced moor and a large percentage of fenced land. The conditions are very different to those on Dartmoor.

Both the Police and the County Highways officers stated they would respond to Parish concerns over speeding and Highway issues, speeding and compliance checks could be requested, but the overall level of resource, funding cuts and prioritisation, painted a less than encouraging picture, to the point that it would take a fatality to move an initiative/improvement up the banding scheme. Self-help and community involvement was to be encouraged.

Paracombe have just set up a speed watch group. **ACTION:** Council should get in touch with Paracombe to look at shared resources and initiatives.

Claiming Rights of Ways

2026 is the deadline for claiming rights of way based on historic evidence. DCC has been far more proactive than Somerset who have an enormous backlog of claims. **ACTION:** Council to do a final check on information supplied by the community to ensure all claims have been actioned.

Digital Marketing and Employment Education

Porlock Parish Council has embarked on an ambitious programme around digital marketing and employment, education, in response to the changing demographic and tourism within the Parish.

Council may (after the May Elections) wish to invite a Councillor to give a presentation on this project.

Camping

There was a recognition of increasing use of motor homes and 'wild camping' on Exmoor and the need to consider how this requirement may be met/controlled to reduce the impact on the environment and generate income.

Council needs to understand the opportunities and challenges of this increasing use. The Exmoor National Park Authority's Planning Officer is happy to have a conversation.

271/18 Correspondence

1. Devon Archives and Local Studies Service – request for financial support.

RESOLVED: To provide a grant of £50.00 per year to the North Devon Records Office.

2. Neighbourhood Officer – Dog Warden information.

AGREED: To consider this information at the next full Council meeting in January 2019.

3. Restricting the use of fireworks – email.

Council considered the proposal for a by-law to restrict the use and volume of fireworks and concluded that it was neither feasible nor credible. **ACTION:** Council to reply to the email on these terms.

4. Storage area – letter from Combe Martin Kayak Club.

AGREED: To consider the letter at the next full Council meeting in January 2019.

5. Poppy Appeal – To note the donations received.

Combe Martin Parish Council collected £85.35 for the Poppy Appeal. The District Total was £3012.20.

Correspondence received after the preparation of the Agenda.

6. Coastal Access – Improvements to public access along the North Devon coast between Combe Martin and Marsland Mouth – letter from Natural England.

Cllr David Woodbury suggested that Council make representations to Natural England (NE) to include the walking area either side of the Parade building in its proposals for coastal access. This area, if approved, would be included in the coastal margin on the landward side and would be subject to coastal access rights. **ACTION:** Cllr Woodbury to highlight the area on the NE map, and circulate to Council for consideration at the January 2019 meeting.

272/18 **Action Plan**

SWW repairs to the outfall pipe – the repairs to the outfall pipe have been completed.

Bathing Water Quality – The Combe Martin Water Watch Group has appointed a Chairman, Steve Hill. Cllr Gubb has asked the Secretary of the group, Katherine Armitage to send information about the group, meetings, actions etc to the Parish Clerk who will circulate to Councillors.

Parade Wall – Council is currently considering the reports provided by an ex-Councillor on the structural condition of the Parade.

273/18 **May 2019 Elections**

Combe Martin Parish Council will have table at the Fresh Start Fair in February 2019. There will be literature to take away and Councillors will be available to talk to interested parishioners about the role and how to apply to become a Parish Councillor.

274/18 **High Street Car Park**

Reports of refuse lorries (on black bin collection day) not clearing the area at High Street Car Park after use.

Several reports have been made to North Devon Council about the mess that the refuse lorries leave behind at High Street Car Park and in other areas of the village. The Parish Council workmen often have to clear up after the lorries have left site.

RESOLVED: To write a formal complaint to North Devon Council.

275/18 **Parks and Open Spaces** (if any)

None.

276/18 **Beach**

None

277/18 **Footpaths**

Cllr Ian Lawton has started the survey of the footpaths for the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme. He has come across several issues about accessibility on the footpaths that he has walked so far. These will be reported to Devon County Council.

Wildpear Beach – Cllr Woodbury suggested that Council write to the National Trust asking it to re-instate the access onto the beach.

278/18 **Health and Safety**

None.

279/18 **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”

280/18 **Personnel**

To consider a Christmas Bonus for Parish Council staff.

RESOLVED: To award all staff a Christmas bonus of £50.00 each.

281/18 **The Parade Cafe**

Cllr David Woodbury reported.

Cllr Woodbury circulated a paper containing six recommendations for approval at this meeting.

RESOLVED: To adopt all six recommendations. Recommendation number 2 contained two options, a. and b. Council approved option a.

282/18 **Action Plan**

Update.

Council agreed to move this item to the next full Council meeting in January 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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Chairman