

COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs Wendy Druce (Acting Chair), Yvette Gubb, Celia Withers, David Woodbury, Ian Lawton, Doug Seymour, Helen Mallinder and Chris Wyr

In Attendance: County Cllr Andrea Davis, District Cllr John Lovering, 3 parishioners, and the Parish Clerk (minute taker).

The meeting was opened with prayers.

01/18 **Public Session – to receive, and reply to matters from Parishioners**

Mrs N Tossell said that the Bowling Green floods every time it rains and that the water has nowhere to go to disperse. The excess water is spoiling the road surface and is a potential flood risk to near-by properties. This is a County Council issue and Cllr Andrea Davies made a note of Mrs Tossell's concerns.

Mr M Worth said he had taken on the former RSPCA shop in Combe Martin with a view to opening it as a community charity shop for the benefit of the village. Mr Worth is currently refurbishing the shop and while this work is being undertaken by volunteers, the materials required for the refurbishment are costly. Mr Worth asked the Council for a contribution towards the cost of the materials for the shop. He handed a letter addressed to the Chairman to Cllr Wendy Druce.

Mr J Webber said that the potholes outside the primary school along Hangman Path are getting worse. Cllr Yvette Gubb said that she had carried out an initial survey of the road and counted 50 cars using the road mainly for school purposes. She said that she was going to carry out a further survey when the weather conditions were wet to see whether the volume of traffic increased. Combe Martin Parish Council has received three quotes for tarmacking the road and will be asking partners to make a contribution towards the cost.

02/18 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Peter James and Julia Clark.

03/18 **Declarations of Interest/Requests for dispensations**

Cllr Wendy Druce declared an interest in Planning Application no. 64139.

04/18 **To consider any requests for dispensation**

None.

05/18 County and District Councilors' Reports

Devon County Council

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

An Outline Business Case for Improvements to the North Devon Link Road

Devon County Council has submitted a bid for funding to the Department for Transport for improvements to the North Devon Link Road from South Molton to Bideford. The proposal includes overtaking lanes and junction improvements. Devon County Council hopes to find out in June 2018 whether the bid has been successful.

Target Budget

Devon County Council's Target Budget proposes an increase in spending for adult social care, health and children's services. The County Council's priority is to protect the most vulnerable in our society. The County Council Budget meeting is in February 2018.

A39 Zig Zag

The A39 closed at Shirwell at the beginning of the New Year for essential stabilization works and other maintenance work. The road will be closed for 13 weeks, but re-opening will be weather dependent.

Emergency Numbers (Out of Hours)

- Social Services: 0345 600 0388 or 0845 600 0388
- Highways: 01392 383329*
- Animal Welfare, Petrol and Explosives: 01392 499499

*Please use the Devon County Council website to report highway concerns that are not emergencies.

North Devon Council

District Cllr Yvette Gubb reported on the following issues:

Local Plan Hearings to Reopen this Month

The draft North Devon and Torrridge Local Plan is set to come under further scrutiny during additional public hearings this month. The Local Plan sets out how North Devon and Torrridge will develop up to 2031. It shows what development the area needs and where it might be located. The draft plan was prepared jointly by Officers and Councillors from North Devon Council and Torrridge District Council following extensive public consultation.

The hearing sessions are planned to take place for two days from 16 -18 January 2018 and have been set so that the Planning Inspector can discuss issues raised on two matters within the plan, namely Yelland Quay and the Five Year Land Supply.

Talk will reveal what lies beneath Castle Green

A geophysical survey of one of Barnstaple's most important archaeological sites will be revealed at a talk later this month.

Last year, North Devon District Council carried out a geophysical survey of Castle Green, following a successful bid for funding from Historic England. The results of the survey will be presented on Wednesday 17 January at 6.30pm at Barnstaple Library.

Castle Green is the site of a Norman motte and bailey castle dating back to the early 12th century. The castle was situated on top of the mound with a moat surrounding it.

Help for Rough Sleepers during Periods of Severe Weather

Plans are in place to help rough sleepers in North Devon during periods of severe weather this winter. North Devon and Torrington District Councils will be providing emergency accommodation at the Salvation Army Hall on Oakleigh Road in Barnstaple with Encompass South West providing overnight support. The service will offer shelter to rough sleepers if the temperature drops below zero for three consecutive nights.

During periods of extreme cold, rough sleepers can access the Salvation Army Hall between 8pm and 10pm. A roll mat and sleeping bag will be made available for their use. After 10pm, entry is by referral from the Police or the Council's Out of Hours Team.

For homelessness and housing advice from North Devon Council, telephone 01271 388870, email customerservices@northdevon.gov.uk or go to www.northdevon.gov.uk/housing.

District Councillor John Lovering reported on the following issues:

Safety Message following Timber Spill

Timber spilled from a cargo ship is being washed ashore, prompting safety advice for the public to take care on North Devon's beaches over the coming days. The timber is believed to have fallen from the cargo vessel, Lady Ariane in the early hours of Wednesday 3 January 2018.

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency has advised North Devon Council and Torrington District Council that a large number of timber pieces have already washed up at Westward Ho! with more expected to appear on North Devon beaches in the coming days. North Devon Council and Torrington District Council are urging the public to stay safe and not put themselves at risk by attempting to retrieve any timber. If members of the public see any timber washed ashore, they can report this to the Coastguard on telephone number 01326 317575.

Under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, all recoveries of wreck material (which covers timber lost from a vessel at sea) must be reported to the Receiver of Wreck. This can be done at www.gov.uk/report-wreck-material.

Support for a Plastic-free North Devon Pledged by North Devon Council

North Devon Council lent its support to marine conservation group, Surfers Against Sewage (SAS), whose aim is to make North Devon plastic-free.

At a meeting of the Council's Executive on 4 December 2017, Councillors agreed to give their backing to Surfers Against Sewage, which launched its 'Plastic Free Coastlines' campaign in 2017. The campaign is supported by environmental organisations such as The National Trust, North Devon AONB and Biosphere Reserve and The Pickwell Foundation.

The campaign encourages Councils, local businesses, community groups and individuals to do what they can to reduce the amount of single-use plastics they use in favour of sustainable alternatives, with the eventual aim of removing single-use plastic from circulation completely. The initiative also supports communities to educate children about the perils of plastic litter, and to hold beach cleans, fundraisers and other awareness-raising events.

In offering its backing to the campaign, North Devon Council is pledging to offer practical support to encourage communities' involvement in making North Devon a litter and plastic-free area. The Council will loan picking equipment and bags to litter pick events, collect rubbish gathered during litter pick events by prior arrangement, reduce its own use of single-use plastic, and encourage others to do the same.

More information on how you can support the 'Plastic Free Coastline' campaign and tips on how to reduce your use of single-use plastic is available on the Surfers Against Sewage website. To borrow North Devon Council equipment for litter pick events, please email brett.waldron@northdevon.gov.uk.

06/18 **Vandalism and Police Reports**

The Police newsletter for January 2018 has been received and was circulated to members.

Crimes reported in December 2017 were as follows:

Combe Martin

Violence without injury	2
Burglary Dwelling	3
Other theft	2
Criminal damage	1
Public Order Offences	1

Berrynarbor

No crime recorded

East Down

No crime recorded

07/18 **Minutes of the last meeting**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4 December 2017.

Cllr Woodbury asked for changes to be made to minute references 184/17 (South West Water Compensation) and 185/17 (Bathing Water Quality). He said that the resolution to delegate powers of authority to the Chairman was meant for the South West Water Compensation claim.

RESOLVED: that subject to the above amendment, that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2017 be approved as a true record.

08/18 **Planning**

a) Applications

64139 – EXTENSION TO DWELLING AT LIBRA GARDENS KING STREET COMBE MARTIN – Applicant, Mr Norman Sanders

Cllr Wendy Druce left the room while the discussions about this application took place.

RESOLVED: to advise the planning authority that the Council does not have any objections to the application. However, Council would like the planners to ensure that there is no overlooking from the development to the neighbouring cottage 'Wayside'.

64283 – ERECTION OF BALCONY AT COMBE-MERE 5 BUZZACOTT CLOSE COMBE MARTIN – Applicants, Mr & Mrs Catley.

RESOLVED: to advise the planning authority that the Council does not have any objections to the application.

62/19/17/005 PROPOSED REMOVAL OF EXISTING OIL TANK AND INSTALLATION OF AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS TOGETHER WITH UPGRADING AND REPLACEMENT OF INTERNAL HEATING SYSTEM AT WEST CHALLACOMBE MANOR – Applicant – Mr Graham Waddell, National Trust.

62/19/17/007 PROPOSED CONVERSION OF CURTILAGE LISTED FORMER THRESHING BARN TO PROVIDE SMALL SCALE HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION, WHILST RETAINING THRESHING MACHINE IN SITU AT WEST CHALLACOMBE MANOR – Applicant, Mr Rob Joules, National Trust.

62/19/17/008LB LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR PROPOSED CONVERSION OF CURTILAGE LISTED FORMER THRESHING BARN TO PROVIDE SMALL SCALE HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION, WHILST RETANING THRESHING MACHINE IN SITU AT WEST CHALLACOMBE FARM – Applicant, Mr Rob Joules, National Trust.

The Council noted the decision of no observations made by North Devon District Council to planning application no. 64346.

RESOLVED: to advise the planning authority that the Council does not have any objections to these applications. However, the Council would like noted that the approach to the farm is narrow and residential in manner and so vehicles should be of appropriate size.

Any planning applications received after the preparation of the agenda

64299 – Prior notice for the erection of one forestry building (log store) at Flexa Park Fields, Shute Lane, Combe Martin – Applicant, Ms C Rice.

RESOLVED: To ask the planning authority for an extension to respond to this application as the Council only received notification on 8 January 2018.

b) Planning Decisions

Ref: 61999 – Appeal Decision allowed - planning permission granted for the erection of affordable dwelling at Rear of Grassmere House, King Street, Combe Martin EX34 0BS.

Ref: 63055 – Planning permission granted for the erection of 3 dwellings (amended plans) at Lavercombe Farmhouse, Victoria Street, Combe Martin.

Ref: 63737 – Planning permission refused for the siting of temporary rural workers timber cabin together with erection of a hay barn at Higher Meadwells, Corner Lane, Knapp Down, Combe Martin.

c) Planning Correspondence

NOTIFICATION OF WORKS TO TREES IN A CONSERVATION AREA IN RESPECT OF REMOVAL OF 1 ILEXT A THE VILLA BY THE SEA NEWBERRY ROAD COMBE MARTIN.

North Devon Council does not consider that it is expedient to make a Tree Preservation Order.

09/18 **To consider matters arising from the Minutes**

Review of Ongoing Action Plan

Cllr Doug Seymour updated Council members on the following items:

Ebberleigh House (min ref 142/17) – Several people visited Ebberleigh House on the Open Day and the feedback was very positive.

Parade Toilets (min ref 108/17) – The water supply is now capped off and the utilities are completely independent.

Seacott – roof and guttering repairs (min ref 159/11) – Cllr Doug Seymour asked for four quotes. He has received two quotes and notification from one company who does not wish to supply a quote. The deadline for supplying quotes is 10 January 2018.

Wabasso Café (min ref 169/17) – Cllr Doug Seymour is dealing with the water supply to Wabasso. He said that a trench needs to be dug in the Parade car park

and that the car park will need to be closed from Wednesday 10 January until Sunday 14 January 2018 for this work to be carried out. The road outside the car park will also have to be closed while South West Water carry out their part of these works.

RESOLVED: to close the Parade car park while the work to the water supply is undertaken.

10/18 **Budget Meeting**

Finance information is still being input into the new RBS system. The Parish Clerk will email dates for the budget meeting in due course.

11/18 **Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies, if any**

None. However, Cllr Ian Lawton mentioned that Combe Martin Primary School is raising money for outdoor play equipment through the Tesco Bags of Help community grant scheme. Members of the public can help fundraise for this scheme at the Ilfracombe Tesco store.

12/18 **Correspondence**

1. Shammickite Support Group – request for a monetary contribution towards new printing equipment. **AGREED:** To consider the request at the Budget meeting.
2. Twinning Association – request to hold a car boot sale in an area of Kiln car park. Cllr Woodbury said that the Council should have a policy to deal with these types of requests and reference was made to the Off Street Parking Order.

RESOLVED: That the Twinning Association could hold a car boot sale, but it would have to pay for the car parking that it used, and it would have to provide the necessary insurance cover. As an alternative to the car boot sale, Councillors suggested a type of table top sale at the Community Centre or Village Hall.

3. BT Payphones – adopting the BT kiosk opposite the Top Garage.

RESOLVED: To adopt the kiosk to house a defibrillator.

Correspondence received after preparation of the agenda

Exmoor National Park Authority is holding a Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum on Thursday 18 January 2018 at 10.30am at Winsford Village Hall.

Amendment to Off Street Parking Order – Cormelles Car Park. **AGREED:** that the new charges were correct.

13/18 **To Confirm Proposed Dates for Future Meetings**

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

14/18 **Seaside Award for 2018**

RESOLVED: That the Council is not going to apply for the Seaside Award this year.

15/18 **Bathing Water Quality**

RESOLVED: To ask the Combe Martin Beach Water Champion to provide the Council with a written report of the results obtained by the Analysis and Reporting team and to set up a Working Party on Bathing Water Quality.

16/18 **Memorial Benches**

Seven memorial benches situated at the Parade were destroyed during the recent winter storm. The sea wall was also severely damaged. Cllr James has made some enquiries about costs to repair the sea wall and has been advised to hold off any repairs until the winter storm season is over.

RESOLVED: to obtain a price for replacing the seven destroyed benches and send this to the insurance company.

17/18 **Ebberleigh House**

Councillors could not agree on the future of Ebberleigh House; whether to sell or rent the new flats.

RESOLVED: to set up a Working Party to consider the options for Ebberleigh House and have a meeting as soon as possible.

18/18 **Action Plan**

The Action Plan was discussed under item 9 of the agenda.

19/18 **Finance**

a. To receive the reports on the monthly balances.

Cllr Celia Withers asked for clarification on one item of income described as Admin in the November 2017 bank reconciliation report.

Cllr Helen Mallinder asked for clarification on one item of income described as grants (Defra – water/beach) in the November 2017 bank reconciliation report.

b. Cllr Doug Seymour proposed that the list of accounts be approved, seconded by Cllr Yvette Gubb.

RESOLVED: That all the invoices be approved for payment.

c. Insurance Policy

To set up a working party to consider the Council's assets as the insurance policy is coming up for renewal at the end of February 2018.

RESOLVED: to set up a working party to consider Council assets for the purpose of the Insurance Policy comprising of Cllrs Wendy Druce, Chris Wyer and Helen Mallinder and the Parish Clerk.

d. Precept

To approve the amount that this Council has requested for 2018/19.

RESOLVED: To approve the Precept figure for 2018/19.

e. Adams Hay

To consider the quotation received
Cllr Gubb and the Parish Clerk declared interests.

AGREED: to ask for clarification on what the work entails and to consider the quote at the Budget meeting.

20/18 **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”

21/18 **Wabasso**

Cllr Woodbury said that the lease will transfer to a new leaseholder.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Chairman