

COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held at the Community Centre on Monday 11 March 2019 at 7pm.

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

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

The meeting was opened with prayers.

44/19 **Public Session – to receive, and reply to matters from Parishioners**

The first parishioner to speak raised his concerns about the results of the Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) survey carried out at the Parade car park and seaward side footpath in January 2019. He said that the results are not convincing on their own and require further evidence to back them up. Cllr Peter James acknowledged the parishioner's letter on the same subject and said that Council Members were going to consider the letter later in the meeting and invited the parishioner to stay for that part.

The second parishioner to speak raised her concerns about dogs being let off their leads and free to roam at Blackmoreham Gardens, which is next to the Arnolds Plot play area. The parishioner is worried that a child accessing the play area may be frightened, or worse attacked by a loose dog. She said that on a recent visit to the area, her daughter and granddaughter were surrounded by four dogs not on leads and it was very frightening for them. Several years ago, there were signs asking dog owners to keep their dogs on leads and the parishioner requested that these should be reinstated. The area is not a designated dog area. Several Councillors agreed that letting dogs off their leads next to a children's play area raised several issues about safety. Cllr Peter James said that the matter was on the agenda for discussion later on in the meeting and thanked the parishioner for bringing the matter to Council's attention.

The third parishioner to speak as an aside quickly reiterated the concerns about the area at the Parade. The main issue that the parishioner wished to raise was about the Council's proposal for the location of the new Council workshop. The parishioner suggested that the new workshop would be better sited on the concrete pads at Hollands Park rather than in the area next to the football club house. He said the proposed location could potentially stop further development of Hollands Park. Cllr Peter James said that the item was going to be discussed later in the meeting and invited the parishioner to join in those discussions then.

The parishioner also made a suggestion to the Council for more notice boards to be put up around the village.

45/19 **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from County Cllr Andrea Davis and Cllr Doug Seymour MBE.

46/19 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Julia Clark declared an interest in planning application 66191.

Cllr Helen Mallinder declared an interest in agenda item 15, North Devon Council Off-Street Parking Order 2019.

Cllrs Peter James and David Woodbury declared interests in agenda item 5c), the request from the Community Land Trust (2018) about temporary banking arrangements.

In relation to the planning applications considered at this meeting, any decisions or observations made by Cllr Yvette Gubb 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.

47/19 **To consider any requests for dispensation**

None.

48/19 **Finance**

- a. To receive the reports on the monthly balances.
The Finance Clerk circulated the finance reports prior to the meeting.

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 discuss the quotation for street lighting repairs at Park Lane, and to note the correspondence from Cllr Doug Seymour.

Cllr Yvette Gubb declared an interest in this item.

RESOLVED: To investigate the authority of the lighting contractor and the costs for carrying out the repairs.

Cllrs Peter James and David Woodbury declared interests. Cllr Ian Lawton chaired this part of the meeting.

- c. To consider the request from the Combe Martin Community Land Trust (2018) about temporary banking arrangements.

RESOLVED: As a temporary arrangement, Council agreed to hold monies on behalf of the Combe Martin Community Land Trust (2018) until a bank account for the trust is created.

- d. To consider the request from the Combe Martin Carnival Committee for a donation.

Council did not make a decision about a donation and left the matter on the table.

49/19 **County and District Councilors' Reports**

Devon County Council

County Cllr Andrea Davis circulated her report to Council members prior to the meeting. Cllr Davis' report contained the following highlights:

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

Devon County Council Budget 2019-2020

Next year's budget commits more money for children's services, adult social care and roads.

The authority agreed its budget for 2019/20 by 46 votes to nine at a meeting at County Hall in Exeter. Labour councillors supported the Conservative budget. There will be an extra £11.5 million for hard-pressed children's services, a rise of over 9.4 per cent.

Spending on adult care and health will go up by £4.5 million or two per cent and the budgets for community, health and environment and highways and infrastructure will both rise by 0.7 per cent.

Overall, the county's spending on services will rise from £479.4 million to almost £494 million.

North Devon Council

District Cllr John Lovering reported on the following issues:

New coastal trail to reveal North Devon's American GI story

Visitors to North Devon this summer will be able to discover the area's hidden wartime past as evidenced in its iconic coastal landscape.

Thanks to an Arts Council lottery grant secured by the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon, important World War 2 locations, including sites used to prepare for the D-Day landings, will join a new coastal heritage trail linking the landscape with local museums' wartime collections.

15 bronze plaques will mark significant World War 2 sites along the coastline from Hartland to Mortehoe, and will be accompanied by an illustrated visitor guide.

Pannier Market closes its doors on anti-social behaviour at night

Measures to protect one of Barnstaple's most historic buildings and cut down anti-social behaviour were put in place on 1 February 2019.

Barnstaple Pannier Market will be protected by a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), when North Devon Council will be closing the building at night. The PSPO has been put in place to reduce anti-social behaviour and criminal damage to the Grade II listed building.

Last year the council carried out a full public consultation and feedback from neighbouring businesses, market users and the public was overwhelmingly supportive of the plans to apply a PSPO and keep the building closed overnight.

Opportunity to run Ilfracombe's popular land train

The contract is up for renewal to run Ilfracombe's popular land train.

North Devon Council will be going out to tender for an operator to take the wheel in April. It is five years since the 'Dotto' land train took to the streets of Ilfracombe, following a successful funding bid to the EU Leader 4 programme. Since then it has become an established tourist attraction, providing an all-weather ride for visitors taking a whistle-stop tour of the town and all it has to offer.

The service runs from Hillsborough, through High Street, Church Street, Wilder Road, St James Place to The Pier and back to Hillsborough via The Cove from April to October.

The opportunity to tender will soon be available online at www.supplyingthesouthwest.org.uk. For more information contact Vanessa Harrison in the Economic Development team on 01271 388216 or vanessa.harrison@northdevon.gov.uk.

Cllr Yvette Gubb reported on the following issues:

North Devon Council 'delighted' that RMB Chivenor will remain open

News that the Marine Base at Chivenor will remain home to the Commando Logistics Regiment and 24 Commando Royal Engineers has been welcomed by North Devon Council.

The closure of the base, which is occupied by both naval and army personnel, was previously announced by the former defence secretary Michael Fallon in November 2016. In response to news of the closure, Leader of North Devon Council, Councillor Des Brailey joined the campaign to keep the base open, working tirelessly alongside North Devon MP, Peter Heaton-Jones, and writing many letters to the Secretary of State for Defence, Gavin Williamson MP explaining how the closure of the base would have a hugely negative effect on North Devon.

North Devon is proud of its historic links with the Royal Marines and the news that it will continue to stay open is a welcome boost for the local community and economy.

Council cracks down on dirty dog owners in Newport

Dog owners in Newport are being reminded to pick up after their pets, following an increase in dog fouling in the area.

Recent reports of a steady rise in dog fouling in the green spaces and footpaths of Fairacre Estate, Convent Close, St Josephs Close and the play area at Jordan's Close in Newport, Barnstaple have prompted a visit from North Devon Council's Environmental Protection team.

On Monday 25 February, one of Newport's ward members and the Council's Neighbourhood Officer patrolled the area; talking to dog walkers about their responsibilities and the consequences of their actions, handing out dog fouling leaflets, putting up new signs and letting local residents know what they could do to help catch those responsible. The council will continue to keep a close eye on the problem over the coming weeks with more patrols, engaging with dog owners who have been identified to them, and issuing fixed penalty notices to anyone caught in the act.

Failure to clean up after your dog can result in a fixed penalty notice of £100, or a prosecution with a maximum fine of £1,000. You can report dog fouling online at www.northdevon.gov.uk/dogs.

Action planned for derelict properties in Ilfracombe

Action is planned to help tackle the problem of two derelict properties in Ilfracombe.

At a recent meeting, North Devon Council's Executive members agreed with recommendations to explore a potential compulsory purchase of the Golden Coast and Montebello sites in Ilfracombe.

Planning enforcement notices have already been placed on both sites by the council for improvements works to make them safe, with some works carried out at the council's expense. Exploring the possibility of a compulsory purchase of the sites aims to eliminate the risk of the sites deteriorating further and forcing more expense on the council.

As well as exploring the possibility of a compulsory purchase, the council will continue negotiations with the site owners for them to deliver viable developments. The decision by Executive members follows over 10 years of effort by the council to encourage development work without success.

If the council chooses to proceed with the CPO, the cost of purchasing the properties would be covered by development partners, who would work alongside the council on the projects.

50/19 **Vandalism and Police Reports**

The Police newsletter for March 2019 was sent in advance of this meeting and circulated to Parish Council members.

Crimes reported in February 2019 were as follows:

Combe Martin

Violence with Injury	1
Violence without Injury	1
Other sexual Offences	1
Robbery	1

Vehicle Offences	1
Other Theft	1
Criminal Damage	1

Berrynarbor

Violence without Injury	1
Other Theft	1
Public Order Offences	1

East Down

No recorded offences.

51/19 **Minutes of the last meeting**

To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11 February 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2019 be approved as a true record of that meeting.

52/19 **Planning**

a) Applications

62/19/19/002 – PROPOSED CONVERSION OF REDUNDANT FIELD BARN INTO HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION.

Applicant – The National Trust

62/19/19/003LB – LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONVERSION OF REDUNDANT FIELD BARN INTO HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION.

Applicant – The National Trust

RESOLVED: In respect of both planning applications, to advise the Exmoor National Park planning authority that the Council does not have any specific objection to the proposed conversion. However, it is concerned about the protection of bats which have been identified as being on location, some of which are very rare, and access to the proposed accommodation which is not clear from the plans and the potential disruption that might arise from creating a new access.

66191 – SITING OF MOBILE HOME FOR PERMANENT AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ACCOMMODATION AND RETENTION AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING LIVESTOCK SHELTERS AT JENANDA STUD, SHUTE LANE, COMBE MARTIN

Applicant – Mrs Stephanie Taylor

Cllr Julia Clark left the room while the discussion took place.

RESOLVED: To advise the planning authority that the Council would like a condition to be included in the planning application that the occupancy is only for the lifetime of the applicant and would cease on death or the sale of the land.

b) Planning Decisions

65907 – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING TIN SHED AND CONVERSION OF BARN TO FORM DWELLING AT LOWER MOOR FARM, COMBE MARTIN. Planning permission granted subject to conditions. Noted

c) Planning Appeals

None.

53/19 Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies, if any

Combe Martin Museum

Cllr Julia Clark reported.

Combe Martin Museum is currently updating its policies and funding streams. The large sliding door at the front of the Museum is not functioning properly and will need to be looked at some time in the near future.

Combe Martin Community Land Trust (2018).

The Combe Martin Community Land Trust (2018) is holding a public meeting on Sunday 14 April 2019 at 6.30pm at the Village Hall.

54/19 Correspondence

1. Devon Communities Together – hosting opportunity – looking for host families to accommodate Dutch students in June 2019. This was noted and the details will put up on the Council noticeboard.

2. Devon Communities Together – date for the next Devon Community Resilience Forum. Date noted.

3. Christians Together in Combe Martin and Berrynarbor – request to hold a BBQ on the beach.

RESOLVED: To let Christians Together hold a BBQ with music on Sunday 21 April at noon on Combe Martin beach.

4. Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum – Agenda for meeting on 14 March 2019. Noted.

5. Combe Martin Football Club – request for an update on the lease and Council workshop. The Clerk has responded to this email.

Correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda.

6. Letter from parishioner raising concerns about the recent Ground Penetration Radar survey carried out at the Parade.

Cllr Peter James apologised to the parishioner for not having arranged a meeting with him, but due to recent ill health this was not feasible. Cllr James said that he would like to discuss the reports and would arrange a date to meet the parishioner at the end of the Council meeting.

7. Combe Martin Business Association – letter setting out the details of the new committee and the new name of the association and containing a request for contribution towards the costs of a new DL leaflet.

ACTION: To ask the Combe Martin Business Association to explain what a DL leaflet is and send details of quotes for new leaflet.

8. Stage 2 correspondence from North Devon Council setting out its response to the Parish Council's complaint about waste collection vehicles leaving debris in High Street coach/car park on bin collection days.

AGREED: To ask District Cllrs Yvette Gubb and John Lovering to look at the response to the Parish Council's complaint prior to contacting the Ombudsman.

55/19 **To confirm proposed dates for future meetings**

RESOLVED: To hold the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 8 April at 7pm at the Community Centre.

Clerk to circulate a list of dates for the Annual meeting and Annual Parish meeting.

Personnel meeting to be held on Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 6.30pm at Lynwood.

Clerk to circulate dates for an Audit meeting.

Two parishioners left at 8.25pm.

56/19 **Section 106 Open Space Funding**

To consider Councillors suggestions for the list of community priorities for Combe Martin.

RESOLVED: The list of community priorities for Combe Martin to include from the existing list and new suggestions and in no particular order:

Skate facility
Play equipment at Arnolds Plot
Play equipment at Hollands Park
Car parking at Hollands Park
Multi-purpose sports facility at Hollands Park
Re-opening steps to the beach
Canoe storage at the beach
Feasibility study for disposal/alternative use of Community Centre
Contribution to flood prevention works
Purchase of Kiln field as amenity land
Feasibility of providing more public car parking for villagers

57/19 **North Devon Council Off-Street Parking Order 2019**

To note the changes to some of the pay and display charges and permits at Combe Martin Parish Council car parks.

Combe Martin Parish Council has made changes to some of its pay and display charges and long and short stay permits in its car parks. These are set out in the North Devon Off-Street Parking Order, which can be viewed/downloaded from North Devon Council's website at: <https://northdevon.gov.uk/ospo/>. The changes, set out below, come into effect on Friday 15 March 2019.

Pay and display charges for Kiln and Parade car parks from 15 March to 31 October annually.

Up to 1 hour	£1.10
Up to 2 hours	£2.20
Up to 3 hours	£3.30
Up to 4 hours	£4.40
Up to 24 hours	£5.00

Annual and six months permits will be available to use in Kiln, Parade and Cormelles car parks.

Annual permit	£160.00
Six month permit	£90.00

Short stay permits will be available to use in Kiln and Parade car parks or in Cormelles car park. A new 10 day tariff has been introduced and the following new charges apply

4 day permit	£18.00
7 day permit	£30.00
10 day permit	£40.00

Hollands Park car park becomes a free car park with a maximum 7 day stay and no return within 6 hours.

Holders of current valid permits for Kiln and Parade and Cormelles and Holland Park car parks do not need to change their permits when these changes come into effect. The permits will be valid up until the renewal date, after which they will become invalid and no longer usable.

Other pay and display charges and permits stay the same. These are.

Pay and display charges for Kiln and Parade car parks from 1 November to 14 March annually.

Up to 2 hours	£1.00
2 hours up to 12 hours	£3.00
12 hours up to 24 hours	£4.00

Pay and display charges for Cormelles car park annually

Up to 2 hours	£1.00
Up to 4 hours	£2.00
Up to 12 hours	£3.00
Up to 24 hours	£4.00

Annual and six month permits for High Street coach/car park only.

Annual permit	£160.00
Six month permit	£90.00

Transferable permit for Kiln and Parade car parks only.

Transferable permit £280.00

Council agreed to note the impact of free parking at Hollands Park at the next Strategy meeting.

58/19 **District and Parish Council Elections**
To note the key Election timetable dates.

Key Election Timetable Dates.

Notice of Election 18th March 2019

Nominations from 19th March 2019 – 4pm 3rd April 2019

Close of Nominations 4pm 3rd April 2019

Statement of Persons Nominated/Uncontested 3rd April 2019

Appointment of Election Agents 4pm 3rd April 2019 (District Only)

Last Date of Registration 12th April 2019

Last Date of Postal Vote Applications 5pm 15th April 2019

Last Date for Proxy 5pm 24th April 2019

Notice of Poll/Situation of Polling Stations 18th April 2019

Declaration of Result of Poll 3rd May 2019

59/19 **Action Plan**
Update.

SWW Compensation Claim – Council's claim is in the process of being formulated.

Personal Watercraft Activity – Clerk is liaising with the Ilfracombe Harbour Master about managing personal watercraft activity.

Parade memorial benches – New benches and plaques have been ordered.

60/19 **Parks and Open Spaces**

Dog handling at Blackmoreham Gardens.

RESOLVED: To put up signs at Blackmoreham Gardens asking dog owners to keep their dogs on leads, to pick up after their dogs, and to keep their dogs under control.

Council to explore the feasibility of setting up a group for responsible dog owners in the village.

61/19 **Beach**
None

62/19 **Footpaths**
None.

63/19 **Health and Safety**

To note the date of resurfacing and line marking at the Parade Car Park.

The works are due to start the week commencing Monday 8 April 2019 subject to weather conditions.

Report on Hollands Park play area.

A number of health and safety issues have been identified at the children's play area at Hollands Park. The following actions have been taken:

The top tyre of the Tyre Crawl had a split in it and has been removed. The tyre crawl can still be played with.

The basket ball posts at the top of the field and in the play area have had their backings removed as these were damaged.

The swing basket is damaged and suffering wear and tear and posing a serious health and safety risk. This has been removed completely.

The surface area has several holes and as a temporary measure these are being filled in with a wet pour mix.

A new chicane has been installed at the pedestrian entrance of the play area to slow children down and prevent them from running straight out into the road.

We kindly ask users of Hollands Park play area to use the play equipment respectfully, and to bear with us while repairs are carried out.

64/19 **Asset Management Group**
Council Workshop Report.

RESOLVED: To proceed with the planning application for the workshop as per the specifications for the building set out in the minutes of the meeting of the Asset Management Group held on Thursday 7 March 2019 and explore the option of siting the new workshop on the concrete pads at Hollands Park.

District Cllr John Lovering and the remaining parishioners left the meeting.

65/19 **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”

66/19 **Confidential Action Plan Update.**

The Parade Café – The document setting out the Licence to Assign the lease has been received by the Parish Council for signing.

Parish Council land at Umber Close – A sign has been erected and details about the padlock received.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

.....
Chairman