

## COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held at the Community Centre on Monday 13 January 2020 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Peter James (Chairman), David Woodbury, Chris Wyer, Celia Withers, Katherine Armitage, Andy Forgan, Helen Mallinder, and Keith Wyer.

In attendance: County Cllr Andrea Davis, District Cllr Yvette Gubb, PCSO Ade Drury and PC Matt Read, thirteen parishioners, and the Parish Clerk (minute taker).

### 1/20 **To receive, and reply to, matters raised by parishioners.**

The first parishioner to speak reiterated their concerns about flooding and the structural integrity of the wall along Bowling Green Lane. Directed at County Cllr Andrea Davis, the parishioner made some remarks about the costs of the recent road works at Hodges Lane and Kiln Lane and questioned their priority. Cllr Davis asked the parishioner to put these questions in an email to Devon County Council. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Peter James, informed the meeting that the Parish Council had recently written a strongly worded letter to the Environment Agency about flood resilience and bathing water quality. Cllr James said he would share a copy of the letter with the parishioner.

The second parishioner to speak said that he suspected ash dieback in Adderstable Woods. **ACTION:** Parish Council to investigate.

There were several people at the meeting who had come to either support or oppose Cllr Katherine Armitage's proposal to adopt the precautionary principle in relation to 5G. Those in support of the proposal expressed concerns about the potential risks to health and the environment of being exposed to 5G. Those against said that the proposal was built upon pseudoscience and fake news, and provided information from UK regulatory bodies that have deemed 5G to be safe.

The public session closed at 7.28pm.

### 2/20 **Apologies for absence.**

None.

### 3/20 **Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr Helen Mallinder declared an interest in planning application reference 70952.

### 4/20 **To consider any requests for dispensations.**

None.

### 5/20 **Finance**

- a) The updated budget for 2020/21 was noted.
- b) **RESOLVED:** To increase the Precept figure for 2020/21 by 2.5% as agreed at the December 2019 meeting.
- c) A decision was not needed about providing a grant to the Combe Martin Water Watch Group (CMWWG) to cover the cost of the hire of the Village Hall for its public meeting because the CMWWG has sufficient funds to cover this.

## **6/20 County and District Councillors' reports.**

### **Devon County Council**

County Cllr Davis provided the following report.

#### **Devon-wide review of waste management carbon emissions commissioned**

Devon County Council has commissioned a full analysis of the carbon impacts of its waste management services from international environmental consultancy Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd. Last year Devon County Council endorsed the Devon Climate Declaration by declaring a climate emergency.

The new project, which commenced in December 2019, forms part of the authority's subsequent commitment to become a net-zero authority by 2030. Eunomia's emissions modelling team will establish the carbon footprint of DCC's current waste management services, including the emissions from reuse, recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion, residual energy recovery, landfill and transport. Carbon contributions from each of Devon's eight district waste collection as well as its recycling centres will be included in the analysis.

The results of this analysis will be used to produce a range of options for strategies for achieving carbon neutrality for the service. The research will also factor in the need to meet a 65% recycling target by 2035 at the latest.

#### **Permit will help care and health workers 'to do their jobs'**

A new Care and Health Worker Parking Permit has been launched, and it allows professionals visiting people at home to park on double yellow lines in certain circumstances.

Currently care and health professionals who hold the existing permit can park in on-street, limited waiting and residents' parking bays for no charge when delivering essential services to residents in their homes. Holders of the improved permit will additionally be allowed to park on yellow lines for up to an hour – but only if there is no other parking available, if they are making a home visit, the permit is clearly displayed and the vehicle is not causing an obstruction. The parked vehicle must not block access or pose a danger to road users by, for instance, parking on a corner.

The improved scheme is being launched initially as a year-long pilot and the changes are in recognition that in some communities parking can be difficult to find and can add to the stress of an already demanding job.

The new permits will be in the form of a time clock, like those issued to Blue Badge holders, which must be displayed. For those working for care and health companies, agencies or organisations, including the NHS, the permits will be managed and distributed by their line manager who will allocate each permit to eligible staff. Devon County Council's Traffic Management Team has been contacting care and health companies, agencies and organisations with staff who could be eligible for the permit directly.

A separate process to allow eligible sole practitioners to apply will be phased in next year. Sole practitioners providing care and support to Devon clients in their homes can register their interest here by emailing [careandhealthpermits@devon.gov.uk](mailto:careandhealthpermits@devon.gov.uk).

The new scheme follows a consultation in which 89 per cent of respondents agreed that including yellow lines in the scheme would make their jobs easier and 80 per cent said it would help them care for their clients.

#### North Devon Council

District Cllr Yvette Gubb provided the following report.

#### New North Devon leisure centre contract awarded and facilities announced

The contract to design, build and manage North Devon's new leisure centre at Seven Brethren has been awarded.

North Devon Council has awarded the contract to Parkwood Leisure Ltd who will take over the operation of the new leisure centre on land adjoining Tarka Tennis. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2020 and be complete by Autumn 2022.

The new leisure contract is also good news for Ilfracombe as the existing swimming pool and fitness centre are included in the 20 year operating contract, providing sustainable facilities for North Devon.

Sport England has provided £1.75m of National Lottery funding towards the project and £1.5m has been granted by the Coastal Communities Fund. S106\* contributions have also been put towards the build costs.

#### Salvation Army to open its doors to homeless over winter

A joint initiative by two councils to give rough sleepers in North Devon and Torrington a warm bed for the night has started.

The project, called Safe Sleep, last year helped 111 people, at least 36 of whom are now in secure accommodation. This year, North Devon and Torrington councils have joined forces to provide the service to rough sleepers across both districts. Safe Sleep will be based at the Salvation Army centre in Barnstaple and will be open between 2 January and 31 March 2020.

Housing officers from both councils are now calling for volunteers to help out when the Salvation Army centre opens its doors, as well as requesting donations. Prospective volunteers are asked to email North Devon Council's Service Lead for Housing, Vulnerable Persons and Community Safety, Natasha Rowland on [natasha.rowland@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:natasha.rowland@northdevon.gov.uk).

#### 7/20 **Vandalism and Police Report.**

This item was moved forward so that any questions could be addressed to PC Matt Read and PCSO Ade Drury who were in attendance. There were no questions.

The Police newsletter for January 2020 was received prior to the meeting.

Crimes reported in December 2019 were as follows:

##### **Combe Martin**

Violence without Injury	2
Public Order Offences	1

##### **Berrynarbor**

None.

##### **East Down**

None.

PC Matt Read and PCSO Ade Drury left the meeting at 7.35pm.

#### 8/20 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** To approve as a correct record, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 9 December 2019.

County Cllr Davis left the meeting at 7.37pm.

#### 9/20 **Planning**

##### a. Applications:

The following two planning applications arrived at the Parish Council office after the agenda had been prepared and published. It was agreed to request extensions to these applications so that they could be discussed at the next meeting.

##### **70952 – CONVERSION OF SHOP TO FORM ONE FLAT AT COASTAL, BOROUGH ROAD, COMBE MARTIN EX34 0DQ**

**Applicant: Mr G Coombs**

The applicant to planning application 70952 was at the meeting. Cllr Helen Mallinder declared an interest in the application and left the meeting room. The applicant said that the new planning application was essentially the same as the planning application that he had submitted last year.

**70985 – OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF TWO DETACHED DWELLINGS WITH GARAGES AND TURNING AREAS WITH SOME MATTERS RESERVED (APPEARANCE, LANDSCAPING, LAYOUT AND SCALE) AT LAND ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE WILLOWS, BUZZACOTT LANE, COMBE MARTIN, EX3 0NL**

**Applicant: Mr M Fisher**

b. Planning Correspondence

To consider the email from the applicants of Planning Application, 62/19/19/008 about the decision the Parish Council had made in their case.

Cllr Andy Forgan, Chair of the Planning Sub-Committee, and the Chairman, Cllr James explained the process to the applicants.

The Parish Council is only a Consultee in the planning process, and does not make final planning decisions; that power rests with the District authorities, North Devon Council, and the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA). Before arriving at a response to any planning application, the Planning Sub-Committee takes into account all the information available, ahead of full Council meetings, and makes recommendations which may be accepted, rejected, or amended by full Council.

The Parish Council's decision in relation to application 62/19/19/008 was based on a number of factors including local knowledge, planning and conservation policies.

Two parishioners left the meeting at 7.45pm.

c. Planning Appeals

None.

d. Planning Approvals

70610 – Planning permission approved subject to conditions.

70617 – Planning permission approved subject to conditions.

**10/20 Councillor Vacancies**

Due to the resignations of Cllr Ian Lawton, Cllr Martin Worth, Cllr (Brian) Lee Lethaby, and Cllr John Hales, four Parish Councillor Vacancies have arisen. A Notice of Vacancies has been published on the Parish Council's website and notice board. A copy of the Notice is also available on the District Authority's website.

**11/20 Election of Vice Chairman**

The position of Vice Chairman was not filled at this meeting.

Two parishioners left the meeting at 7.50pm.

**12/20 Appointments to the following Committees and Working Party and P3 Co-ordinator**

1. Asset Management Committee – Cllr Keith Wyer was appointed.

2. Planning Sub-Committee – Vacancy not filled.
3. Personnel Committee – Vacancy needs to be filled by the Vice Chairman.
4. Emergency Committee – Cllr Helen Mallinder appointed.
5. Office Relocation Working Party – Cllr Katherine Armitage was appointed. Cllr James said that Martin Worth had expressed an interest to be involved in this project. This offer was accepted with thanks.
6. P3 Co-ordinator for the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme – Cllr Andy Forgan was appointed.

13/20 **Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies**

Combe Martin Primary School – Cllr Keith Wyer is a representative to Combe Martin Primary School and was appointed alongside Ian Lawton. Cllr Keith Wyer is happy to continue in this role.

14/20 **Motion**

Proposal to adopt the Precautionary Principle in relation to 5G until it has been proven to be safe. Proposer: Cllr Katherine Armitage. Seconder: Cllr Celia Withers.

Five Councillors voted in favour of the motion. There were no votes against. Three Councillors abstained from voting.

**RESOLVED:** Approval of motion to adopt the Precautionary Principle in relation to 5G until it has been proven to be safe.

15/20 **To confirm proposed dates for future meetings**

**RESOLVED:** To hold the next Parish Council Meeting on Monday 10 February 2020 at 7pm at the Community Centre.

Eight parishioners left the meeting at 8.10pm.

16/20 **VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations**

It was agreed to ask the community at the Fresh Start Fair for their suggestions on holding a celebration in the village to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day and revisit at the next meeting. **ACTION:** Cllr Celia Withers to send tentative proposals to Council members for their consideration.

District Cllr Gubb and one parishioner left the meeting at 8.15pm.

17/20 **Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies**

Cllr James gave up the chair to speak about the activities of the Coastal Community Team. Cllr Withers took the chair for this part.

**Coastal Community Team**

Cllr James said that there had been a delay to the starting date of the work on the beach to repair the retaining wall because of the prolonged wet weather conditions, and volume of water flowing in the River UMBER.

### 18/20 **Strategic Action Plan**

Cllr Andy Forgan provided an update on the project to convert mowed grassed areas in the village to natural planting and asked the Council to reaffirm its decision to progress this work.

Cllr Forgan said that the initiative to convert the grassed areas in the village to natural planting was gathering momentum. The next stage is to invite experts in to assess the viability of the project and give initial advice, and to present an initial report at the April full Council meeting.

Council members were happy to re-affirm their commitment to the project. Cllr James said that the project was an integral part of the Parish Council's strategic plan.

### 19/20 **Correspondence:**

1. North Devon Council – To consider the invitation from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to attend a Combe Martin Parish Council meeting to deliver a short presentation and take Q&As about the work of the OPCC.

**RESOLVED:** To accept and invite OPCC to deliver a presentation during the last quarter of the year.

2. Exmoor National Park Authority – To note that the Exmoor National Park Authority will shortly be seeking the necessary permissions for the implementation of the proposed Coast Path route in Combe Martin and inviting comments and questions prior to submission. Noted.
3. South West Water (SWW) – To note SWW's response to the Parish Council's letter about the number of Combined Sewer Overflows into the River UMBER and the impact on bathing water quality. Noted.

*Any correspondence received after the agenda*

4. Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum Minutes of meeting held on 17 December 2019. Noted.

### 20/20 **To note the Vandalism and Police Report.**

Item discussed earlier in the meeting. See minute ref: 7/20.

### 21/20 **Action Plan**

#### **Hollands Park - Council Work Store proposal**

Cllr James has drafted a letter to the National Playing Fields Association (Fields in Trust) about the Parish Council's proposal to site a work store at Hollands Park. He will send this off shortly with an outline of the plans.

### 22/20 **Parks and Open Spaces**

The Environment Agency has offered the Combe Martin Water Watch Group a dog bin. It was agreed to site this at the entrance to the Parade footpath.

There is a large pothole at the entrance to Holdstone Down car park. **ACTION:** To ask the Assistant Work person to investigate.

23/20 **Footpaths**

None.

24/20 **Health and Safety**

There have been some recent rock falls on Combe Martin beach. Beach users are reminded to stay away from the cliff fall as further cliff falls could happen at any time without warning.

25/20 **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”**

26/20 **Personnel Committee**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Personnel Committee’s recommendations to continue the temporary Finance Clerk contract arrangement, and the action plan to recruit a new Finance Clerk.

27/20 **Confidential Action Plan**

Parade Toilets

The sale of the Parade toilets is ongoing.

VAT Review

**RESOLVED:** To approve the quote for the VAT Review.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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Chairman