

COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held at the Community Centre on Monday 9 September 2019 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Ian Lawton (Vice Chairman), Helen Mallinder, David Woodbury, Chris Wyer, Katherine Armitage, Martin Worth, and Keith Wyer.

In attendance: County Cllr Andrea Davis, District Cllr Yvette Gubb, thirteen parishioners, and the Parish Clerk (minute taker).

Vice Chairman Ian Lawton chaired the meeting.

190/19 **To receive, and reply to, matters raised by parishioners**

Parishioner one said that at the last meeting, she and her neighbour had requested a meeting with the Environment Agency (EA), South West Water (SWW), Devon County Council (DCC), and the Parish Council to discuss the River UMBER and flooding issues. Cllr Katherine Armitage said that the Combe Martin Water Watch Group, an independent voluntary group, was having a meeting on 9 October 2019 that specifically focused on flooding and run-off in the village. Representatives from the EA, SWW, DCC, and other relevant organisation have been invited to that meeting. Cllr Armitage invited the parishioner and her neighbour to attend.

Parishioner two spoke about the potential harmful effects to public health from 5G technology.

Parishioner three raised his concern about the sediment build-up under the bridge at Western Gardens. This issue has previously been raised with the EA, and the advice received was that the maintenance fell to the riparian owner. A riparian owner is someone who has any watercourse within or adjacent to any boundary of their property. Where a watercourse is sited between two or more property boundaries, each owner may be equally responsible. Riparian owners are responsible for maintaining the riverbed and banks within their section of the watercourse. It is their duty to work towards minimising pollution and preventing obstruction to the water flow. Under the new Flood and Water Management Act, riparian owners maintain all the duties and responsibilities for watercourses in their land as set out in the Land Drainage Act (source: Devon County Council website - www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/question/riparian-owner-responsibility/).

191/19 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs, Peter James (Chairman), Andy Forgan, and Celia Withers. Cllrs Lee Lethaby and John Hales were not in attendance.

192/19 **Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were dealt with per agenda item.

193/19 **To consider any requests for dispensations**

None.

194/19 **Finance:**

- a) To receive the reports on the monthly balances.
The Finance Officer circulated provisional reports to Council members prior to this meeting. The provisional reports were noted. No questions were raised.
- b) To consider the quotations for the replacement boiler at the Football Clubhouse.

Cllr Martin Worth declared an interest.

RESOLVED: To accept quotation C.

- c) Proposal from the Finance Officer to hold the Parish Council Meetings on the third Monday of each month.

RESOLVED: To continue holding full Council meetings on the second Monday in the month.

195/19 **County and District Councillors' reports**

Devon County Council

County Cllr Andrea Davis provided the following report:

Forthcoming carriageway stabilisation works at Lions Rump South on the A399 south of Brayford

A complete road closure is provisionally programmed in for 4th to 30th November 2019 while stabilisation works are carried out.

Forthcoming construction works on B3229 in Kentisbury parish

The B3229 will be closed from 14 October 2019 to 20 December 2019 while construction works are carried out to repair a section of damaged and deteriorating highway. The works will be carried out under a road closure and will be reduced to traffic lights when possible.

North Devon Link Road

Planting of around 20,000 trees and shrubs has started as part of advanced work being undertaken ahead of the start of the main improvements to the North Devon Link Road.

The trees will be planted over a distance of 10km between Filleigh and Portmore, where work on widening the A361 is due to start in 2021. As the scheme progresses, further environmental compensation will be carried out throughout northern Devon to enable the scheme to achieve biodiversity net gain.

Highway Service Parish & Town Council Conferences

These events are highways focused. However a number of other Devon County Council departments may also be in attendance. Exhibitor details will be provided prior to each event. The conference format will be an exhibition style event with displays/stands representing a number of teams, projects and initiatives. Each display/stand will be staffed by at least one representative providing an opportunity for local issues, concerns or queries to be raised.

These events are free to all attendees.

The conferences will take place at 5 locations across the county:

- Thursday 3 October - Magelake Parish Pavillions, Uffculme
- Friday 4 October - Kenn Centre, Kennford
- Monday 7 October - Filleigh Village Hall, Filleigh
- Thursday 10 October - Rattery Village Hall, Rattery
- Tuesday 15 October - Clinton Hall, Merton

The conferences will be open from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Cllr Ian Lawton raised concerns on behalf of parishioners about the gabion wall on the C460. Some of the rocks have been removed from the gabion baskets following a collision. And on the A399 just before Barton Gate Lane, Cllr Lawton has received reports of pedestrians being hit by the wing mirrors of passing vehicles. County Cllr Davis said that she would investigate both issues.

North Devon Council

District Cllr Yvette Gubb provided the following report.

Have your say on changes to Council Tax Reduction Scheme

North Devon Council is carrying out a consultation on proposed changes to its Council Tax Reduction Scheme to find out what local residents think about it.

The council is proposing to make changes to its current working age council tax reduction scheme which helps North Devon residents on a low income to reduce their council tax bill. Pension age customers will not be affected due to a government scheme already in place.

The consultation starts on 9 September 2019 and will be open until 20 October 2019. Residents can have their say and find out full details about the proposals on NDC's website: www.northdevon.gov.uk/consultations.

196/19 Vandalism and Police Report

The Police newsletter for September 2019 was received.

Crimes reported in August 2019 were as follows:

Combe Martin

Violence with Injury	1
Violence without Injury	3
Sexual Offences	1
Other Theft	1
Public Order Offences	1
Possession of Weapons	1

Berrynarbor

Other Theft	1
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East Down

No crime recorded

197/19 **Minutes**

RESOLVED: To approve as a correct record, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 12 August 2019.

Three parishioners left the meeting.

198/19 **Planning**

a. Applications:

1. **REFERENCE 66447
EXTENSIONS TO DWELLING AT CAMPIONS BUZZACOTT LANE COMBE
MARTIN
GRID REF: 259974;145882
Applicant – Mr Leaver**

RESOLVED: To inform the planning authority that Combe Martin Parish Council (CMPC) supports this application, and makes the following observations:

Although photovoltaic panels are mentioned on the plans there is no evidence of them on the drawings.

In line with the CMPC's approach to Dark Night Sky Friendly lighting, CMPC strongly recommend appropriate shading for the Velux and lantern light.

2. **REFERENCE 70265
RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF USE OF DWELLING (USE
CLASS C3) TO BED AND BREAKFAST (USE CLASS C1) AT LION HOUSE
VICTORA STREET COMBE MARTIN ILFRACOMBE
GRID REF: 259168;145949
Applicant – Mr Bates**

RESOLVED: To inform the planning authority that CMPC supports this application.

3. **REFERENCE 70291
INSTALLATION OF AN 18 PANEL/6KW GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PV
SYSTEM AT BLUE BAY HIGHER REWS CLOSE COMBE MARTIN FOOTPATH 33
COMBE MARTIN
GRID REF: 257899;147335
Applicant – Mr John Webber**

Cllr Worth declared an interest and left the room while the discussion took place.

RESOLVED: To inform the planning authority that CMPC very much supports this application as it is line with CMPC's draft Sustainability policy.

4. **REFERENCE 70325
DEMOLITION OF A GLASSHOUSE AND ERECTION OF 1 DWELLING AT LAND
AT ROWS LANE COMBE MARTIN**

GRID REF: 258890;146078

Applicant – Mr and Mrs Norman

RESOLVED: To inform the planning authority that CMPC supports this application, and makes the following observations.

In line with CMPC's draft policy on Sustainability:

CMPC strongly recommend that the Local Plan policies ST 02 (d) and (f), ST 03 (f) and (g), ST 05(3) (a), (c) and (d) be explicitly addressed in the detail of the design of this dwelling.

In the context of this development the design is to be commended for addressing the need to incorporate passive solar gain, low carbon technologies and locally sourced materials ST05(3) (a)(c) and (d).

However, in the context of the need to 'Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change' there is an opportunity to incorporate photovoltaic panels, ground source geothermal heating, rainwater harvesting and storage and the use of 'grey water' in the design of the dwelling.

CMPC urge the applicant and architect to seriously consider these opportunities.

CMPC recommend that serious consideration be given to the need to help to maintain Combe Martin's Dark Sky Friendly approach by the use of judicial shading of Velux roof lights.

CMPC also has concerns about the Flood Risk assessment, proposed access and oversight of adjacent properties.

5. **REFERENCE 70375**
FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION TO DWELLING AT TAURUS BUZZACOTT LANE
COMBE MARTIN
GRID:259994;145887
Applicant – Mr Bachell

RESOLVED: To ask the planning authority for more detailed plans from the applicant.

6. **62/19/19/005 – PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF UTILITY AND SHOWER ROOM TO BE REPLACED WITH TWO STOREY EXTENSION, 1 GIRT FARM COTTAGES**
COMBE MARTIN
Applicant – Mr and Mrs Hunt

RESOLVED: To inform the planning authority that CMPC supports this application.

7. **62/19/19/006 – PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING ROOF AND FRONT WINDOWS TOGETHER WITH THE ALTERATION TO THE OPENING ON LOWER FLOOR LEVEL TO INCLUDE FRENCH DOORS AND THE INTSTALLATION OF**

**THERMAL BOARD AND NEW SILICON RENDER TO THE EXTERIOR WALLS.
SHERRACOMBE LESTERPOINT COMBE MARTIN**

Applicant – Michelle Whitchurch

RESOLVED: To inform the planning authority that CMPC supports this application.

b. **Planning Decisions**

1. 62/19/18/002. Conditional Planning Permission granted. Noted
2. 66895. Planning permission granted.

County Cllr Davis, District Cllr Gubb and one parishioner left the meeting at 8pm.

199/19 **Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies**

Combe Martin Museum

Cllr Helen Mallinder provided the following report.

Combe Martin Museum is short of volunteers and is looking for new ones. If you would like to volunteer or know someone that does, please get in contact with the museum who would be pleased to hear from you.

Discussions are ongoing for a memorial for the late Pat Chesterton.

The museum is holding a Macmillan coffee morning on Tuesday 24 September 2019 and has planned children's activities for the half-term.

The museum has asked whether it would be possible for the Parish Council's temporary storage space behind the Sail Loft to be moved. **ACTION:** Cllr Lawton to liaise with the workmen about decluttering the space.

Friends of the Health Centre

The Friends of the Health Centre are holding a Patient Participation meeting at the Ilfracombe surgery on Wednesday 23 October 2019 at 10am.

Leys Charity

Cllr Keith Wyer provided a report.

The Leys Charity will shortly be considering proposals for revising its constitution.

District Cllr Gubb returned to the meeting at 8.15pm.

200/19 **Correspondence:**

1. Exmoor National Park – Exmoor Consultative and parish Forum Agenda. Noted.
2. Parishioner – traffic congestion at the bottom of Hangman Path/King Street and suggestion to remove on-street parking bays.

Cllrs considered this issue at length and concluded that removing on-street parking bays was not a viable option.

3. Mark Ressel – request to hold the Icon Classic Ski Race from the Beach on 18 July 2020.

RESOLVED: Permission granted for the Icon Classic Ski Race to be held on Combe Martin beach on Saturday 18 July 2020.

201/19 **Motion**

Proposal to oppose the roll out of 5G in Combe Martin. Proposer: Cllr Katherine Armitage.

Motion seconded by Cllr Worth.

Two cllrs voted in favour of Cllr Armitage's motion. No cllrs voted against the motion. Five cllrs abstained from voting.

Councillors agreed that Combe Martin residents should be given the opportunity to have their say on the issue of 5G technology before Council voted on it. It was agreed to hold a Public Awareness Event at the Shammick Farmers Market at the Village Hall on Saturday 21 September 2019 on this issue. It was further agreed to raise awareness about the Fire Service proposals and proposals about the future of North Devon District Hospital at this event.

District Cllr Gubb and nine parishioners left the meeting at 8.40pm.

202/19 **Barton Gate Lane**

Cllr Lawton's draft letter about parking issues.

RESOLVED: To send the letter and clarify Council's legal position on Barton Gate Lane.

203/19 **To confirm proposed dates for future meetings**

RESOLVED:

- To hold the next Parish Council Strategy Meeting on Monday 16 September 2019 at 7pm at the Community Centre.
- To hold the next Parish Council Meeting on Monday 14 October 2019 at 7pm at the Community Centre.

The date of the Audit Committee Meeting on Friday 13 September 2019 at 12pm, at the Parish Council Office was noted.

204/19 **Parks and Open Spaces**

None.

205/19 **Beach**

Combe Martin Water Watch Group

Cllr Armitage provided an update on Combe Martin Water Watch Group activities. She said that because of a neap tide, the sand recycling on Combe Martin beach did not happen. Unfortunately, Combe Martin looks set to fail the bathing water quality testing again this year. The Water Watch group is looking at various issues that affect the bathing water quality in the village and is in discussions with various interested parties.

206./19 **Footpaths**

Cllr Lawton has been walking the various public footpaths in the village and has reported incidents that he has seen to the relevant authorities. Devon County Council is taking forward Cllr Lawton's recommendations made in response to the Parish Paths Partnership scheme earlier this year.

207/19 **Health and Safety**

None.

208/19 **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"

209/19 **Steps onto Beach**

ACTION: Cllrs David Woodbury and Chris Wyer to investigate Council's position in relation to the steps and the request that has been made.

210/19 **Parade Building**

Cllr Woodbury circulated a document submitted by the tenant to Council members prior to this meeting and gave an update.

Council members were asked to submit their comments on the document.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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Vice Chairman