



**DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held on
Monday 9th August 2021 at 7pm at St. Peters Church Hall.**

Present: Cllrs T Seldon (Chair), S Coomber (Vice Chair), D Woodbury, P Walker, H Mallinder, M Richards, S Daukes, M Worth, S Boyce, C Galloway and A Williams.

In attendance: Finance Officer (Acting Clerk and minute taker), County Cllr A Davis, District Cllr Y Gubb, and eleven members of the public

PART A:

[183/21 Apologies](#)

None

[184/21 Declarations of interest](#)

Cllr Mallinder declared an interest in agenda item 12.2.

Cllr Walker declared an interest in agenda item 17.2

[185/21 To consider any requests for dispensations](#)

None

[186/21 Public Participation Period](#)

Correspondence to Council – A member of the public noted that there had been no response or acknowledgement to emails that had been sent. The Chair confirmed they had been received but that due to the resignation of the Clerk and staff holidays there would be a delay in responding. The Chair asked that the public bear with the Council until a new Clerk had been recruited.

Parish Paths Partnership. – A member of the public asked who was walking the paths to report maintenance issues as various paths appeared to be

overgrown. The Acting Clerk responded that he would review the situation with the workforce and Councillors who help out with this. It was noted that not all paths or overgrown areas were owned by the Council and where this was the case property owners would be contacted and asked to take appropriate action..

Environmental Concerns – A member of the public asked what action was being taken to deal with potential flooding on the Umber and Seaside and asked generally what the Council environmental policy was. District Cllr Yvette Gubb explained that grants of up to £5k had been available to properties at risk of flooding from Devon County Council but was not sure what the take up had been. It was noted that the Council should collaborate with the Devon County Council and the Environment Agency to explore the possibility of dredging the Umber on a regular basis and obtaining licenses to do this work. It was agreed that the Parish Council through the Chair would approach the Environmental Agency.

Community Centre – A member of the public asked if the rumour that the Community Centre was going to be turned into social housing was true. Nobody was aware of any such plans.

Street Lights – A member of the public pointed out that the street lights in Buzzacott Lane were not working from Holsten Way upwards – also Skirhead Lane. The Acting Clerk said he would report them.

[187/21 Minutes](#)

1. Parish Meeting held on Monday 12 July 2021

RESOLVED: To approve and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12 July 2021

All Councillors voted in favour of the resolution.

[188/21 County and District Councillors' Reports](#)

North Devon Council

District Cllr Yvette Gubb provided the following report

Theatres back open – Full covid precautions are in place and both theatres are open for business.

Disability Uplift Grant – NDC have been awarded a disability facility grant of circa £1.5m which will help to support people staying in their own homes.

Planning Enforcement – There is a new reporting planning compliance page on the NDC website which will help improve reporting, collation and action on planning concerns or unauthorised development.

Devon County Council

County Cllr Andrea Davis' presented a verbal summary of her report which is attached in full below:

Two key consultations:

Peninsula transport- Shaping the future of Transport across the South West

I would be very grateful if the Parish Council would consider responding to the consultation please. it would be good to hear from residents and businesses too so please do share the message.

Peninsula Transport is the shadow sub-national transport body (STB), bringing together the five lead transport authorities in the Peninsula (Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay) to work directly with the Department for Transport (DfT) on the strategic transport priorities for the region. Formed in 2018, it is a partnership established to transform transport and boost economic growth for the Peninsula.

The work of Peninsula Transport considers the following key areas:

- Resilient road and rail networks to support connectivity to its key markets in the Midlands, the north of England, London and international gateways at Heathrow, Gatwick and Southampton as well as access to our regional airports and ports
- Impact of technology and innovation in supporting our urban and rural mobility challenges
- Infrastructure investment needed to unlock housing development and create accessible enterprise areas
- Take a regional lead in the transition to decarbonisation of the strategic transport network

The first priority for Peninsula Transport is the development of a regional transport strategy, which plans and prioritises strategic infrastructure across the peninsula over the next thirty years. As part of this work, Peninsula Transport has produced a high-level vision document

setting out the goals that will ultimately define the overall direction and principles of the full regional transport strategy.

The high level vision will be consulted on throughout the summer into September to ensure that the vision is shared with those across the peninsula and determine if the goals meet the needs of those using the network.

Vision and Goals

The key challenge for the Peninsula is to strengthen strategic links to keep pace with the rest of the UK, reinforcing connectivity and maximising opportunities to boost productivity. Transport is a vital part of everyday life and therefore a transport strategy needs to be bold and ambitious, delivering a transport system that works for people, businesses and the planet.

The vision for the peninsula is: “transforming transport across the peninsula, enabling our society and economy to thrive and our unique and outstanding environment to flourish.”

The vision is underpinned by the following five goals:

- We will improve connections between people, businesses, and places
- We will enhance resilience of the transport network
- We will deliver affordable, zero-emissions transport for everyone
- We will help to improve the health and wellbeing of communities in the peninsula
- We will help the peninsula to be a great place to live and work

The Consultation

The consultation will open week commencing 12th July and will close week ending 17th September 2021.

www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk.

What happens next?

Once the consultation has closed, Peninsula Transport will use the feedback to inform the full strategy. A number of supporting studies are either underway or planned to support the transport strategy and our website will be updated as the programme progresses. We expect to publish our transport strategy in 2022, setting out our proposals for the delivery a transport system that works best for people, businesses and the planet.

The consultation is on the website: , www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk,

or you can contact us by emailing info@peninsulatrtransport.org.uk.

Bus Back Better

I am asking for help in shaping the future of bus services in Devon, to do this an understanding of the current network and how it works for residents of Combe Martin would be helpful. Consultation ends on the 15th August.

In March, the government announced a new National Bus Strategy - [Bus back better - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). Alongside the delivery of this strategy, Devon County Council have committed to working with our local bus operators to form an Enhanced Partnership by April 2022, and to writing a joint Bus Service Improvement Plan by October 2021.

Following the publishing of the Bus Service Improvement Plan in October there will be a full public consultation.

online survey using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NYQBJCS>

Funding available to help Devon's communities reconnect, rebuild and recover

Community-led facilities and activities, like many things, were quickly suspended during the onset of the national coronavirus lockdown.

As the country begins to return to some degree of normality, Devon County Council is keen to help local communities get back to doing the things they love safely and confidently, so we have created a special fund to support them.

The Reconnect Rebuild Recover Community Fund will provide grant funding of up to £1,000 for smaller projects and between £1,000 and £3,000 for larger projects that help local people to reconnect, rebuild and recover their community-led facilities and/or social activities.

It will support community-led initiatives that:

- encourage a range of people to participate in activities that improve their physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing
- provide safe community-led transportation links and services which encourage and help people to re-connect and re-socialise safely within their communities
- encourage people to develop skills and learning through volunteering their time, knowledge and expertise to help and support the facilities and/or social activity and the people using them

[You can find out more, including how to apply, on the Devon County Council website.](#)

On street Parking complaints from residents in Combe Martin

I have received complaints about on street parking enforcement in the village, I can confirm that in July 29 PCNs were issued.

I have also been asked about residents parking schemes and I am awaiting advice about this from officers at DCC.

Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council

The link below may be of interest to residents with the situation changing and many interested in what is happening locally this link is a useful starting point for questions and the current situation in Devon.

The link takes you to the Covid-19 pages on the Devon County Council Website, it has daily updated information as to positive cases within the area, information about testing and track and trace.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/>

Reminder about reporting a highway problem:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

telephone: 0345 155 1004

189/21 Police

The monthly Ilfracombe Neighbourhood Police Newsletter for August 2021 was received and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Number of crimes reported in July 2021

Combe Martin

Violence with injury	1
Violence without injury	3
Stalking and harassment	1
Sexual offences	0
All other theft offences	2
Criminal damage	1

Public order offences 2

Berrynarbor

Violence with injury 1

All other theft offences 1

East Down

None

190/21 North Devon Council – Planning Applications

1. **73737 Proposal:** First floor extensions and internal alterations to studio room at Gypsy House, Corner Lane, Combe Martin EX34 OHU
Applicant: Mr Melton

RESOLVED: To inform the planning authority that Combe Martin Parish Council supports this planning application.

191/21 North Devon Council Planning Decisions

72014 Proposal: Strawberry Fields, Shute Lane, Combe Martin, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 0HW **REFUSED** Prior Approval for erection of agricultural building for storage of dung (PN 71829). This was noted.

192/21 Finance:

Finance Reports

1. **RESOLVED:** To approve the July 2021 finance reports on the monthly payments and receipts and August 2021 list of payments to be paid:
 - The list of payments made between 01/07/2021 and 31/07/2021 totalling £19,153.19.
 - The cash received between 01/07/2021 and 31/07/2021 totalling £35,097.47
 - The list of payments for August 2021 totalling £10,623.21.
2. The July 2021 monthly summary balances and bank reconciliation and car park receipts were noted.

193/21 To confirm proposed dates for future meetings

RESOLVED: To hold a Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13 September 2021 at 7pm in the Community Centre.

194/21 Correspondence

1. **Member of the Public** – The letter complaining about having to pay an admin fee to alter a parking permit with a new registration number was noted. The Clerk explained that this policy was approved by Council in October 2018.
2. **Member of the public** – To note concerns about the number and positioning of kayaks on the beach. It was noted that this was a short term issue that occurred early in the morning if the tide was in. It was also noted that canoes on the beach were not only from the existing outlets in Combe Martin but also from other members of the public.

195/21 Parks and Open Spaces (if any)

None.

196/21 Footpaths

None.

197/21 Health and Safety

A Councillor asked about the replacement of toilet seats in Kiln carpark toilets. District Cllr. Yvette Gubb noted that she was dealing with this issue.

198/21 Exclusion of Press and Public

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”.

Part A of the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

PART B:

199/21 Asset Management

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

200/21 Bank Mandate

The Finance Officer explained that only two Councillors were on the current bank mandate and more were needed to cover absence or resignations. After a general discussion it was agreed that all Councillors should be added to the bank mandate. The Finance Officer was asked to action this.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Chair of Combe Martin Parish Council