**Draft Minutes of the meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 7pm at Combe Martin Community Centre.**

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

**In attendance**: A Matthewman (Locum Clerk & RFO), Devon CC Cllr Angela Davis (part time), District Cllr Yvette Gubb, and 15 members of the public

**247/21 Public Participation Period (**brought forward because of number of public present)

The session was opened with a question concerning parking by multiple people without tickets or permits Evidence had been produced to the Clerk in 2018 but no response or actions had been evident. At the Chairman‘s request it was agreed that the information be given to the current clerk who would review it and provide a reply to the individual and all councillors outside the meeting.

The question of parking behind the Village Hall was raised. It was stated that the evening parking in particular was against the regulations and had an impact on parking availability more widely. Cllr Worth pointed out that the much greater use of the hall had transformed the viability of the Hall and this perhaps was a (small) price to be paid for its success.

A problem was raised with regard to a dog exercise area at Marine Parade which had become overgrown with brambles and urgently needed attention. The clerk pointed out that due to Covid and holidays staff availability had been an issue, not helped by the theft of almost all the hand tools used by the council workmen. At the next meeting the clerk had with them the priorities would be reviewed to see how soon the situation can be dealt with.

The Chairman declared the public session closed at 19.41.

**The Chairman opened the formal meeting at 19.42**

**PART A:**

248/21 Apologies for absence

Cllr H Mallinder

249/21 Declarations of interest

None

250/21 To consider any requests for dispensations

None

251/21 Minutes

1. Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th October 2021

The Chairman asked if there were any objections to the approval of the draft minutes submitted to members in advance. Cllr. Woodbury stated that, in accordance with his email he had a number of objections but two in particular, The minutes failed to include the many objections to the car park plan tabled by Mr Daukes, including the content of a number of e-mails sent to the Clerk prior to the meeting. He stated that this was contrary to Standing Order 3-t-vi. The clerk pointed out that the clause in question stated:

“The minutes of the meeting shall include an accurate record of: if there was a public participation session.” The minutes clearly record that there was such a session and referred to receipt of the e-mails. A further challenge was raised over the wording over how the council would move forward and the wording “decided not to table the amendment and to keep car park charges in line with NDCC whatever they may decide for 2022-23”. It was argued that no such decision was taken and that, given the substantive motion had already been defeated such a motion could not have been tabled. Others disagreed and it was:

**RESOLVED**: To approve and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th October 2021 by a vote of 5 in favour to 3 against. Cllr Galloway abstained as he had not been at the meeting;

252/21 County and District Councillors’ Reports

**Combe Martin Parish Council**

**County Councillors report**

**November 2021**

**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/>

**Waste and Recycling**

The 2020/21 performance statistics have recently been published and Devon’s recycling rate reduced to 55.3% from the previous year’s 56.6%. The reduction can be linked to the provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) which closed for seven weeks during the first lockdown commencing end March 2020. Subsequent social distancing measures reduced site capacities, closure of resale shops and the introduction of booking systems also impacted on the amount of waste processed leading to a reduction in recycling performance.

East Devon once again achieved the highest recycling rate amongst Devon’s Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) with 60% marginally down from previous years 60.5%. The other seven WCA figures as follows: Teignbridge (55.9%); Torridge & West Devon (55.2%); South Hams (54.7%); Mid Devon (53.7%); North Devon (49.5%) and Exeter (27.8%).

While our recycling centres recycling performance remains high at 72%, 2020/21 saw a small reduction from previous year (75%). Reductions across all streams were noted for Devon’s HWRCs, notably organic material down 22%. The closure and restrictions to HWRC re-use shops last year resulted in a 64% reduction in sales, equating to 666 tonnes less materiel resold to members of the public – all HWRC re-use shops have now re-opened.

**Peninsula Transport Vison consultation feedback**

The consultation on the Peninsula Transport Vison five goals concluded on the 17th September.

Over 200 responses from communities, business transport operators and stakeholders with all goals receiving over 80% support. Thank you to all my parishes who took part.

1. By investing in road and rail network improving access to education, skills and employment – important in levelling up
2. Resilience and reliability critical in efficient movement of goods and people and responding to climate change / severe weather events
3. Promotion of walking, cycling and public transport to reduce demand for cars as well as support transition towards low emission vehicles (freight and private transport)
4. Improve people’s choice of travel, affordability and safety of travel
5. Outstanding natural environment which makes it great place to live and work but important we also deliver new homes and jobs in places served by high quality transport choices.

*Work to support the five goals includes;*

1. Strategic Economic Corridors

Expecting the report end of this week, which is an appraisal of 3 Strategic Economic Corridors in the Peninsula:

• North South Corridor including A38 / M5 and Paddington Mainline Growth Corridor

• East West Corridor including A30 / A303 / A358 and Waterloo Mainline Growth Corridor

• North West Corridor including A361 / A39 North Devon Link and North Devon Rail Line Corridor

1. Freight Strategy

Positive inputs from freight operators, the private sector, LEPs and local authorities – generated a lot of ideas on collaborative piece with Western Gateway.

Now the key is to refine this into some key interventions that support our Vision, namely around ensuring we can move freight efficiently and taking opportunities to decarbonise these goods movements.

1. Other Key Studies

EV and Carbon Strategy running in parallel as a lot of overlap – fits with Vision Goal to deliver affordable, zero carbon transport for everyone

Rail Study – paused due to significant changes with GBR, changing travel patterns post COVID and so re-scope in progress. Worth noting we already have a strong Peninsula Rail plan and significant progress is being made (i.e. South West Rail Resilience Programme, emerging work on Mobile Connectivity (covered at the end of presentation) and aspirations to strengthen performance of 2nd strategic rail route (i.e. reliability/connectivity and resilience on West of England line). Need to explore what decarbonisation opportunities there are and respond to Gear Change and Bus Back Better national strategies to better integrate with walking, cycling and public transport

1. Current and Future Commissions

We are keen to progress our strategy and in parallel developing the strategic implementation plan as we want to be able to identify our key strategic transport asks and influence upcoming opportunities through National Highways Roads Investment Strategy 3 (post 2025) and Network Rail’s Control Period 7 (2024-2029)

1. Rail Projects

Network Rail Corridor Studies are the Continuous Modular Strategic Planning (CMSP) which replace the route studies – they seek to pose and answer strategic questions about how rail can support local aspirations, for instance supporting economic growth and specifying the type of infrastructure and timetables that are needed.

Great British Railways aims to integrate the railways (bringing together track and trains) in order to deliver passenger-focused travel with simpler, modern fares and reliable services.

1. Restoring Your Railway

In Addition to the Dartmoor Line which is a £40m investment.

Wellington and Cullompton stations has gone down well, funded from Tranche 1 of RYR and hopeful of further development funding.

Also, announced recently DCC’s successful bid to the Restoring Your Railway fund for the reinstating of the line Bere Alson to Tavistock, the £50k will help fund the business case work.

1. South West Mobile Connectivity

Innovative pilot to make better use of GSM-R (Global System for Mobile Communications- Railway) masts and install O2, Vodafone and EE mobile phone connectivity, which will not only boost voice and data coverage on rail journeys but also deliver improved mobile connectivity to 30 x local towns and villages across the Peninsula. If we can’t achieve faster journeys, at least make them more productive (working office concept).

**Bus Service Improvement Plan**

Very many thanks to the Parish Councils who took part in the high level consultation in the summer.

After taking the proposal arising from the feedback to Cabinet in October we have now published our BSIP (Bus Services Improvement Plan) on the Travel Devon website: [National Bus Strategy - Devon's Response - Travel Devon](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.traveldevon.info%2Fbus%2Fbsip%2F&data=04%7C01%7CAndrea.Davis%40devon.gov.uk%7Cdabe384794c44aa123e508d99ec61d87%7C8da13783cb68443fbb4b997f77fd5bfb%7C0%7C0%7C637715395993021414%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=GHwWLCFFb%2FV%2BVuh%2Fc0XWnHtEAjjTPomuqiA7lHCQXGY%3D&reserved=0)

**So what happens next?**

This is now with the DfT, who will assess it, alongside other BSIPs submitted from local authorities around the country.  They will then allocate us a proportion of the £3billion Bus Back Better funding pot.  We haven’t been given an indication of when we might hear about this, but anticipate it not being before December.

Once we have been notified of our funding allocation (hopefully all of the funding we have asked for!), we will go out to a full public consultation on the plan – we now anticipate this will be January/February - before commencing delivery of the plan from next April onwards.

In the interim we will be starting the process of forming an Enhanced Partnership with our bus operators, and will also be kicking off the consultation process with some focus group sessions, specifically to find out views from individuals with protected characteristics (such as the young people and those with learning or physical disabilities).

**Seaside Road Closure**; from Monday 22 November 2021 to Friday 26 November 2021 (both dates inclusive)the road closure will start at 09.30 am and will be removed at 15.00pm so hopefully this will help the school run .

**Lynton Cross** all going well the road closure will change- Iron Letters to Lynton Cross will be 22nd November anticipated finish is 10th December.

**Reminder about reporting a highway problem:**

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

telephone: 0345 155 1004

**One network,** shows future roadworks in each place; [https://one.network/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fone.network%2F&data=04%7C01%7CAndrea.Davis%40devon.gov.uk%7C3841d5d74ca74832fb4908d97c2a6462%7C8da13783cb68443fbb4b997f77fd5bfb%7C0%7C0%7C637677343783616466%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PNOeFHUd2iHF4CkyftrZabpIpnXJSIKGlA19RyF1%2BbQ%3D&reserved=0)

**Drains locators and frequency of inspection (cleaning);** [https://apps1.wdm.co.uk/Live/Devon/PBLC/PIP/map.aspx?cg=kaarb](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapps1.wdm.co.uk%2FLive%2FDevon%2FPBLC%2FPIP%2Fmap.aspx%3Fcg%3Dkaarb&data=04%7C01%7CAndrea.Davis%40devon.gov.uk%7C3841d5d74ca74832fb4908d97c2a6462%7C8da13783cb68443fbb4b997f77fd5bfb%7C0%7C0%7C637677343783616466%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Kxv2XFhRtRJmB8c7nRNIgYQL9INthvpclHBfDUp2MBs%3D&reserved=0)

**Location of and faulty street lights,** [https://www.lightsonindevon.co.uk/Public/ReportFault.aspx](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.lightsonindevon.co.uk%2FPublic%2FReportFault.aspx&data=04%7C01%7CAndrea.Davis%40devon.gov.uk%7C3841d5d74ca74832fb4908d97c2a6462%7C8da13783cb68443fbb4b997f77fd5bfb%7C0%7C0%7C637677343783626429%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=sAa4FBL7wTpNbWEgFB6ntHM0SeJDc%2FVmr5oHcIivlDw%3D&reserved=0)

Report from North Devon District Councillor Yvette Gubb

18 new police officers would be in place prior to Christmas.

The number of calls to 999 had increased considerably, however the level of crime had decreased by 8%.

The force had the best detection rates for Domestic Abuse.

Operation Snap another initiative where the public could submit dash-cam evidence of dangerous driving through the website.

There would be an additional 2 speed detection officers and 2 vans in the North Devon area.

If communities are experiencing problems with speeding the police website includes details on how to set up a community speed watch.

The Government was piloting a “Street Aware” campaign where the public could report anonymously areas where they did not feel safe.

Antisocial behaviour needs to be addressed by the police working in partnership local authorities, health and parents.

**Area Police Report**

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

Number of crimes reported in October 2021

Combe Martin

Violence with injury 2

Violence without injury 3

Possession of Drugs 1

Sexual Offences 1

Criminal Damage 1

Burglary Non-Dwelling 1

Berrynarbor

Violence without injury 2

Criminal damage 2

Public Order Offences 2

East Down None

None

**253/21 North Devon Council – Planning Applications**

**1 73113 Proposal:** Conversion of Garage in Rosea Bridge Lane to Residential Use; The correspondence from Ms Rice and Mr & Mrs Gray regarding objections to the proposed development as well as Noel Hinsley’s response were considered by the Council, who also took note of previous opinions expressed by the highways authority. The Council considered the changes made, which in large part reflected the concerns previously intimated regarding light and privacy.

**RESOLVED:** To inform the Planning Authority that Combe Martin Parish Council supports the application as reworked.

**2 74158 Proposal**: Extension and alterations including additional bedroom over garage and additional en-suite at Balli Hi. Buzzacott Lane.

Applicant Mrs Dibden

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

**3: 74504 Proposal:** Siting of an illuminated Sign at Hanson Garage, Combe Martin, EX34 0JQ. Case Officer NDDC Mr S Emery.

**RESOLVED;** that Combe Martin Parish Council informs the planning office

that it supports the application

254/21 Exmoor National Park – Planning Applications

1. **62/19/21/005DC**  3,4,6,7 and 11 of approved application 62/29/20/007

Applicant Mrs Turner

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

255/21: North Devon Council Planning Decisions

256/211: Exmoor National Park Decisions

257/21: Finance:

Finance Reports

1. **RESOLVED:** To approvethe October 2021 finance reports on the monthly payments and receipts and November 2021 list of payments to be paid:

* The list of payments made between 01/10/2021 and 30/10/2021 totalling £11.506.67
* The cash received between 01/10/2021 and 30/10/2021 totalling £13.310.10
* The list of payments for November 2021 totalling £18,023.92

1. The October 2021 monthly summary balances and bank reconciliation and car park receipts were noted
2. Correspondence requesting a grant be made in 2022/3 to North Devon Record Office was discussed and the increased importance to the Parish of the safe storage of records in the local area was noted.

**RESOLVED:** To make a provision in the 2022-23 budget for the payment of £180 to the North Devon Record Office

1. To receive and approve the initial budget proposal for 2022-23, including agreeing the precept for 2022-23

The clerk made a verbal presentation of the main features of the budget for April 2022 to March 2023 the main features of which were:

1. A reduction in carpark revenue back to the pre-Covid levels being an prospective reduction of c £35,000
2. No increase in precept
3. No lockdowns or other travel restrictions
4. All staffing vacancies filled from April 1st
5. No provision for major repairs/refurbishment to car parks or lighting
6. A budget surplus of £374 is projected in the current budget

Other features and conditions were fully set out in the documentation supplied before the meeting,

It was felt that a meeting of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee and the Asset Management Committee should meet on November 22nd to discuss any changes that might be needed to meet their requirements.

There was considerable discussion regarding any proposals for introducing a precept variation, and it was decided to defer a final decision until the meeting on 13th December 2021

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1. **RESOLVED**: To defer the decision on the initial budget and precept for 2022-23 until the next meeting, Monday 13th December 2021

258/21: Next Meeting: To confirm proposed dates for future meetings

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

**259/21 Reports from Outside Bodies**

1. Leys Charity:

The Ley’s Charity Trust met on Monday 18th October at 7.30 pm for their AGM followed by an Ordinary Meeting.

AGM: Minutes, report and Accounts were Read and Approved.

Ordinary Meeting: The Charity Commission has agred changes to the Constitution and Schedule. Leys Charity is now able to make grants to Combe Martin Primary School as well as to individuals living in Combe Martin.

Applications for grants were considered and 18 grants totalling £7000 were awarded to help the applicants with their educational needs.

1. Museum Committee Meeting 25th October

It was reported that the meeting was held in the absence of Chair Tammy so the content was truncated. The following provisional decisions were taken:

The Museum would close from mid-December to mid-January

The aim was to extend opening hours in 2022

Are applying for additional funding

Leaking Roof problem now largely resolved

Next Meeting 15th November39/21 Correspondence

1. A Temporary restriction of through traffic order effective Monday 22nd November to Friday 26th November inclusive for erection of seaside lights was noted
2. An email from NDDC regarding Japanese Knotweed was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should discuss with other parties to agree a contractor and a programme of works
3. The email from Maria Bailey (Service Manager (Development Management Group)) was noted and it was agreed to extend an invitation to attend a future meeting either on Monday 14th February or on Monday 14th March

260/21 Parks and Open Spaces

Joint meeting with Asset Management would be held on 22nd November

261/21 Footpaths

None.

**262/21 Asset Management**

Joint meeting with Parks and Open Spaces would be held on 22nd November

1. **Office Relocation**

Cllr Worth submitted outline costings and possible future developments arising from a potential move of the council offices to the Community Centre

**Resolved:** that the council move the office of CMPC into the Community as soon as practicable Cllrs Seldon, Coomber, Daukes, Worth, Hatherley, and Galloway voted in favour of the resolution; Cllrs Woodbury, Richards and Walker voted against the resolution.

1. Lorna Irwin Walk

Cllr Worth has proposed clearing ground at Lorna Irwin Walk to create a storage compound for equipment currently stored behind the toilets at Kiln Park

**Motion:** The Council agreed to this proposal

1. Hollands Park Building

Cllr Worth would like delegated authority to progress an application for a building for the storage of plant and equipment at Hollands Park and to contact the Playing Fields Association for authorisation to proceed.

**Motion:** That Councillor Worth be given delegated authority to proceed as above

1. River Umber Flooding Update:

Cllr Woodbury provided a summary of all the actions concerning this issue over the last few years. No action appeared possible at this time save continuing to press the responsible authorities to define the seriousness of any issue and take urgent remedial action as required]

**263/21: Council Social Meeting**

Cllr Worth proposed that, in a committed effort to build trust and confidence between the Council and the village community, a social evening be organised and all invited to attend.

Concern was expressed at the need for Covid security and it was agreed that numbers may need to be limited

It was **Resolved** that a suitable day be identified (Saturday 4th December was suggested) and a marketing campaign be organised.

**264/21: Dog Bins**

1: It was noted that a replacement Bin had been obtained for the damaged metal bin at Blackmore Ham Gardens and will be replaced shortly

2: The Council considered possible sites to replace the bin that had previously been sited at Buzzacott Lane; Site”a” was the preferred option. The clerk was asked to identify the owner of the land a commence negotiation with the aim of his/her agreeing to it being sited there

265/21 Health and Safety

None

266/21 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 9.10pm.