Draft minutes of the Combe Martin Parish Council meeting held

on 14th February 2022 at 7pm at Combe Martin Community Centre.

Present: Cllrs. S Coomber (Vice Chair and Chairman for this meeting), S Daukes, D Hatherley, M Richards, P Walker, R Watkins, D Woodbury, and M Worth.

Also in attendance: County Cllr. A Davis and District Cllr. Y Gubb, Andrew Wyer (Clerk) and 14 members of the public.

Prior to the meeting there was a short introduction to the work of Eagle Vs Bat and a filming project they have planned for Combe Martin. The presentation was well received and they will bring back more information when plans are further advanced.

20/22. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Boyce, Seldon and Galloway.

21/22. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr. Daukes declared a pecuniary interest in Planning Application 74731 and Agenda

Item 21 (Parade Lease. Minute 40/22)

Cllr. Walker declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 18 (CMCLT. Minute 28/22)

There were no requests for dispensations.

22/22. Public Participation Period.

Queries were raised about the Community Centre wall, the Councils approach to the Climate Emergency, the housing situation in Combe Martin, and repeating the “Meet your Councillors” event. There were also an update from the Football Club on the MUGA.

23/22. Minutes.

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th January 2022.

24/22. Clerks Report.

It was RESOLVED to receive and note the Clerks report.

25/22. County and District Councillor Reports.

County Cllr. Davies had submitted a report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting but she highlighted the potential opportunity to apply for a 20mph speed limit in the village.

District Cllr. Gubb reported that there were 73 x 2nd homes and 67 x self-catering units within the area and that in the past the District Council had resorted to buying properties to ensure the Council had access to emergency housing. Any tenant who was concerned about their housing situation should contact the District Council.

26/22. Police Report.

It was RESOLVED to receive the monthly Ilfracombe Neighbourhood Police Newsletter and to NOTE the crime figures:

Combe Martin: Stalking & Harassment x1, Other theft offences x1, Possession of Drugs x1, Non-Notifiable offences x2

Berrynarbor: Burglary (non-dwelling) x2, Vehicle Offences x1

East Down: None

27/22. Change of Agenda order

It was RESOLVED to change the order of the Agenda and to consider Agenda Item 18 next.

28/22. Seacot.

It was RESOLVED that CMPC agrees to meet with members of the Combe Martin Community Land Trust (CMCLT) steering group to seek an arrangement with regard to the CMCLT taking over Seacot (former CMPC office and rental flat) before considering or agreeing to other options for Seacot.

29/22. North Devon Council, the determining authority had asked for comments from the Parish Council on the following applications:

[74698](https://planning.northdevon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/74698) – As the applicant, the Council declined to comment on the application for planning permission for the erection of a Parish Council Workmen’s Store at Hollands Park, Chapel Lane, Combe Martin. Grid Ref: 258530; 146707

Applicant: Combe Martin Parish Council

[74731](https://planning.northdevon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/74731) – It was RESOLVED to support the application for planning permission for the extension and conversion of the property to form a four bedroom town house at West Moory, Moory Meadow, Combe Martin, EX34 0DG. Grid Ref: 257832; 147221

Applicant: Mr. Daukes

30/22. There were no planning applications relating to Exmoor National Park for the Council to comment on.

31/22. Planning Decisions.

It was RESOLVED to note the following decisions, made by North Devon Council:

[74293](https://planning.northdevon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/74293) – Greenslopes, Buzzacott Lane, Combe Martin, EX34 0LB, which was refused.

[74429](https://planning.northdevon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/74429) – Richmond, King Street, Combe Martin, EX34 0AG, which was approved.

[74435](https://planning.northdevon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/74435) – Flat 1 The Firs, Woodlands, Combe Martin, EX34 0AS, which was approved.

32/22. Planning Decisions.

It was RESOLVED to note the following decision, made by Exmoor National Park:

[62/19/21/006](https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/exmoor/application-details/22862) – Verwill Lands, Combe Martin, EX34 0PE, which was approved.

33/22. It was RESOLVED to note the January list of payments and finance reports which had been unavailable at the last meeting.

34/22. It was RESOLVED to approve the “Cash Received” and “Payments Made” reports for January and the February list of payments to be made.

35/22. It was RESOLVED to note the monthly “Car Park receipts” report. The Clerk reported that the “Summary Balances & Bank Reconciliations” report was showing an error which was the result of the Clerk still getting to grips with the Councils accounting software. The former Finance Officer had identified the error and how to correct it, but not in time for the report to be brought to this meeting.

36/22. It was RESOLVED to make a donation to Citizens Advice of £200.

37/22. It was RESOLVED to approve subscriptions to Microsoft 365 and Parish OnLine.

38/22. Committee Membership.

As some Cllrs were not present and able to express their interest or to vote, it was RESOLVED to hold an additional CMPC meeting on Monday 28th February. An Assets and Land Management Committee would then be held immediately after the Council meeting.

39/22. It was RESOLVED to defer any future plans for the Parade toilets until an asbestos survey had been undertaken, as this would affect possible uses.

40/22. Cllr. Coomber reported that everything except funding was in place for the Pump Track. There were offers of assistance with grant applications.

41/22. It was RESOLVED to defer this item to the additional meeting on Monday 28th February. The Clerk was asked to circulate the draft lease that was being considered prior to Covid.

42/22. Cllr. Worth reported that the broken guttering at Ebberleigh House would benefit from an additional downpipe. The work would probably be best done from a cherry picker. It was RESOLVED to reimburse Combe Martin Museum for the cost of two fire alarm batteries their fire alarm inspection had identified as needing replacement in the residential areas of the building.

43/22. It was RESOLVED to use the suggested wording for an agreement allowing access from the rear of a property onto Blackmore Ham Gardens. It was confirmed that any gateway must open inwards, rather than outward into the Council land.

44/22. It was reported that the Combe Martin Coastal Community Team would be meeting on Wednesday 16th February, so the access to the beach via the scar footpath, which is one of the projects they are working on, would be discussed then. The Council had received correspondence regarding adding a rail to the steps onto the beach from the Focsle Inn. Concerns were raised about ownership of the steps, liability and the Conservation Area, all of which would need to be resolved prior to any works being undertaken.

45/22. Cllr. Worth reported that the land owner had given permission for the bridge to be replaced. It was RESOLVED to attach notices to the bridge to allow local residents to comment prior to any works progressing.

46/22. The Clerk reported that the Community Centre heating system was doing a good job heating the office, with the added benefit that the rest of the building was being aired and less prone to damp. He doubted that the efficiency benefits of installing an additional heating system for the office would justify the costs involved.

47/22. It was RESOLVED to accept the 5 year option from our current Insurance provider.

48/22. Shammickite.

It was RESOLVED to underwrite the costs of the Shammickite if it was necessary and the managing Committee formally approached the Council with the request.

49/22. Tree Planting.

CMPC would reply to the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers suggesting they may wish to replace some of the trees lost in Adderstable woods recently. Alternatively the National Trust may have land in the area they would allow to be planted.

50/22. Kiln Car Park.

Cllr. Worth confirmed that the pots in the Kiln car park had just been replaced and replanted. The Clerk confirmed that the hedge had been cut back recently although if it was possible before nesting season started, it should be possible to cut it back further.

Cllr. Worth reported that it may be necessary to move the entrance to the dog exercise area, which would remove the narrow section by the cliff edge.

51/22. Memorial Benches

Councillors confirmed that the current position is that there are limited opportunities for more benches and that rather than adding new benches, families wishing to donate a memorial bench should be encouraged to adopt/upgrade a current bench or to consider an alternative to a bench, such as a flower tub / planter.

52/22. Correspondence

It was RESOLVED to note the correspondence which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, except for an email received on the day of the meeting, thanking the Council for erecting the new decorative lights on Seaside Hill.

53/22. Dates for future meetings.

It was confirmed that the dates for the next two Council meetings would be 28th February and 14th March. The Assets and Land Management Committee will also meet on the 28th February, after the Council meeting. The Chairmen of the Personnel Committee and the Finance & Policy Committee will liaise with their members to agree suitable dates.