

Draft minutes of the Combe Martin Parish Council meeting,
held on 11th March 2024 at 7pm at Combe Martin Community Centre.

Present: Cllrs. Seldon (Chairman), Cass, Corner, Everett, Masters, Optix, Richards, Smallridge, Watkins, and Worth.

Also in attendance: Andrew Wyer (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

226/23 Apologies – Apologies were received and **accepted** from Cllrs. Galloway, and Lethaby. During the meeting Apologies were received from C.Cllr Davis.

227/23 Declarations of Interest – None were declared.

228/23 Public Participation – The Council were asked if they could long term loan some benches to the Primary School. (The Council were happy to do so.)

There was a complaint about the work being done in Hollands Park, including the cutting down of some trees. (It was explained that the work was not finished, so replacement trees had not been planted yet. It was also suggested that less pitch side trees improved the conditions for the Air Ambulance, should it have to land on the pitch.)

229/23 Minutes – The Clerk acknowledged that Cllr Smallridge had sent their apologies for the last meeting and that he had missed them. The draft minutes for the Council meeting held on 12th February 2024 were amended before being **approved** and signed by Cllr Seldon as an accurate record.

230/23 County & District Cllr reports – County Cllr. Davis had sent her report ahead of the meeting and it was **noted**.

231/23 Council Representative Reports – Cllr Optix in her role as liaison with the Bowls Club has become their Safeguarding Officer.

232/23 Clerk's Report –The original report had been shared but the Clerk did want to emphasise that with standing order permits coming up for renewal, it was important that anyone who still had an out-of-date permit needed to contact the office. The report was then **noted**.

233/23 Planning (NDC Applications) – **None**

234/23 Planning (Exmoor NP Applications) – **None**

235/23 Planning (NDC Decisions) – **None**

236/23 Planning (Exmoor NP Decisions) – **None**

237/23 Planning Correspondence: **None**

238/23 Finance – It was **resolved** to approve the lists of payments to be made, totalling £25,204.92. The Clerk did remind Cllrs that if they saw a payment for something they didn't recognise, then he would explain what it was.

239/23 Finance - It was **resolved** to note the lists of payments made, receipts received and the February Dashboard report.

240/23 Council Vehicle – It was resolved to spend £4-4.5k purchasing a van for the Assets Manager. Ideally this would be white, and petrol driven. Councillors agreed to keep a look out for a suitable vehicle.

Cllrs Seldon and Worth declared an interest in the next item and left the room. Cllr Richards was elected Chairman in Cllr Seldon's absence.

241/23 De-Fib Grant – The Council **resolved** to make their usual contribution of £1000 to the de-fib fund of the Village Hall Group.

Cllrs Seldon and Worth returned to the room and Cllr Seldon resumed chairmanship for the rest of the meeting.

242/23 Chapel Lane Hedge – The Clerk reported that the trees had been ordered to make the hedge. Cllrs Richards and Worth wanted it to be recorded that they opposed the hedge, as it only "benefited" a handful of residents but was paid for by all of the parish.

243/23 Land Acquisition – The Clerk reported that everything was going well.

244/23 Kiln Car Park Toilets – The Clerk reported that NDC were still holding out to keep the storage space at the back of the toilet block. Councillors confirmed that space could be found adjacent to the toilet block for the NDC bins currently in the storage space and that the Clerk should step up efforts to resolve the issue. It was agreed to ask Cllr Lethaby to try to get things moving at NDC.

245/23 Tree Survey – The Clerk reported that the survey had identified that trees in Adderstable Woods would need to be felled. This would require permission from NDC because of the TPO and from DCC for closing the footpath. DCC Rights of Way team had already come back and were being very helpful regarding the closure. The trees to be felled will be identified and marked in the summer so we have a specific number and a replanting scheme ready for NDC.

246/23 Post Office Closure – The changes and new services within the Co-Op store were **noted**.

247/23 P.O. Consultation – The Council **resolved** to respond to the consultation, stressing the importance of the Post Office to the local community, especially as there are no banks left in the village.

248/23 Newberry Shelter – The Council **resolved** to accept the offer to rebuild the shelter.

249/23 Sea Front Lights – It was **resolved** to use Seaside hill as the initial test area for new, more suitable lights.

250/23 Devon & Torbay Devolution – The Clerk explained that in most ways Devon County Council would continue in its role. The devolved Devon & Torbay Council would actually sit above Devon County Council, but at a level where it could negotiate directly with the Government. The idea being that it could get hold of the money Government had for e.g. deprived areas and use it on the areas within Devon & Torbay that need it. Public Transport would move from the two Councils up to the devolved Council as that should see greater transport links.

251/23 Play Area – It was **resolved** that the Council should apply for permission to extend the play area, as that is essential to allowing new play equipment to be installed.

252/23 Advertising Banners – The Council **resolved** to ignore the banners, if they were for local businesses and complied with planning permission, or any other permissions required.

253/23 Wildflower Seeding – It was resolved to talk to the Grounds Manager, who may have relevant experience. The Scar (path from the top of Kiln Car Park to the beach), may be a suitable area.

254/23 Map for visitors – Cllr Cass will check the map on the side of the old Council Office, to see if this does what is required, or needs some form of updating.

255/23 Correspondence – The correspondence was **noted**.

256/23 Part 2 – The Council **resolved** to exclude the press and public due to the confidential nature of the next item.

257/23 Museum – The Council requested more information.

Next Meetings –

Full Council will meet on 8th April at 7pm.