

Draft minutes of the Combe Martin Parish Council Meeting,
held on 14th October 2024 at 7pm at Combe Martin Community Centre.

Present: Cllrs. Seldon (Chairman), Corner, Everett, Galloway, Lethaby, Optix, Richards, Smallridge, Richards, and Worth,

Also in attendance: Andrew Wyer (Clerk) and 15 members of the public

087/24 Apologies – Apologies were received and **accepted** from Cllrs Masters and Watkins
088/24 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Lethaby declared that as a District Councillor, the views he gives (and how he votes) at this meeting will not necessarily be the same as he does at a District Council meeting.

089/24 Public Participation questions and answers:

1. Who approved the removal of trees outside of one of the properties down Wood Lane as there is now no privacy for this resident? Cllr Worth cleared the brambles and buddleia.
2. Can we publish the tree report? Yes
3. There is a feeling that locals haven't been considered enough, some are feeling anxious. The Parish Council have hand delivered plans and answered questions at Parish Council meetings. If anyone wanted a tour around the grounds with the Clerk then they are welcome to call the office to arrange a date and time.

090/24 Minutes – The Minutes for Monday 9th September 2024 were **approved** and signed. The minutes of the Community Centre on 16th September 2024 were noted along with the Personnel Committee meeting on 16th September 2024.

091/24 - District Cllr report received. **None**

092/24 – County Cllr report received.

October 2024

Highway Repairs

A3123 will be closed between BerryDown and Lynton Cross

Monday 14th October (today) to Friday 25th October

This is for the drainage works and road surface reinstatement in the Sapleton Farm area, if you want to access Ilfracombe it would be via Combe Martin for the duration of these works, Mullacott will be reopened by then.

More repairs will be coming in the area, including the A399 and A39

You will recall I said at the last Combe Martin Parish council meeting about the repairs I had been pressing for in the A399, they will be taking place **over night on the 28th October**. There has been a delay in the works happening which was due to staff issues. I am aware of the situation and I am very sorry the works have been delayed. All is resolved and the team is back to operational strength.

Since April, more than 18,000 square metres of road have been patched in over 350 locations across the county. These repairs have targeted sections of road which are deteriorating, patching extensive areas before potholes or safety defects form.

Dragon patchers have been used on double-shifts to complete more than 5,250 patches, covering over 33,000 square metres.

A new carbon saving road repair material, called Elastomac which is what will be used on the A399, has been used to repair around 7,000 square metres of Devon's roads following successful trials on small to medium size patches.

Elastomac is a surfacing material which is partly made of recycled road planings and recycled tyres. It reduces waste and carbon emissions while also being quicker to cure than traditional material used in pothole repairs, reducing traffic disruption. *This is the system booked to be used on the A 399.*

Around £2 million of the funding is being invested in drainage improvements, while over 10km of double white lines have also been refreshed along with road markings at 175 roundabouts and 197 zebra crossings.

This year's wet spring accounted for levels of potholes recorded between April and July being 54% higher than the same time last year.

To tackle potholes, we also invested an extra £2 million in highway revenue funding this year, on top of the £10 million capital funding. This has helped contribute to the repair of more than 47,500 potholes across the county so far this year.

The £12 million injection from Devon County Council is in addition to the £59.486 million of funding Devon has received from the Department for Transport (DfT) for its highway maintenance programme this year.

The annual major resurfacing programme for the A-road network in the county is also currently underway.

I of course apologise for any inconvenience caused by the repairs and upgrades.

Bus Shelter

Hopefully the money will be in CMPC's account very shortly! All paperwork done. Good working with you on this public transport project. The new Stagecoach service is going well. Thank you for supporting it, hoping the new government keeps the £2 bus fare going which is such a help to many residents.

Have your say on future plans for transport in the county.

[A public consultation has been launched](#) on Tuesday 1 October on the [Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 4 \(LTP4\)](#) which sets out the transport priorities across the county between 2025 and 2040.

The full draft document of the plan is available to view on the [Have Your Say webpage](#). The deadline for feedback to the online questionnaire is 11:59pm on Saturday 30 November.

The plan's vision is for well-integrated and accessible transport to facilitate sustainable growth, support net zero carbon targets by 2050 at the latest, improve travel choice and benefit people's health and wellbeing.

A number of priorities are proposed across all areas of Devon and Torbay, including enhancement of bus services and supporting transition to lower emission and zero emission buses, providing bus priority on key routes, improving the integration of rail and bus services, establishing a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charging facilities, and expanding pedestrian and cycle networks. All of the proposals are subject to securing funding from a range of sources including Local Transport Plan, Government grants and developer contributions.

As different areas of the county face different transport challenges, individual strategies have been developed to meet those needs.

As part of the consultation, a public webinar will be held on 18 November from 6-7pm, where there will be an opportunity to put questions to the project team. Details of how to register to attend the online webinar events will be available on the [Have Your Say webpage](#). Those wishing to attend via phone will also be able to dial into the meeting.

Household support funding available until the end of March 2025

To help households that are struggling with the costs of energy, food, water and other essentials.

Devon County Council will receive a share of the Household Support Fund, as we have each year since 2021. This allocation, like previous ones, is a little over £5 million.

The council are now agreeing how we will distribute the funding, working closely with Devon's eight District, City and Borough councils and voluntary and community partners.

Citizens Advice Devon will be one of the recipients to receive Household Support Funding, so that they can continue to support people who are struggling to meet their energy needs.

Support comes in the shape of fuel voucher payments, and longer-term relief of fuel poverty through initiatives that help homes become more energy-efficient, and that help people stay warm at home – heated throw, body warmer or rechargeable hot water bottle, for example.

This latest round of Household Support Fund allows DCC to continue to provide Free School Meal holiday vouchers to families whose children are eligible for benefit-related free school meals during term time.

The holiday vouchers will help pay for food shopping for around 22,000 pupils during the October Half Term, Christmas, and February Half Term holidays. Since 2021, vouchers to the value of around £11.8m have been provided to eligible households.

Pensioners and households receiving welfare benefits will also have access to the Household Support Fund. DCC and Devon's eight District Councils are discussing how to best make the funding available to those households in greatest need this winter. Final details will be published on each District Council's Household Support Fund webpage as soon as arrangements are finalised.

093/24 – Clerks Report – To receive, note and report on actions taken since the last meeting and updates on ongoing projects.:

- The Parish Council Workmen have been working with some Councillors and the new landowner at Woolams Land/Riverside Walk, as part of the agreement in the lease when handing back the land.
- The Parish Council Workmen have been working with some Councillors at Arnolds Plot in preparation for the installation of the new play equipment to be installed in November.

094/24 -Planning. North Devon Council, the determining authority has asked for comments from the Parish Council on applications affecting Combe Martin. The following applications were considered:

79082 – Erection of a double garage at 1 Rose Mount, Shute Lane, Combe Martin. The Parish Council **supports** this application.

The following planning applications have also been considered after the agenda was published:

79193 – Change of use of land and extension to existing children's play area at Blackmore Ham Play Area, High Street, Combe Martin – Cannot comment due to it being a Parish Council Planning application.

78772 – Demolition of workshop and construction of single storey rental accommodation unit at Balli Hi, Buzzacott Lane, Combe Martin. This Parish Council **supports** this application.

79308 – Erection of bus stop shelter and associated kerbs/pavements at High Street Car Park (adjacent the Pack of Cards) Combe Martin. This Parish Council cannot comment due to it being a Parish Council planning application

There were no Exmoor National Park planning applications.

095/24 Planning (Exmoor NP Decisions) – None

096/24 Planning (North Devon Council Decisions) - None

No planning correspondence received.

097/24 Finance – It was **resolved** to approve the list of payments for October £2776.51 plus two late invoices £10840.45 and £120.00. The total list of payments for October totals £13736.96.

098/24 Finance – It was **resolved** to note the lists of payments made and receipts received and the Dashboard report.

099/24 - The Wood Lane Field Draft Plan was considered, and the following was agreed:

- Agreed to having a “Men in Sheds” project and the unit was to be 75’ x 30’
- Agreed to apply for planning permission for the unit.
- Agreed to move the unit closer to the centre of the field to save the tree that was there in original plan.
- Agreed to have 5 allotments on the field and an orchard of 50 trees to be planted between the unit and the river facing the back of the adjacent properties.
- Agreed to plant hedging along Wood Lane
- Agreed to also plant Christmas trees in the field.

100/24 Inpost Locker - Agreed to install an Inpost Locker at the High Street Car Park against the wall along the boundary wall at Fidget’s Rest. It was noted that the Inpost company will pay the Parish Council for the electricity used.

101/24 Play area at Arnolds plot – To note that the play equipment had been ordered and will be installed in November.

102/24 The Firework Display at Marine Drive on 5th November 2024 at 6.30pm was noted.

103/24 Streetlight LED Project – The report was **happily** noted.

104/24 Wood Lane field inspection – the three trees identified for felling due to safety concerns were noted and that the work had already been completed. It was agreed to publish the Tree Inspection report on the Parish Council website.

105/24 The correspondence was noted

106/24 The list of meetings was noted

107/24 Exclusion of Press and Public – Due to the confidential nature of the following items, the press and public were excluded.

108/24 The Confidential Report from the Personnel Committee held on 16 September 2024, was noted.

109/24 New Lease, Arches Wedding Venue – The Council noted the comments of the Solicitor and delegated Cllrs Seldon and Galloway to sign the lease when required.