

# Combe Florey Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at Combe Florey Village Hall  
On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 6.30pm

**Present:** Mr Simon Frost (Chairman/Councillor)  
Mrs Lorraine Boulton (Councillor)  
Ms Hilary Vaughan-Thomas (Councillor)  
Mr Nick Darlow (Councillor)  
Mr Peter Tayler (Councillor)

**Observers:** None

**Apologies for Absence:** PC Louise Fynne  
Councillor Peter Watson

## 1. Minutes of Meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 and any matters arising

The minutes of both meetings had been circulated and agreed. These have both been accepted and signed by the Chairman Cllr Frost as a true record.

## 2. Matters Arising not included in the Agenda

None

## 3. Future of the Parish Council

Cllr Frost addressed the difficult issue of his previously announced planned retirement as Chairman of the PC and the subsequent absence of any willing successors amongst current councillors.

It was agreed that new councillors more able to accept the responsibility must be sought with immediate effect along with a professional part-time parish clerk for whom the PC agreed advertising which has now been placed on the SALC website.

To keep the PC functioning Cllr Frost very reluctantly agreed to remain in the chair for the time being but only on a temporary basis and also provided that a parish clerk could be found as soon as possible.

It was agreed that the c. £1,000 probable funding for the clerk could be found within the budget but that this would of necessity limit future ability of the PC to fund extra items around the parish as had recently been achieved.

This situation together with the fact that one or two other councillors have also expressed their wish to step down in due course makes the search for a clerk, several new councillors and a new chair the ongoing priority.

Action - All

## 4. Planning Matters Update

A new planning application for an extension and garage at Shepherds Cottage, Yarde Farm was discussed together with verbal representations already received from parishioners.

The application was known to be a cause for concern amongst some Yarde Farm residents.

After discussion, the decision was made for the PC to raise objections to this application at this stage due to residents' concerns about the scale of the application and also due to apparent breaches of previous planning constraints on the scale of extensions applied in recent years at Yarde Farm.

There are no other planning issues at this time.

Action - HV-T

## 5. Financial matters & payments update.

The internal audit was agreed by councillors on 31<sup>st</sup> May and the duly signed and completed accounts and audit paperwork was submitted on time. Any queries from Grant Thornton will be monitored by Cllr Tayler as necessary.

Payments agreed,  
SALC subscription, £61.40  
Village hall 4 x meetings incl. 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016, £40.00

Action - PT

#### **6. A358 Farmer's Arms road junction**

The parish council had formally registered the road safety issue with Somerset County Council Highways in December immediately after the last accident.

The case number with the Traffic Management Group at SCC is still 378329 and the case is being addressed by Garry Warren and now Jo Sharp. Little progress had been made when chased recently by Cllr Frost, but at Cllr Frost's request the idea to evaluate the feasibility of the idea for automated 'vehicles emerging' signs on the A358 at the junction has now been added to the computer case file.

SCC have promised a response.

The PC will continue to chase Somerset CC Traffic Management Group on this matter.

Action - SF to progress

#### **6. Village Tidiness, Garden, Footpaths update.**

**Tidiness and strimming etc.** - Strimmer health and safety training has now been undertaken by two village volunteers which now introduces some volunteer tidying work in addition to the annually contracted out tasks. This has also enabled the no cost loan of a second strimmer from Somerset CC to the PC which allows quicker work by the 2 volunteers.

This work will be co-ordinated with the village tidiness contractor M. Perry.

**Village Garden** - It was agreed that the village garden basic care will now be contracted out as a small separate contract alongside the village tidiness work following the retirement of the Smiths after their 10 year contribution in caring for the garden as volunteers.

#### **7. Future Meeting Dates - village hall, all at 7.00pm.**

- 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016
- 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016
- 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Date of next full meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

Councillors' informal project meetings will continue as necessary in the interim.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm and was followed at 7.30pm by the Annual Village Meeting.

Signed as a true record:

Chairman

Date