

Combe Florey Parish Council

Date of Meeting: Monday 17th May 2021 7:00 pm At Combe Florey Village Hall	Written by: Gemma Coombes (Parish Clerk)
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Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Councillor's Present

Cllr Robin Cleverly (Chair)
 Cllr Adriana Truby (Vice-chair)
 Cllr Simon Hawes (RFO)
 Cllr Nick Weeks
 Cllr Peter Tayler

In attendance

Parishioners x 3
 Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew

2019/1) Welcome by Chairman - Robin Cleverly

This is the first of the two annual meetings that we are required to hold by law: the annual parish meeting and the annual parish council meeting. Due to the covid pandemic last year's meeting was cancelled so this is the first annual parish meeting since May 2019. During the last year, the Parish Council has been meeting using Zoom video conferencing but since May 7th this is no longer allowed by law. As the numbers attending are restricted by the village hall we have deliberately kept this meeting low-key and, for example, not invited an external speaker. This first meeting, the Annual Parish Meeting, must be held in April or May. Although the event is NOT a formal Parish Council meeting it is facilitated by the Parish Council for the benefit of the community. All parish electors are entitled to attend, speak, and vote. Parish Councillors are here in their own right and are members of the public for the purposes of the meeting. The Chair of the Parish Council is ex-officio the chair of this meeting and the minutes will be taken by the Parish Council Clerk, Gemma Coombes. There is no prescribed agenda for a parish meeting, other than the formal approval of the minutes of last year's meeting. The agenda for tonight, as you will have seen, will include reports from the Chair, the Treasurer, and local groups of general interest. This will be followed by a public forum when you can air issues and ask the Parish Council to review any matters which are of concern. It helps set the Parish Council's priorities for the next year. The second of these mandatory meetings is the Annual Parish Council Meeting which will be held next week on Monday 24th May. The agenda for this is more prescribed and consists of the election of the chairman for the following year and includes the annual compliance and governance statements. Any items raised today will be put on the agenda and discussed formally.

2019/2) Apologies None

2019/3) Adoption of Minutes The minutes from the 08nd May 2019 were taken and read. It is proposed to adopt the minutes by Cllr Simon Hawes and seconded by Cllr Nick Weeks, All in favour with adopting the minutes. Signed by Chairman.

2019/4) Chairman's Report This report covers the last two years. The past two years have been mainly business as usual. We have received 15 planning applications over the two years, which were all supported by the Parish Council. Of these, they have all received conditional approval except for a pending application for minor tree felling at Greedy's Forge, and one that was refused: this was by Simon Gridley for a 3 year temporary residence at his woodyard to manage a charcoal business. The application was rejected, as at the time of application, there was no viable business on site. The most significant planning application was that at Bramleys where two detached houses have just been completed in place of the original bungalow. The village (or Norman) garden is one area of the parish that has been neglected and the Parish Council would like to make this a more useful space for the community. We are currently canvassing ideas and will hold an extraordinary meeting later in the year to decide what to do. The Council has also supported the renovation of the pump opposite the church: work on this is progressing and we expect it to be completed this summer. I should note here that Meyrick Cox of

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Signed: [Chairman]

Combe Florey House, on whose land the feeder spring is located, was an enthusiastic supporter but sadly died last November. I would like to thank Nick Weeks for organising this, and Mike Cobb for his efforts.

Some subjects seem to be perennially on the agenda:

- Improvements have been recently made to signage by the exit by the Farmers' Arms and resurfacing is due to take place next month; it remains to be seen how successful these will be;
- Rerouting the footpath where it crosses the B3224 on the way to Ash Priors has made slow progress; Mike Rigby has been in discussions with the landowner Mervyn Nash.
- We continue to nag the council regarding the state of the road surface especially on Tower Lane – the worst potholes have been repaired though the overall condition remains poor.

The work on keeping the village tidy has been gone well and I would like to make a special note of thanks to Mark Perry who is paid to keep the verges and junctions clear, and John Passingham for his work on footpaths.

And finally of course thanks to members of the parish council and the clerk for their work during the year.

2019/5) Financial Report

The RFO (Responsible Financial Officer) handed out some accounts paperwork so all parishioners in attendance could see the Councils budget for the year and where things have been spent. This information shared are draft account and the external audit is now underway. Sue Greenaway is conducting our external audit and she does this free and we thank her for her services.

This year we have again kept the precept at £4000 with no increase. The Footpaths and burial grant that are awarded to the Parish Council by the District Council are passed on to the retrospective parties. The Parish Council have spent more this year than we had coming in as we did some work to the Bridge, Village Garden and the pump this is good as it lowers our reserves and is doing good work for the Parish.

2019/6) Somerset County Councillor (Cllr Mike Rigby) report

None submitted

2019/7) District Councillors report (Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew)

This year the District Council has been dominated by Covid-19 and all staff have been working from home, Deane house is now open by appointment and future district council meetings will be in person.

Unitary authority has two options and there will be a referendum with regard to this. We are expecting a decision on June July 2021 this year which way this will go and in April 2023 will be when the new council will be in force.

No planning could be approved this year if it would increase the phosphates on the Somerset Levels.

Recycle more will come into place September or Oct this year. 50% of what is in the black bins are found to be recyclable, it was rolled out in Mendip first. You will be able to recycle more things that are currently not taken. None of Somerset's plastic goes to Turkey, 98% stays in this country and 2% goes abroad.

The Quantock hills land partnership scheme slowed down due to Covid-19, this will be restarting again soon. Ash die back is becoming a real issue in this area.

Cllr Adriana Truby asked: Do we know what is happening with Crowcombe park gate car park?

Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew stated: This is going to be moved to a flatter area that is more suited, the existing car park will be turned back to heather.

2019/8) Police report (Louise Fyne, PCSO)

None submitted

2019/9) Report from local groups
1. Parochial Church Council

A new rector was appointed just over a year ago; there were long periods where no services could take place due to Covid-19 outbreak.

The wall at back of the Church yard has been repaired now and has some steps so people can now visit the graves.

People in the parish really appreciate the work done by Jon Passingham for all the work undertaken in keeping things neat and tidy.

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Signed: [Chairman]

There is a lot of meeting to understand which grants can be applied for to repair the roof and other things.

2. Village hall

This has been a quiet year for the village hall in respect to letting the hall out but they have been busy with other things.

They have now sorted out legal aspects of the adoption of the car park. New chairs have been invested in, windows have been painted and the hall has had a deep clean.

They have applied some grants from government in order to help them through this difficult time. There is some history on village hall now on their website; this website has had a bit of an overhaul in during the lockdown.

There are some things to be done outside and their first meeting will be next week to decide what is going to happen going forward.

3. Update on Parish Broadband

There has been a proposal put forward to get better Broadband to the parish, a group of houses signed up to open reach under the old scheme. This has now had a revised list of 51 houses and this has been submitted to open reach to get a formal quote. There have been an approach by airband and they have been given a grant by government to help improve broadband in the area including some, not all of Combe Florey. There have been a call with airband but the lady on phone did not seem overly knowledgeable. There needs to be some greater understanding of what this would involve and how to get more knowledge.

David Hall is thought to be the county councillor involved by Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew has not been involved in this. Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew is going to see if he can find out some details of who can help at a district level.

2019/10) Public Forum, discussion and general questions:

Establish parishioners' priorities for forthcoming year.

The one thing that is of most interest is the village garden, we need to decide how to move forward. There have been some emails from parishioners that are not happy about the garden and not happy to things were cut back. We need to provide some ongoing maintenance till we can make some more formal decisions once restriction have lifted and we can hold a non-restricted meeting. Cllr Adriana Truby said she spoke with a parishioner and he would be interested in providing some rustic seating etc.

We are looking at getting some quotes and ideas together. Not all the parishioners live near the village garden so we know this could be an issue for some that do not live as close to enjoy it. A Parishioner asked: What price are you looking at? It is the idea to get some nice seats and nice smelling lavenders etc to make it an appealing area. The affordability is a 5k max but this is an absolute max budget. It would be nice to make it all useable not just the first half, the comments have been made about some fencing to make it secure for children or dogs so they can't wonder into the road. We need to ensure people are consulted. This figure is just a figure and until we get some ideas and quotes, we do not know the absolute cost. We will look to make three proposals a minimal one, an intermediate one and a full scale all singing and dancing one.

As you come in off the main road to Combe Florey the fence and wall is looking worse for wear after some cars have driven into it. This is privately owned so this is not something the Parish Council can directly fix. The village lengthsman keeps the weeds down etc.

Maybe Mark should clear up the area by the bridge by farmer's arms, this needs strimming and tiding up. The village hall will be looking to make improvements to the front of the village hall car park area.

Meeting closed at 19:54

2019/11) Next Parish Council Meeting:

Date: Monday 24th May 2021 at 7pm

Location: Combe Florey Village Hall

Next Annual Parish Meeting:

Date to be set next year.

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Signed: [Chairman]