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| **Combe Florey Parish Council** | | |
| **Date of Meeting:**  Wednesday 21st March 2018 7:00 pm  at Combe Florey Village Hall | | **Written by:**  Gemma Coombes (Parish Clerk) |

# DRAFT Minutes

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| **Councillors Present**  Cllr Jane Warmington (Chair),  Cllr Peter Watson,  Cllr Peter Tayler,  Cllr Robin Cleverly  Cllr Adriana Truby (co-opted)  Cllr Simon Hawes (co-opted)  Cllr Geoffrey Eggleston (co-opted) | **In attendance**  Gemma Coombes – Interim Parish Clerk  Parishioners x 7 |

1. **Welcome by Chairman and public participation**

At the start of the meeting there was an opportunity for the public to raise any issues they want to air. Some concerns were raised over the donation of £2000 towards the village hall. It was decided to discuss this when we get to that on the agenda once the new councillors have been co-opted on.

There were questions raised over why the precept was raised last year and this was explained that it was due to having a paid parish clerk.

There is a grant that goes to the burial ground. Do we get a report from the church as to what they spend it on? As this is from Taunton Deane it needs to be addressed with the church and Taunton Deane.

Action: The parish council will put the question to the church as to what the burial ground money is used for.

1. **Apologies**

None

1. **Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes from the 3rd January 2018 were taken and read. The invalid decision taken under Item 16.e. is to be revisited at this meeting in agenda item 6 below.

The minutes were agreed. Signed by Chairman.

1. **Co-option of new parish councillors**

Co-option of three new councillors to fill casual vacancies advertised

Adriana Truby is co-opted on and no objections raised

Peter Watson resigns from the council.

Simon Hawes is co-opted on and no objections raised

Jane Warmington resigns from the council.

Geoffrey Eggleston is co-opted on and no objections raised

All new councillors signed their register of members’ interest forms and declaration of acceptance to office.

As each new member was elected to office a district councillor stepped down to re-establish full local representation

1. **Election of a new Chair person.**

The parish clerk runs the meeting to call for election of new chair person.

Geoffrey Eggleston proposes Robin Cleverly. Adriana Truby seconds, vote and all in favour.

New chairman offers thanks to Jane and Peter for all their help over the last year. He requested help and support to continue while the new council is established.

1. **Declarations of interest.**

None declared.

1. **Matters Arising**
   1. **Coggans Lane - No Through Road sign and debris on the road**

Highways have visited in January and SCC will arrange to erect a no-through-road sign and this will take up to 8 weeks from time of issue in April (new financial year)

Mud on the road is in Lydeard St Lawrence and their clerk has been informed.

* 1. **Nethercott - broken signpost and cutting back overhanging vegetation near junction**

Highways have been informed and the lengthsman has cut it back.

* 1. **Lloyds TSB signatories**

The bank have been informed of the new signatories and this will take 28 days from now to do. Adriana Truby is also going to be added as a signatory.

* 1. **Broken sign post.**

It cannot be repaired and is owned by the parish council not the highways. It would be nice to refurbish it. We need to see if it can be rewelded.

Action – Robin will find out which foundry in Chard the signs came from and see if they can help us

* 1. **Lengthsman - ask to add two/ three small areas to the work plan**

This has been asked and he has agreed.

1. **Advertisement for or appointment of a new parish clerk**

The interim clerk will discuss continuing with the new chairman now the new council is formed. All on council are happy for Gemma to continue as clerk going forward.

1. **Donation of £2000 to Combe Florey Village Hall towards major improvement works –**

This financial decision needs to be taken again as financial decisions have to be itemised on the agenda which this wasn’t (it was raised at the meeting and therefore any decision should have been deferred until the next meeting when it could be on the agenda). The then chair would like to apologise for this oversight and thank the parishioner who drew this to her attention.

The money has not been paid.

As we have new councillors Simon Hawes has asked that he wishes to understand this and the accounts further before making any decisions.

The village hall has raised concerns that the money is needed soon in order to carry out building works. Simon Hawes has asked what the issue is and and what our money will do toward building works. The quote is a fixed price quote and the funds will continue to be raised. They are working in staged payments.

There have been two comments received via email and this will be looked at fully between now and next meeting.

Chairman proposed this will be deferred to the annual parish meeting.

1. **Planning applications for comment**

Application 11/18/0002/T to fell one ash tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Combe Florey No.1) Tree Preservation Order 2006 at Little Orchard, Combe Florey (TD996)

No objections from the council and none from the floor.

1. **To note planning permissions granted**

None

1. **To note planning applications refused/withdrawn/appealed**

None

1. **Avon & Somerset Police Report**

317 calls and farm burglaries and cattle rustling; there is an increase in theft of tools from vehicles.

1. **Village upkeep - any issues to report**

The mud on the lane has already been raised and is being dealt with as in the matters arising.

1. **Highways - any issues to raise**

Footpaths. None of the footpaths in Combe Florey are dog friendly; the one through the Combe would be a priority as it is a popular path.

Action: Geoffrey Eggleston will make contact with the footpath officer to discuss

Action: Copy of the map of footpaths to be uploaded on the website and put on the noticeboard.

1. **Somerset County Council Report**

Consultation on county libraries and on the proposals for Bishops Lydeard to provide library services through either a partnership with the local community to maintain a library building in Bishops Lydeard, or an additional mobile library stop which would mean the closure of the current library building and library services being provided in other ways. This consultation is moved out to June at the moment. The cost to maintain the service is minimal but the village of Bishop Lydeard needs to decide on a way forward.

On-line link to consultation: (http://somersetlibraries.co.uk/consultation/)

1. **District Council Report**

Update on new proposal of formation of new council of Taunton Deane and West Somerset. This was voted through on Monday night, providing the government gives go ahead this will be going through later this year. This should have little to no impact on Combe Florey. There will be fewer councillors and wards. They are looking to do it in an intelligent way and this is not changing any parish boundaries. You can have your say about what wards you wish to go with but this has to be evidence based.

1. **Finance** 
   1. ***Remittances*** 
      1. *None*
   2. ***Invoices for payment***

Parish clerk read out the invoices and asked if we can seek approval at the end for all. All in favour of doing this. All invoices were proposed by Robin Cleverly, seconded by Simon Hawes. Vote and all in favour

* + 1. Lengthsman - Councillors agreed in principle by email in February to pay two invoices for £480 & £280 (totalling 38 hours @ £20/hour) from Mark Perry for work done throughout the financial year.
    2. Grant towards Village Hall improvements – postponed to May meeting.
    3. Interim Clerk’s expenses (January meeting) – postponed to May
  1. **Expenditure to date**

Nothing since last balance.

* 1. ***Account balances***

1. Current account - £7406.23
   1. **Annual Review of Asset Register**

No change from last year. The strimmer was stolen.

* 1. **Appointment of Internal Auditor**

Sue Greenway was the person last year.

Action: Peter Tayler will ask if she is happy to do this again this year.

* 1. **Any other financial matters notified to the Clerk in advance of the meeting**

None

1. **Urgent matters for report only**

None

1. **Topics for future meetings/ other issues**

The parish council strimmer was stolen last year and was reported to the police but it was 8 years old and had very low value.

General data protection act SALC is looking into how this needs to be implemented and we may be getting an email from SALC. This comes into play May 22nd.

The date for March meeting 2019 has been set at Wed 20th 2019

1. **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 02nd May 2018, 7.00pm, Combe Florey Village Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting.

**Afternote:** Subsequently it was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 2nd May, and the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Friday 18th May at 6pm to allow items raised at the Parish Meeting to be considered at the Council Meeting.

Meeting was closed at 9.04