

Combe Florey Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at Combe Florey Village Hall
On Wednesday 5th October 2016 at 7.00pm

Present : Cllr Simon Frost (Chairman), Cllr Lorraine Boulton , Cllr Nick Darlow
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

Observers: Cllr M Rigby (SCC), Cllr P Watson (TD), Cllr J Warmington (TD) plus one member of the public

Public Speaking Time, Topics Raised

- Parish Council are not represented on the Village Hall Committee
- Request that the Parish Council consider assisting with the planning process for the extension to the Village Hall

County and District Councillor Reports:

Cllr M Rigby raised concerns regarding the proposals for capping parish councils and urged Combe Florey to respond to the consultation. There are universal concerns that this will lead to parish councils being unable to afford to take responsibility for aspects of parish upkeep that are vital to the community that will no longer be covered by District or County. The current buzz word in government is localism but this cannot be implemented successfully unless the budget is available.

Combe Florey Parish Councillors expressed some concern about the capping proposals as increasing costs require steady increases to the Parish precept in coming years.

Cllr P Watson reported that Taunton Deane and West Somerset Councils have voted to form a joint council. This will bring large savings to both councils and avoid having to make front line cuts.

Transformation will start over the next two years and there will be a shadow council for one year, before the new combined council emerges in 2019. Ward boundaries will be re-defined for 2019

1. Election of Chairman and receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office **RESOLVED**

Cllr S Frost be elected Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year
Cllr Frost signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the chair

2. To Receive any Apologies of Absence

Cllr P Tayler and Cllr H Vaughan-Thomas. PCSO Louise Fynne

RESOLVED

That the absences of Cllrs Tayler and Vaughan-Thomas be recognised as approved as absences for the purposes of S85, Local Government Act 1972

3. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations

None

4. Minutes, 8th June 2016 to Approve and Sign

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

5. Highways

Signed as a true record:
Chairman

Date

a) A538, Farmers Arms junction, update

Cllr M Rigby reported that Norton Fitzwarren has a dangerous junction and are going to install similar slightly simpler signage to that proposed for Combe Florey, at a cost of £7,000. He confirmed that he would put forward the Combe Florey proposals as one of his two permitted recommendations for a Small Highways Improvement Scheme applications when it re-opens. However SCC resources are very stretched and part funding by the parish council may elicit a more productive response

RESOLVED

Clerk to write to Cllr Rigby and Cllr Watson to formally request assistance with securing the automated signage and loop sensor discussed confirming that the parish council would be willing to contribute towards the cost of the project

b) Any Other Highways Issues

Cllr Rigby reported that the roundabout/ underpass construction on the A358 at Bishops Lydeard is now underway and anticipated to last for 30 weeks. For 5.5 months from November the current underpass will be out of use and will be replaced with a surface pedestrian crossing combined with a temporary 30mph speed limit. Additionally the south bound carriageway of the A358 will be closed leaving in place a 4 way traffic control system operating through a single lane of the A358 only. This will inevitably lead to long delays and concerns have been raised about the Minehead Road through Bishops Lydeard being used as a cut through to avoid the delays – suggestions have been made that this road be made one way, therefore ‘exit only’ on to the A358 for the duration of the works

6. Finances

a) Payments to Approve

RESOLVED that the following payments be made

- i) C Morrison-Jones, clerk’s salary (Aug & Sept), chq 456 £174.22
- ii) HMRC, clerk’s PAYE, chq 457 £43.40
- iii) C Morrison-Jones, clerk’s expenses & reimbursements (inc £0.75 VAT), chq 458 £26.12
- iv) Information Commissioner, Data Protection registration, chq 459 £35.00

b) Receipts Received

21.9.16, Burial & Footpaths grant from Taunton Deane, £450.00

c) Expenditure to Date

RESOLVED that the presented bank reconciliation, as of 29.9.16, be accepted as true and correct record of finances:

2016/17: Receipts £3,000, Payments £1,272.18. Balance held £7,619.26

d) Consider Transparency Fund Grant Application

The clerk reported that in order for the council to comply with the Transparency Code, certain items had to be published on a free to access website. There is a fund available to assist parish councils set up the required system

RESOLVED

Authorise the clerk to apply for a grant on behalf of the council for the cost of purchasing a domain name and hosting services and for the cost of clerk hours required to build a website

e) Consider Addition of Clerk to Bank Mandate

RESOLVED

To add the clerk to the bank mandate with full access to the account was agreed by council and the forms of authority were countersigned by S Frost and L Boulton.

7. Planning Matters

RESOLVED

If it is considered, after consultation with councillors, that a planning application falling outside

the normal cycle of scheduled meetings does not merit the calling of an extra-ordinary meeting the clerk, under delegated powers, is to respond to the District Council in line with the Parish Council's policy on minor applications

8. Village Upkeep

The Chairman reported that there were now two small contracts in place to maintain the village; one for the village garden and one for general village tidiness. Positive comments have been received about the state of the village from parishioners since these contracts have been in place

9. Police Report

PCSO L Fynne had sent a report which was circulated amongst those present

10. Procedural and Administrative Items

a) Consider and Approve Code of Conduct Document

RESOLVED

To approve and adopt the Model Code of Conduct as presented

b) Consider and Approve Standing Orders Document

RESOLVED

To approve and adopt the Model Standing Orders Document amended to suit the requirements of Combe Florey Parish Council

c) Consider and Approve the Model Financial Regulations Document

RESOLVED

To approve and adopt the Model Financial Regulations Document amended to suit the Requirements of Combe Florey Parish Council

d) Consider Response to Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18 Consultation

RESOLVED

The clerk to respond on behalf of the council registering objection to the proposals raised in the consultation document. Additionally, individual councillors to send personal letters of objection

e) Consider Future Meeting Dates

Due to the clerk's commitments to other parish councils the meeting dates for the rest of the municipal year will have to be re-arranged

RESOLVED

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 7th December 2016. 7pm, Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 15th March 2017. 7pm, Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 3rd May 2017. 7pm, Village Hall

Annual Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 3rd May 2017. To follow Annual Parish Meeting

11. Clerk's Report

The clerk outlined to the council the various other procedural items and documents that it was hoped could be completed by the close of the financial year

12. Topics for Future Meetings

- i) Parish Council website - construction & content
- ii) Consider Parish Council's presence on Village Hall Committee
- iii) Consider Village Hall Committee's request for help with the planning process for the extension

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th December 2016, 7pm at the Village Hall

Signed as a true record:
Chairman

Date