

Combe Florey Parish Council

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 12th September 2023 7:00 pm At Combe Florey Village Hall	Written by: Gemma Coombes (Parish Clerk)
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Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Councillor's Present

Cllr Jacquey Newton (Vice Chair)
 Cllr Simon Hawes (RFO)
 Cllr John Passingham

In attendance

Gemma Coombes – Parish Clerk
 Cllr Mike Rigby – Somerset Councillor
 Cllr Andy Sully - Somerset Councillor
 Parishioners x 1

2023/83) Welcome by Chairman

The Vice -chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2023/84) Apologies for absence

Cllr Robin Cleverly
 Cllr Adriana Truby

2023/85) Declarations of Interest

None declared.

2023/86) Approval of last meetings minutes

The minutes from the 11th July 2023, Cllr Newton has requested some amendments be made before signing.

2023/87) Public participation

Nothing raised outside the agenda.

2023/88) Matters Arising / Matters brought forward from Annual Parish Meeting

1. Defibrillator project - Update on installation

The defibrillator is due to be installed on the 16th of October 2023.

2. Dog waste bins

There are two common walks in Parish that most people use to walk dogs, these areas are where dog waste is most commonly found.

Cllr Passingham opens the discussion by proposing that we have one dog waste bin in each of these areas.

Cllr Sully states you can have a combination bin (dog waste and general waste bin), to have a combination bin is approx. £1000 to buy the bin and have it installed. A dog waste bin only is approx. £500.

Cllr Rigby states that once a bin has been installed it is not possible to prosecute for dog fouling without a speed limit on the road (national limit does not apply).

Cllr Passingham proposes to do a feasibility study on where to site the potential bins and get costings. Cllr Passingham will prepare a report on the information with help and input from Cllr Sully. Seconded by Cllr Newton.

Update to be given in November meeting.

2023/89) Somerset Council report (Cllr Rigby / Cllr Sully)

Cllr Sully - Funding for rural England to support businesses for community infrastructure, grants from 5K - 100K are available and this is on a match funded basis.

2000 affordable houses delivered in 3 years, 18000 homes have been stopped due to phosphate issues. Phosphate mitigation plan is being put in place that will be funded by government.

Cllr Rigby - updated on budget and says the council is not in a great place, the council are not in the same situation as Birmingham City Council yet, if we get into this situation there commissioners appointed to run the council at £1200 per person per day and will be run at a statutory service only. At this rate, within 3 years all Councils across the country will go into this situation. Somerset will be ok for the next 2 years but we are keeping a tight eye on what is happening. £24million overspend projected for this year. The council have approx. £50 million in reserves but if this fund keeps being spent it will not last long. The Council are looking to make

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£10million a year saving by putting in consultants. The council tax will be put up by the max allowed again this year.

Adult and child social care, planning, some highways based stuff is a requirement, waste services, are all things that are statutory requirements.

Money needs to be spread across more people for adult social services.

Parish Councils are not capped on the Precept they can ask for, Parish Councils may have to take on some of these responsibilities such as public conveniences, cleaning street signs, grass maintenance, hedge cutting.

2023/90) Policing Report

Our PCOS is leaving in October; we have not been informed of a replacement yet.

2023/91) Planning

1. Current planning applications

- I. Application number : 11/23/0007/CQ (resubmission of 11/23/0004) Application for Prior Approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building into 3 No. dwelling houses (Class C3) and associated building operations at Greenacre Farm, Raleighs Cross Road, Combe Florey

Cllr Rigby says that if there is prior approvals there is a limited amount that can be done. No further comments - same comments as last time. All in agreement.

2. Other planning matters

Nothing raised.

2023/92) Finance

1. Account balances

- I. Current account - £12000 this is before the current payments are taken out. Cllr Hawes told the Council that is higher than normal due to CIL money coming in.

2. CIL funding

This pot of funds can be used for community infrastructure projects and we are happy to take suggestions. Please contact us if you have any ideas.

3. Bank Reconciliation and Cash Days Books

Payment schedule is circulated and signed by chairperson, daybook and cashbook also signed.

4. Remittances

- I. None

5. Invoices for payment

Cllr Hawes read out the invoices for payment. The below are items that were know of at the time of the agenda.

- a. Parish Clerk wages and expenses (August - September inclusive) £239.80 (before deductions)
 - Proposed by Cllr Hawes, seconded by Cllr Newton. All in favour.
- b. HMRC (Clerks PAYE) - £46.60
 - Proposed by Cllr Hawes, seconded by Cllr Newton. All in favour.

2023/93) Highways and Footpaths

1. Speed of traffic - concerns raised by a Parishioner

A Parishioner raised concerns via email over speed in the village, the limit in the main village is 60mph.

If there was a desire to lower the speed limit the Parish would have to pay for this. The work would be supported by Somerset Council such as erection of signage but the Parish have to fund this from the Parish Precept. In order to make the speed limit enforceable there is a need signs in the area. You will not stop the isolated incidents but it does help.

Bishop Lydeard cost to install a reduced speed limit was £15,000. If we were to consider spending even half of this, we would need to do a wider village consultation.

If the speed limit was changed, you do not need street lighting. You would need signs every few hundred meters.

Cllr Hawes suggested a sign that says 'Combe Florey welcomes careful drivers at 20mph' this is not legally enforceable but does make people aware.

All agreed this is to be left on the agenda for further discussion.

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2. Condition of roads in Parish.

Better than they have been for a long time. Remove from agenda.

2023/94) Village Maintenance / Garden

1. Plans for next phase in Garden project.

I. Planting requirements / Landscaping works / Maintenance gardeners

Cllr Truby sent an email and has confirmed she has a contact that will be happy to do as much or as little as needed to the Village Garden.

Do we need to do some more planting? How often should the maintenance plan be?

Proposed by Cllr Hawes that Cllr Passingham is to speak to the contact and agree what can be done. Cllr Passingham is happy to undertake this.

2023/95) LCN update on last meeting

First meeting was an introduction to LCN, groups came up with ideas together. Next meeting is the 19th of October.

2023/96) Village Hall - Status report

Considering installing an additional fire exit, subject to cost. This is in their early feasibility stage.

2023/97) Topics for future meetings

Nothing raised specifically under this.

2023/98) Correspondence / General updates

None

2023/99) NEXT MEETING:

Parish Council Meeting: 14th November 2023 at 7.00pm at Combe Florey Village Hall
Meeting closed at 20.21

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