

# Combe Florey Parish Council

<b>Date of Meeting:</b> Tuesday 10th January 2023 7:00 pm At Combe Florey Village Hall	<b>Written by:</b> Gemma Coombes (Parish Clerk)
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## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

### Councillor's Present

Cllr Robin Cleverly (Chair)  
 Cllr John Passingham  
 Cllr Jacquey Newton  
 Cllr Simon Hawes (RFO)  
 Cllr Nick Weeks

### In attendance

Gemma Coombes – Parish Clerk  
 Parishioners x 3

**2023/1) Welcome by Chairman**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**2023/2) Apologies for absence**

Cllr Mike Rigby – Somerset county councillor and District Councillor (apologies not tendered)  
 Cllr Andy Sully - Somerset county councillor (apologies not tendered)

**2023/3) Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**2023/4) Approval of last meetings minutes**

The minutes from the 06th September 2022 were taken as read.  
 Proposed acceptance by Cllr Robin Cleverly and Seconded by Cllr Simon Hawes  
 All in favour to adopt the minutes. Signed by Chairman.

**2023/5) Public participation**

Nothing raised.

**2023/6) Matters Arising / Matters brought forward from Annual Parish Meeting**

**1. Parish news letter**

Nothing new to report as Chris Steel has stepped down from the council, Jean Phillips is now running this and you can contact her if you wish for your name to be added.  
 Remove from agenda

**2. Community engagement update**

This can be removed from agenda, as there was no appetite for this in the community.

**3. Village rubbish bins**

There was a discussion about where the bin could be located. This could be the village garden or we would have to approach highways to seek permission to site it. If we had a litter bin then the Parish Council would need to have a bin sited and would cost money to be emptied.

This is to be removed from the agenda until the Village Garden is fully opened and then it can be re-addressed if needed.

**4. Broadband project update**

They never came to do anything despite the road closure signs. This should be done by end of Q1.

**5. Combe Florey defibrillator project. - Jean Phillips to present options**

Jean Phillips is leading this but was unable to attend the meeting and submitted a report in advance.

Jean's preferred option is for a defibrillator to be rented from SW Ambulance Trust; this costs £2,160 (inc VAT) every four years (£540 pa) which covers all maintenance, insurance etc, but not the installation cost. The Village Hall have said they will donate £300 for one on the village hall.

Jean is proposing 3 defibrillators as the Parish is spread out; this would require ~£1600 per year in rental costs. Specific fund raising would be needed to raise the required funds but this may be a stretch for the £1600 p.a. needed to maintain three.

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**Signed:** ..... [Chairman]

The Parish Council's annual precept is only £4000 per year and this would be too large a part of the Parish Council outgoings. We would have to either increase the precept significantly or look for alternative funding if this was to be wholly funded by the PC.

Jean asked if the Parish Council would consider holding a defibrillator account under its auspices. After some discussion it was decided that this would only be possible if the PC were wholly responsible for, and had control of, the defibrillator(s) which it is unwilling to do. As a local authority there are restrictions on finances, as well as strict financial controls. It is possible however that the PC may be able to deal with the procurement, thereby allowing a VAT refund.

There were some questions about logistics of providing defibrillator support, and the distribution of households. The defibrillator needs to be close to the cardiac arrest (not heart attack) victim. Each minute delay means a 10% decrease in survival rate. The village hall has the highest footfall and would be a logical site but has few households within 100m. Sites in Trebles Holford and Nethercott, or at the Farmers' Arms also have relatively low population densities.

The PC would like some more detailed plans to understand what is required, including any long-term commitments, and proposals for sustainable funding.

**6. Possible training in first aid for parishioners who would be interested.**

The last course in October 2022 taught CPR and defibrillator use and 20 people attended. The intention would be to run regular refresher courses in association with either SW Ambulance Trust or, as in October, the St John's Ambulance.

**2023/7) Somerset County councillor's report (Cllr Rigby / Cllr Sully)**

None submitted

**2023/8) Taunton Deane district report (Cllr Rigby)**

None submitted

**2023/9) Policing Report**

Nothing relevant to Combe Florey.

**2023/10) Planning**

**1. Current planning applications**

Application 11/22/0016 - Replacement of dwelling at Chesil House Farm, Combe Tower Lane, Combe Florey. (Rich and Gemma Scott)

In attendance were Rich and Gemma. They are looking to build an energy efficient house. After thinking about renovation of the existing house it was concluded that a new build was best. The new build would be a 4-bed home with an annex and carport. They are looking at ground or air source heat pumps and extensive solar panels. The new build would be further back from Tower Lane, behind the existing house which will be demolished. The site is not in the Conservation Area.

The Parish Council decided to support the application.

**2. Other planning matters**

An application has been received for prior notification of an extension to an agricultural building at Combe Down Lodge. Cllr Nick Weeks said that this does not require Parish Council input.

**Finance**

**1. Account balances**

I. Current account - £10,057.57 this is before the current payments are taken out.

**2. CIL - options for spending accumulated funds**

The CIL from SWT are holding £4858 of funds and we are looking at ways to spend this. We need to engage with the whole parish to ask what they would like to spend the money on before we commit funds.

Cllr Hawes proposes we carry this forward to March when he has questions answered such as what this can be used for.

**3. Setting Parish Precept for 2023/2024**

We can manage on £4000 per year but the difficulty comes if we need to spend money on more things. We do not want to sit on money. Cllr Hawes proposes that the precept is £4000 for this forthcoming year. All in favour.

**4. Bank Reconciliation and Cash Days Books**

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Signed: ..... [Chairman]

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

**5. Remittances**

- I. £450 Parish Grant

**6. Invoices for payment**

Cllr Hawes proposes that for further meetings we have the heading of Invoices for payment arising after the set agenda. Combe Florey meet only four times per year (excluding extraordinary meetings) and invoices do come in after the agenda has been set.

Cllr Simon Hawes (RFO) read out the invoices for payment. The below are items that were known of at the time of the agenda. In the second section are invoices received after the agenda was set out.

- a. Parish Clerk wages and expenses ( June - Jan inclusive) £1156.58 (before deductions)  
- Proposed by Cllr Jacquy Newton, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour.
- b. Website expenses November £136.80 (paid to Clerk) included in total above
- c. Website expenses December £39.78 (paid to Clerk) included in total above
- d. HMRC (Clerks PAYE) - £198.00  
- Proposed by Cllr Jacquy Newton, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour.
- e. Surveyors report on garden wall £350 + VAT  
- Proposed by Cllr Jacquy Newton, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour.
- f. Strimmer course £99 - for information only no invoice submitted yet.
- g. Parish Hall rental for 2022 (Jan 11th, March 29th, May 10th, May 24th, September 6th)  
£50  
- Proposed by Cllr Jacquy Newton, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour.

**The following invoices were received after the agenda was set.**

- h. John Passingham - Keeping footpaths tidy - £100.00  
- Proposed by Cllr Jacquy Newton, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour.
- i. Mark Perry - Village maintenance (verge cutting etc) garden work £20 per hour. Yearly Bill. £960.00  
- Proposed by Cllr Jacquy Newton, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour.
- j. Mark Lewis - Work on Village Garden - £187.00  
- Proposed by Cllr Jacquy Newton, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour.
- k. PCC - Church payment from the burial grant - £350.00  
- Proposed by Cllr Jacquy Newton, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour.
- l. John Passingham - Keeping footpaths tidy - £100.00  
- Proposed by Cllr Jacquy Newton, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour.

To carry forward to March - Unitary authority will continue to honour the burial grant for next year.

**2023/11) Highways and Footpaths**

**1. Moving footpath so there is no need to walk along the main B3224 for about 50m. As an official change could take 30 years we need to speak to land owner.**

Nothing new. No engagement from Mike Rigby. If this was fenced then this could be used as a footpath that is unofficial. We need to get agreements from land owners. This can be removed from agenda for now until an agreement has been reached with land owners.

**2. State of storm drains at bottom of Tower Lane.**

Cllr Weeks spoke to Glen Hughes who has said the drain will be made bigger and the supply packs will be jet washed and cleaned out. The sweepers have to be the right type to get the leaves without damaging the road this is why there are two of them as they do different jobs.

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**Signed:** ..... [Chairman]

**3. Village drains**

Cllr Jacquey Newton asked what responsibility the Parish Council have for the drains. We do not hold any responsibility it is best each parishioner reports these problems on the village maps.

**4. State of banks along Honiball Lane.**

This is largely being caused by deer crossing the lane to get to new food. This should be swept at same time as rest of sweeping. The only solutions are deer fencing on both sides and the whole length of the area the deer could cross or get rid of the deer.

Mark does clear some of the mud and branches off the road at the request of Cllr Hawes and he pays for this.

**5. Collapsing embankment along SWR at Tribble Bridge and mud on road.**

They have been sucking drains to clear mud from the drains.

**2023/12) Village Maintenance**

**1. Village Garden**

**I. Surveyors report and options for the wall**

This is to be carried forward to March.

**II. Plans for continuing landscaping and employment of professional gardener.**

There seems to be some reluctance from Mark to finish the garden off. Cllr Hawes is going to speak to him and see what he can do. It is to finish the edging and chip some wood and bring it down.

**2. Strimmer course - Roger or Jacquey Newton to attend council approved course to maintain footpaths. Council will pay 50%, PC will to pay rest.**

All in agreement that this is picked up by the council.

**2023/13) Village Hall - Status report**

Work on wall has started this morning 10/01/23.

**2023/14) Topics for future meetings**

Cllr Nick Weeks tendered his resignation with immediate effect and left the meeting.

The Parish Council agree to move the meeting to the 8th of March due to the parish clerk being unavailable on the 28th of March.

**2023/15) Correspondence**

None that has not been discussed.

**2023/16) NEXT MEETING:**

Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 08th March 2023 7.00pm, Combe Florey Village Hall.  
Meeting closed at 20.55