

# Combe Florey Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at Combe Florey Village Hall  
On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at 7.00pm

## Present:

Cllr Jane Warmington (Chair), Cllr Peter Watson, Cllr Peter Taylor, Cllr Robin Cleverly  
Gemma Coombes (Interim parish clerk)  
9 x members of the public

Before the official start of the meeting, time was allocated to discuss whether the parish wished to see the parish council continue and whether there were any parishioners prepared to sit on it. The clerk reminded the meeting that it is not possible to move to an annual parish meeting (as do Ash Priors) because the village has over 150 parishioners. There was general agreement the parish council would continue and three parishioners expressed an interest in becoming members. The district council members agreed to step down at the next meeting so that three new members could be co-opted on after properly advertising the vacancies.

- 1) **Welcome by the chairman**
- 2) **To receive any apologies of absence**  
None received
- 3) **Declarations of Interest/Dispensations**  
Jane Warmington ~ a member of TDBC  
Pete Watson as a member of TDBC and a member of TDBC planning committee
- 4) **Minutes from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to approve and sign**  
Minutes taken and read, signed by the Chairman
- 5) **Resignation of the parish clerk**  
The previous clerk resigned in December and there is an interim clerk Gemma Coombes. The chair offered her thanks on behalf of the council to Claire Morrison-Jones for all her help over the previous twelve months.
- 6) **Co-option of new members to the parish council**  
New members will be co-opted onto the parish council at the next meeting in March to allow sufficient time to advertise these properly on both the website and the parish notice board.
- 7) **Matters arising from the minutes**
  - a) **BT telephone box**

Minutes Combe Florey Parish Council - Meeting 6th September 2017

Signed and

Dated .....Chairman

BT had written to those councils where telephone boxes were going to be removed to ask if those councils wished to adopt a box for one pound so as to retain them. Combe Florey had not been contacted because the village was not on this list so the working telephone box remains.

**b) Coggans Lane – no through road**

New sign has now been erected to indicate the footpath. County Highways have said they could put a no through road sign up and will get back to us after an inspection in January. There was some concern about not ending up with too many signs in the village and a suggestion to ask the pub to put up a discrete sign instead.

**Action: Chair to lease with pub to get sign installed.**

**c) Mud on the highway**

Information from NFU sent to the council states that there is an obligation for farmers to clean up excessive mud/muck behind them and they are potentially liable under several areas of the law listed in a document which will be published on the website. The stretch of road where there is a problem is actually in the adjacent parish which will be made aware of the concerns.

**Action: Email to Lydeard St Lawrence clerk to address as in their parish.**

**d) Other matters arising from the minutes not covered in the agenda below**

Nethercott sign has now gone as it has been damaged over time.

**Action: Write to Highways to ask if they could reinstate this.**

**Action: Ask the lengthsman if this area could be kept tidy to maintain visibility.**

**8) County and District Councillors reports**

District report - the government is minded to approve the merger of the two district councils of West Somerset and Taunton Deane and a further short consultation is underway before a decision is made. The developer David Wilson Homes has applied for planning permission to build 170 new homes in land allocated for development in Bishop Lydeard. This may increase local traffic both during and after any building although should not directly affect the village here. The refurbishment of Deane House has started and is expected to be completed in under two years. The district council offices will then be shared with others including the police and running costs reduced after making the building far more fuel efficient.

**9) Police Report**

Report received covered the two months of December and January (the whole beat area not just Combe Florey). Number of calls were 81 and several farm thefts were reported. The full report will be published on the website.

**10) Planning: any planning matters brought to the attention of the clerk prior to the meeting.**

Greenacre Farm have appealed against the decision of TDBC planning committee not

Minutes Combe Florey Parish Council - Meeting 6th September 2017

Signed and

Dated .....Chairman

to allow them to remove the tie from an agricultural dwelling. The parish council had not objected to this planning application (Ref number: 11/17/0011/CQ) and the appeal decision is awaited.

**11) Village Upkeep**

It was decided to ask the lengthsman to add in two other areas to keep tidy: the area around phone box as BT are no longer maintaining this; and keeping the bramble growth cut back on wall between church and cemetery.

It was reported that the cast iron village sign by the nursery had snapped in half. This belongs to the parish council and is on private land (although Highways agreed to its being there). It was agreed to ask Mark Perry (lengthsman) if this could be repaired and whether he might be able to do this or recommend someone to fix it.

**Action:** Peter Taylor to ask Mark if he could do this work.

**12) Any Highways Issues to report**

Coggans lane to be swept if possible because debris has been washed down due to excessive rain causing a slippery road surface.

**Action:** Chair to write to highways

**13) Village Hall**

**a) Consider the request to amalgamate the PC and Village Hall websites**

The parish council are required to have their own website but ought to have a link to the village hall website and visa versa. There was some discussion with the retiring clerk about this (Gavin Cox is the contact).

**b) Any other matters concerning the Village Hall**

None raised

**14) Consider the future of the parish council**

This was discussed before the meeting by members and the general public present and it was agreed to co-opt new members onto the council at the next meeting on 21st March.

**15) Governance: consider the external auditors report for 2016/17 financial year**

The Chair shared the auditor's report acknowledging that we were not compliant in several areas during last year. This had been addressed by the end of the year under the retiring clerk and we expect to be fully compliant in this financial.

**16) Finances:**

**a) Annual burial ground grant to PCC 2018/19**

It was agreed that the £450 burial grant expected from TDBC will be passed on in full to the parochial church council.

**b) Grant to Taunton CAB**

It was agreed to give £100 grant to CAB.

Minutes Combe Florey Parish Council - Meeting 6th September 2017

Signed and

Dated .....Chairman

**c) Payments to approve / receipts received**

Chair to ask the retired clerk to shut down the HMRC payroll.

**d) Bank reconciliation**

Current account £8,166.

**e) Any other financial matters notified to the clerk in advance of the meeting**

Update the signatories on bank account to reflect new members and remove any retired councillors. The paperwork for this can be downloaded.

**Action: Peter Taylor to get paperwork and start the process for next meeting**

**Grant towards the village hall** - after a short discussion it was agreed that as the balance of parish council funds was greater than the necessary reserve the council would offer to donate £2000 to support the new extension. Cllr Peter Watson offered to put VH Committee in touch with the officer who administers the TDBC village hall grants so they could apply to this as a possible source of funds.

**17) Consider 2018/19 Budget / Precept**

It was discussed and agreed that the precept was sufficient and that this should remain the same at £4000 (£32.60 per band D house).

**18) Chairman's report**

Nothing additional to report.

**19) Topics for future meetings**

Anything you feel needs to be discussed please let the clerk or a councillor know before the next meeting so it can be added to the agenda.

**20) Future meeting dates****a) Parish Council meeting dates for the 2018/19 municipal year**

March 21<sup>st</sup>

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting and Annual Parish meeting

September 19<sup>th</sup>

January 9<sup>th</sup> 2019

**b) Meeting date for the 2018 Annual Parish Assembly**

As above.

The meeting was closed at 9.27pm

Next Parish Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018ncommencing at 7pm  
at the Village Hall

Minutes Combe Florey Parish Council - Meeting 6th September 2017

Signed and

Dated .....Chairman

DRAFT

Minutes Combe Florey Parish Council - Meeting 6th September 2017

Signed and  
Dated .....Chairman