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| Combe Florey Parish Council | | |
| **Date of Meeting:**  Wednesday 09th January 2019 7.00 pm  At Combe Florey Village Hall | | **Written by:**  Gemma Coombes (Parish Clerk) |

# Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Draft

**Councillors Present**

**In attendance**

Gemma Coombes – Parish Clerk

2 Parishioners plus district councillor

Cllr Robin Cleverly (Chairman)

Cllr Peter Tayler

Cllr Adriana Truby

Cllr Simon Hawes

1. **Welcome by Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed the parishioners to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

1. **Apologies**

Cllr Geoffrey Eggleston sent his apologies.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None declared

1. **Approval of minutes of last meeting**

The minutes from the 19th September 2018 were taken as read.

Proposed by Cllr Adriana Truby, Seconded Cllr Simon Hawes.

All in favour to adopt the minutes. Signed by Chairman.

1. **Public participation**

Thanks to the clerk was expressed for sending out the agenda. If any parishioners would like the agenda or minutes sent out to them please email the clerk and she will add them to the list.

One of the parishioners queried the council’s currently healthy cash reserves and suggested that the precept could be reduced. He was referred to the RFO’s report later in the meeting.

1. **Matters Arising**
   1. ***Broken signposts***

No progress.

* 1. **GDPR – Data protection act**

After the Chairman queried the need to pay the registration fee, SALC have advised to pay the fee (£40).

1. **Somerset County councillor’s report (Cllr Rigby)**

Mike Rigby sent his apologies; in his absence the Chairman read out his report that was sent by email.

“There’s not a lot to report since last time but please could you pass on the good news that the county council has received a grant of £9.8m to improve the state of the county’s highways. A decision on how this is to be spent, in high-level terms, will be taken in the next few weeks. If you have any particular areas of concern, please let me know. Also £280k is to be spent on the surfacing of the footways of Taunton Town Centre. This is something I’ve long called for and am pleased that work began this week. The Small Improvement Scheme has had its budget cut so there will inevitably be delays to the programme. The scheme I put forward at the Farmer’s Arms junction remains approved. I am attempting to obtain an update and will let you have this when I have it.”

Bishops Lydeard PC has formally expressed an interest to SCC to take on the running of the library from which the County Council has withdrawn funding. Bishops Lydeard PC asked for comments from neighbouring parishes. After canvassing opinion, there was little interest shown by the parishioners of Combe Florey in contributing to the running of the library. The CF WI have said they are interested in supporting the library.

1. **Taunton Deane district report (Cllr J Warmington)**

The new police station is now in Deane House and the refurbishment is nearly finished; this has helped with the running costs as it is now more thermally efficient.

There are local elections in May. The joined council is now in place and the necessary changes to procedures are progressing well.

A new chief executive is now in place at Taunton Deane.

There is a new policing model in this area and it is supposed to create a higher visible police presence. There has not been anything noticed in the parish of Combe Florey.

1. **Policing Report**

223 calls have been reported. In Combe Florey there was a horse box stolen just before Christmas.

1. **Planning**
   1. ***Current planning applications***

11/18/0018 Yarde Farm - Conversion of lambing barn to rural workers dwelling at Yarde Farm, Williton Road, Combe Florey

The Parish Council resolved support this application; it is not materially different from the previous application, 11/18/0014/CQ, and by linking the property to the business has resolved the PC’s concern about intrusive noise.

* 1. ***Other planning matters***

11/18/0017/LB: Old Forge: boiler replacement has been approved by TDBC.

11/18/0015: Yarde Farm change of use from holiday let to permanent residence is being discussed next week at TDBC.

For information: this was approved by the planning committee on 18 January 2019.

1. **Finance** 
   1. ***Account balances***
2. Current account - £6998.86
   1. ***Setting the Parish Precept for 2019/2020***

The RFO presented a budget forecast and recommended that the precept be kept at the same level of £4000. There is a copy of this attached at the end of these minutes.

The insurance has been reduced by being more specific about our needs.

The lengthsman’s invoice for the year is currently outstanding.

Although the cash reserves are relatively high it is prudent to keep one year’s funds in reserves to allow for any emergencies including running a contested election. Other items that could involve significant expenditure, apart from an increase in general tidying, are the repairs to the broken village sign, and expenditure on the footpaths to make them more dog-friendly.

There is a cap on increasing the precept so there is a concern that if the precept was cut for one year there may be difficulty in restoring it in future.

Cllr Adriana Truby proposed to keep it at £4000, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour

* 1. ***Resolution of bank signatories***

This item has now been resolved and the signatories are now Cllr Adriana Truby, Cllr Simon Howes, Cllr Peter Tayler.

* 1. ***Remittances*** 
     + 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 Cllr Simon Hawes and Seconded by Cllr Adriana Truby. Vote and all in favour

Bank reconciliation is given to the chairman by the RFO and this is signed.

* + - Parish Clerk wages and expenses £317.60
    - PAYE to inland revenue. £77.80

1. **Highways & Footpaths**

Nothing to report. The stiles and other footpath furniture are in good condition apart from some holes in the fences made for dogs. Part of the causeway (highway) near the Farmer’s Arms is sloping and needs attention.

1. **Parish Maintenance**

It is a quiet time of the year. Mark Perry has done some clearing work by the Farmer’s Arms. We need to discuss the ongoing maintenance and produce a list of works for him so he has clear instructions and we all know how much work is needed, and the costs involved. He needs however to have flexibility to do what he sees fit.

Action: Peter Tayler to talk to Mark and find out if he is available for the forthcoming year and what needs doing.

1. **Village Hall** 
   1. **Village Hall car park resolution of adoption status**

On the 5th of October 2018 there was a meeting with Somerset CC and their recommendation was to submit a planning application for works along the front of the parking area. This would trigger an investigation by Highways that would resolve the adoption status.

* 1. **Update on building work**

The building work is now completed and came in on budget; the flooring is due to be completed in late January. There is a small leak in the join of the roofs and there is a need to have more fire alarms to cover the store cupboard. Landscaping work still needs to be completed, including a safer path as an emergency exit.

1. **Other Parish Matters/ Topics for next agenda**
2. Meetings going forward.

Wednesday 20th March 2019 at 7.00pm.

Annual parish meeting – 8th May 6pm

Annual parish council meeting – 14th May 7pm

3rd September 7pm

7th January 2020 7pm

1. 2nd May 2019 parish council elections.

There is likely to be one vacancy. We know of one potential interested person.

1. **Correspondence**

None

1. **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 20th March 2019 at 7.00pm. Location: Combe Florey Village Hall

Meeting closes at 20.19