

Combe Florey Parish Council

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 07th September 2021 7.00 pm At Combe Florey Village Hall	Written by: Gemma Coombes (Parish Clerk)
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Annual Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Councillors Present

Cllr Robin Cleverly (Chair)
 Cllr Adriana Truby (Vice-chair)
 Cllr Nick Weeks
 Cllr Peter Tayler

In attendance

Gemma Coombes – Parish Clerk
 Parishioners x 6

2021/63) Welcome by Chairman

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

2021/64) Apologies

Cllr Anthony Trollop-Bellow - Somerset District Councillor. Absent due to attending full Council meeting in SWT
 Cllr Mike Rigby – Somerset county councillor and District Councillor. Absent due to attending full Council meeting in SWT
 Cllr Simon Hawes (RFO). Absent due to ill health on the day.

2021/65) Declarations of Interest

None declared

2021/66) Approval of minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the 24th May 2021 could not be signed, as there was no hard copy on the night. This will be approved at next meeting.

2021/67) Public participation

There is a request to participate during the meeting on a strict by request only business.

2021/68) Matters Arising

1. Upgraded broadband for the area, investigate grants to get better speeds. Airband have UK contract to supply to all houses who get less than 30mb so a large part of the parish is not under that scheme but we are hoping to use open reach for those who have faster broadband. Open reach have been in the village checking speeds during the week and performing viability surveys. Airband houses will not have entitlement to Open reach contract and vi-sa-versa.

2021/69) Somerset County councillor’s report (Cllr Rigby)

None provided

2021/70) Taunton Deane district report (Cllr Anothony Trollop-Bellow)

None provided

2021/71) Policing Report

None given

2021/72) Planning

1. **Current planning applications**
New build that is currently underway but planning officer has changed so awaiting update. No other news.
2. **Other planning matters**
None

2021/73) Finance

1. **Account balances**
 - a. Current account - Not read out at meeting as RFO was absent.

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Signed: [Chairman]

2. Remittances

a. None

3. Invoices for payment

The RFO was absent. Cllr Robin Cleverly read out the invoices for payment the Clerks wages and payment for PAYE were approved as wages were known and PAYE is deducted from this. Cllr Nick Weeks expenses will be approved at the next meeting due to not knowing exact amount.

a. Parish Clerk wages (June - September inclusive) £424.80 (before deductions) -

Proposed by Cllr Adriana Truby, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour.

b. HMRC (Clerks PAYE) - £. Proposed by Cllr Adriana Truby, seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour.

c. Cllr Nick Weeks expenses. - £- Carried forward

ii. **Other Finance matters.**

None raised as RFO is not present.

2021/74) Highways & 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.

There is talk of using a different land than what was originally discussed as the owner wanted too much to move it on to their land. Cllr Rigby was going to approach other landowner but we have had no further update yet.

2. Update on Farmers' Arms / A358 road junction and result of discussion with Highways Officer.

Rather than excavate all the hump away there is now a solar panel with flashing sign and there is an antiskid surface in place.

The possibility of mirrors was raised but this is not a highways option.

Closed off the agenda

2021/75) Village Maintenance

1. Village Garden

Grant for £443 for hedging has been applied for and November is the time to plant them. This is a close the fund community hedge fund that is trying to bring back native hedging.

There was good feedback from parishioners that suggest a native hedge would be good and most have said they would like the front opened up so it more inclusive as one garden without the middle partition.

There is very little in the middle that is of real value. It is planned to clear out the shed and there could be some nice seating around that area. There is a chance to use local wood to build benches and then get someone to build these from the materials.

Hedge will go where it is open on the back, the post and rail fence marks the line of the village garden. To plant hedges and seating does not need planning. There could be a compromise, you can see into neighbours garden in winter, there may need to be some hurdles to deal with this.

The aim is to be in a position to have a party in the garden by June to celebrate the jubilee.

A parishioner raised an objection to using taxpayers money to have to shield others privacy.

Putting up a fence will ruin the ambiance of the garden; most are in preference towards the hedge.

It was suggested by a Parishioner to re-name it the Norman garden as this was its original name.

Cllr Robin Cleverly points out this was never owned by the Normans. There are mins from 1961 in the Parish Meeting that the Norman family did not own the garden.

If we want to plant in November, we need to do some preparation work in September/ Oct. We need to get some plans sorted and then hold a parish garden meeting that shows the timings and cost etc. There is talk of getting rid of all the old trees including the old cheery tree but retaining the walnut. It is a good idea to have a working party first Tuesday 5th of Oct to get the plan together and visit the garden.

2. Repair to pump

This is finished and there is positive feedback this is now fully restored and working. This cost £1300 but the quote was £800. The engineering was £800 plus VAT and expenses.

It is a specialist job to do this.

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Signed: [Chairman]

There is an objection from the public floor that there should have been more quotes received. Due to this being a specialist job and needing special engineering work this was seen as a good price.

The water has been tested and it is advised that there are too many bugs and leaves and twigs in this for it to be drinkable. There could be chlorine tablets put in the sump but this wont last long. There is a sign there to say this should not be consumed. This water could be used for other things such as washing cars. There will be a retest every year for the quality of water.

3. Waste bin / dog waste bin

There have been a few people asking for a dog waste bin. There was bin outside the village hall and this bin has been removed after strong objections by the village hall this bin has been removed. If a new bin is to be installed, we need to put by the telephone box or in the village garden. It can not go by the cemetery as this is owned by the Combe Florey house estate. This has not been seen by the Parish Council.

There are a large amount of dog in the village.

There is a cost involved with dog waste bins and the cost is set by SWT.

There is a proposal to put a new bin in the village garden but this would need emptying and installing at costs.

4. Road signs

Finger posts cost a lot of money to restore in the official manor. Cllr Nick Weeks will contact a lentsman for this to see if he can help paint ours.

2021/76) Village Hall - Status report

The Village Hall have a good amount of funds now, some of the Ash Trees have die back and this is now under consideration of getting them removed before causing an issue to the hall. They are also looking at smarting up the front of the hall. They are just getting back to normal after Covid.

2021/77) Setting dates for 2022 meetings

5th of Oct Village Garden
11th Jan 2022
29th March 2022
10th May Annual Parish Meeting 2022
24th Annual Parish Council Meeting 2022
6th September 2022

2021/78) Topics for future meetings

Nothing raised.

2021/79) Correspondence

None.

2021/80) NEXT MEETING:

Parish Council Meeting 11th January 2021 7.00pm
Location: Combe Florey Village Hall
Meeting closes at 20.14

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Signed: [Chairman]