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| Combe Florey Parish Council |
| **Date of Meeting:**Wednesday 08th May 2019 7:00 pmAt Combe Florey Village Hall | **Written by:**Gemma Coombes (Parish Clerk) |

# Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

**Councillor’s Present**

**In attendance**

 Parishioners x 17

Cllr Peter Tayler,

Cllr Adriana Truby

Cllr Simon Hawes

Cllr Nick Weeks

1. **Welcome by Chairman**

The acting Chairman,Cllr Adriana Truby, welcomed the parishioners and thanked them for coming. She introduced the parish councillors and they all gave a brief introduction of the areas of the parish council they have been looking after in the last year. The chairperson read out a short statement to say this meeting is to discuss what we, as a parish, hope to accomplish in the forthcoming year.

1. **Apologies**

Cllr Robin Cleverly sends his apologies as he is away on business.

1. **Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes from the 02nd May 2018 were taken and read. It is proposed to adopt the minutes by Cllr Adriana Truby and seconded by Cllr Peter Tayler, all in favour with adopting the minutes. Signed by acting Chairman

1. **Chairman’s Report**

This is the first of the two annual meetings that we are required to hold by law: the annual parish meeting and the annual parish council meeting.

This first meeting, the Annual Parish Meeting, must be held in April or May. Although the event is NOT a formal Parish Council meeting it is facilitated and funded by the Parish Council for the benefit of the community. All parish electors are entitled to attend, speak, and vote. Parish Councillors are here in their own right and are members of the public for the purposes of the meeting.

The Chair of the Parish Council is ex-officio the chair of this meeting; as he is absent Cllr Adriana Truby will chair the meeting.

There is no prescribed agenda for a parish meeting, other than the formal approval of the minutes of last year’s meeting. This meeting will include reports from the Chair, and local groups of general interest. This will be followed by a public forum when you can air issues and ask the Parish Council to investigate certain matters which are of concern. It helps set the Parish Council’s priorities for the next year.

Afterwards there will be refreshments and an opportunity for more informal discussions.

The second of these mandatory meetings is the Annual Parish Council Meeting which will be held on 14th May. The agenda for this is more prescribed and consists of the election of the chairman for the following year and includes the annual compliance and governance statements. Any items raised today will be put on the agenda and discussed formally.

1. **Financial Report**

The finances up to the year financial year ending 2019 have been prepared; they have been submitted for internal audit and will be adopted at the next meeting on the 14th of May. As we are a small council, we do not need a full audit we can have an internal audit and make a declaration.

We are keeping the precept the same at £4000 this year as it is felt this is a sufficient amount of money for the council to maintain business on. In addition to the precept we receive a burial ground grant and this is transferred to the Parochial Church Council for the maintenance of the graveyard. We also receive a footpath grant that we use to pay to keep the foot paths clear of overgrowth and debris.

The main expenses during last financial year were: Clerk’s salary and PAYE, village hall hire, money to village hall to help get storage, insurance costs, Lengthsman, footpath maintenance and parish website.

We are well funded so if there are any ideas of what you wish to see happening in the parish please bring that to the attention of the Council and it can be raised for discussion

1. **Somerset County Councillor (Mike Rigby) report**

None provided

1. **District Councillors report**

None provided

1. **Police report (Louise Fyne, PCSO)**

Louise was not able to attend this meeting as she was not on shift but provided a brief report, the report states there were 250 calls logged. Your local PCSO is visiting the neighbourhood watch assigned person for the area to discuss how they can get the monthly newsletters.

1. **Report from local groups**
	1. **Andy Stevenson – Life as a Quantock Ranger**

**What we do:**

Every day as a Quantock Ranger is different and as most land is owned privately we check ponies, help with swailing programme (burning of gorse etc in winter months), work with the commoners and help with volunteer groups to dry stone wall, guided walks, give talks, and hedge lay.

There is a management plan produced every 5 years to show the programme of work and projects for the next 5 years. You can give your opinion about anything you feel should be included next time.

There is a big project ongoing to put together a plan to get a lottery grant to do things like create hedge banks and community woodlands. They will know if this has been a successful application for the grant in December 2019.

There is lots of deer, bat, reptile surveys etc that take place throughout the year. The deer figures for this year are down from the normal 550 (approx.) red deer to 330 this year, however on the day of the count there was severe fog which hampered the count. Another issue that is considered is light pollution from Hinkley point as the deer do not like it. Also, there is a lot of elephant grass around and it is impossible to count them in there.

It is asked if you are on the hills and you see anything that should not be happening please report to the police on 101 so these things can be logged.

**Who we are:**

We are working on the outstanding natural beauty area of the Quantock hills, 99 square kilometres in total including some coastline parts. The funding comes from county council and district council, Defra, natural England and various donations. There is a team of 6 people doing things including rangers, planning officer, fund raiser and volunteer coordinator. There is also a nature and wellbeing officer as well who helps people with needs to access the Quantock Hills.

**Questions:**

What is happing about trophy hunting and hunting? The rangers have no enforcement powers but if they find people driving places they should not be and damaging the hill side etc they will phone the police. There does not seem to be too much of an issue with poaching at this time. There seems to be a lot of wild camping and fly tipping along with raves that take place, also drone flying that is not allowed on the Quantocks without express permission.

* 1. **Parochial Church Council**

No report provided

* 1. **Village hall**

Phillip Greenway sent a report to say:

The village hall committee has had a good year, with an income of nearly £15,000 from fund raising events including the Plant Sale, Quiz Night, Summer Party, Autumn Fun Show and Christmas bazaar.  The Book Mart, held every three weeks, which has now been running for over five years, raised nearly half of this amount.
 The village hall committee are grateful to the Parish Council for the grant of £2,000 towards the building of the extension, and this work is now complete.  Tony French drew up the plans for this, and oversaw the work, but sadly passed away earlier this year.
The hall is used regularly by several groups including the WI, Art Circle and Bowls Club, and this gives an annual income of over £3,500.
More events are planned for the near future, including the first film night on Friday, 10th May, when Mary Poppins Returns will be shown.
The committee relies on the support of people in the parish, while running it for their benefit and enjoyment.

1. **Public Forum, discussion and general questions:**

**Establish parishioners’ priorities for forthcoming year.**

* It has been said that the cemetery is nearly full now. As people will wish to be buried there, is this something we could look into? Maybe find a new plot?
* The war memorial sits in the grounds of the church, should the Church ever be sold or taken over we could lose access to this. Maybe we should think about relocating it to the village garden?
* As we are now part of Somerset West and Taunton, we would be eligible to apply for the KIM grant. It was suggested that we use the money to help maintain the graveyard. It was stated at the time that giving money to the Church is problematic as explored before.
* Does Mark Perry cut Nethercott lane? Please could he also do Trebles Holford as the sight lines are poor. The parish council have agreed to do this and have agreed to speak to him to ask about this. Could he please also keep the slow down sign clear on the verge as during summer?
* It was suggested to move the foot path so as to not have to walk up the main road so we can walk up the inside of the field, As the land current footpath rate change or new rate is 30 years, we may have to ask the land owner.
* Richard Ashton asked about the access road off the A358 to the Farmers’ Arms/Coggan’s Lane. He is concerned about the road access points. There is an evaluation taking place. Listed on the agenda under the Highways.

Meeting closed at 20.15

1. **Next Parish Council Meeting:**

Date: Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 7pm

Location: Combe Florey Village Hall

**Next Annual Parish Meeting:**

Date to be set next year.