

# Combe Florey Parish Council

<b>Date of Meeting:</b> Tuesday 10th May 2022 7:00 pm At Combe Florey Village Hall	<b>Written by:</b> Gemma Coombes (Parish Clerk)
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## Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

### Councillor's Present

Cllr Robin Cleverly (Chair)  
 Cllr Simon Hawes (RFO)  
 Cllr Nick Weeks  
 Cllr Chris Steel  
 Cllr John Passingham

### In attendance

Parishioners x 15  
 Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew

### 2022/1) Welcome by Chairman - Robin Cleverly

The chairman Cllr Robin Cleverly welcomes the parishioners in attendance. 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 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 and the minutes will be taken by the Parish Council Clerk, Gemma Coombes.

There is no prescribed agenda for a parish meeting, other than the formal approval of the minutes of last year's meeting. The agenda for tonight, as you will have seen, will include reports from the Chair, the Treasurer, 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 review any matters which are of concern. It helps set the Parish Council's priorities for the next year.

The second of these mandatory meetings is the Annual Parish Council Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 24th 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. As it is an election year and there is a new council the councillors will be required to sign a formal declaration of acceptance of office. Any items raised today will be put on the agenda and discussed formally.

Cllr Robin Cleverly introduced the newly elected councillors, Cllr Chris Steel and Cllr John Passingham who came into post officially as of the 09/05/2022. They will be signing their acceptance to office and declarations of interest for the next meeting. These Councillors were elected in the uncontested election on the 5th of May 2022. Cllr Cleverly then goes on to thank the Councillors we have said goodbye to this year. Cllr Adriana Truby who served 4 years on the Council and Cllr Peter Tayler who served 9 years on the Council.

### 2022/2) Apologies for absence

Louise Fyne the PCSO has sent her apologies as she is off work this week.

### 2022/3) Adoption of Minutes

The minutes from the 17th May 2021 were taken and read. It is proposed to adopt the minutes by Cllr Simon Hawes and seconded by Cllr Chris Steel , All in favour of adopting the minutes. Signed by Chairman.

### 2022/4) Chairman's Report

The past year has been mainly business as usual. We have received 14 planning applications over the year– which were all supported by the Parish Council. Of these, they have all received conditional approval except for a pending application for a major extension at Shuttern. The other major projects were for an extension at April Cottage and for demolition and a new building at Combe End. We had five applications for tree felling (one was later withdrawn) and I fear that this is only the start as the effects of ash die-back are beginning to be felt.

Work on the village garden has been proceeding slower than I had hoped but much of the area has now been cleared, 100 native hedge plants have been planted along the south and east sides, and the area between the brick buttresses has been levelled. Future work will involve more

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Signed: ..... [Chairman]

turfing, making a seating area, and ensuring that the wall is safe. There has also been a suggestion that we instal a children’s swing so that is something to be discussed. We will also look at the logistics and costs of installing a waste bin.

Work on the village pump was completed last summer and is now fully in use. I have received many positive comments, including from an enthusiastic group of Squirrels (junior scouts) who used water from the pump when planting daffodils and primroses as part of their community service and gardening badges.

We are still working to make a slight change to the footpath that leads to Ash Priors to avoid the dogleg across the B3224. The necessary agreements are mostly in place so I hope that will be done in the next year.

There are still issues with the poor road conditions, especially along Tower Lane and we will continue to nag the council. The change to a unitary council may make a difference here as there will now be a single organisation responsible for both road cleaning and repair.

I would like to conclude this report with thanks to members of the parish council and the clerk for their work during the year.

A Parishioner asked if the farmer has agreed the change of footpath. Cllr Robin Cleverly explains this has been an ongoing process that has included talks with the landowner. Cllr Mike Rigby from Somerset County Council has been dealing with this and is hoping to get this resolved as soon as possible.

**2022/5) Financial Report**

Cllr Simon Hawes stated the Council finances are in a good state and the annual finances will be approved at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in two weeks' time. The yearly audit will be conducted by an internal auditor first on behalf of the Parish Council then sent to the external auditors.

The Precept (the amount the Council has each year to run and its source of income) has remained unchanged for 8 years. This year there has also been a VAT reclaim and there has been a grant for trees/ hedging that was used for planting the hedge in the Village Garden.

Cllr Hawes gives a run through the main expenses of the council.

The Council pays for a village lengthsman who keeps all the verges tidy and trims any overgrown areas and helps keep the Parish tidy. There has been some money spent on the village garden and the pump restoration this year.

Cash held now (prior to this year's Precept) is £6.5K, which is a year and a half of precept. This year's Precept has just been paid in so that takes the total to £10.5K.

Cllr Hawes encourages people to come forward with ideas on ways to spend money that will help the Parish.

A parishioner asks how much the council have spent on the pump. Cllr Hawes informs it was £1300 spent over 2 years to restore the pump.

A parishioner suggest getting a mental cut out of a soldier to go in the village for remembrance. It is possible for them to be out all year but it may have more impact if only out for remembrance.

The parishioner who suggested this is happy to look into costs and report back to the council.

A Parishioner asks about the need for quotes to be obtained for works carried out and services retained by the council. The Parishioner feels the council should have standards set out such as two quotes from £300- £1000 or three quotes over £1000. Cllr Hawes explains how he looks after the councils finances as RFO and feels this is done always with the best integrity. A further Parishioner expresses it is also a safe guard for the council to make sure there are no family members involved. Cllr Hawes invited any parishioners to feel free to attend the meetings if you have any concerns.

To be added to the agenda for the next meeting to set a list of prescribed standing orders list ref finances.

**2022/6) Somerset County Councillor report**

There are no County Councillors here tonight.

**2022/7) District Councillors report (Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew)**

Elections on the 5th of May 2022 were to elect the new councillors for the unitary authority that comes into force 1st of April 2023, this means on the 31st March 2023 Somerset West and

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

Taunton will cease to existence and all activities carried out by them now will then be carried out by Somerset County Council unitary authority.

Ash die back is a real issue and if you have an Ash tree even if it shows no signs of disease it could fall very easily so please get a professional to remove it.

Phosphates on the levels have been causing problems with planning for a while now. This means and you cannot be adding to the phosphate levels with any planning. The issues are relative to where you live and if there is a RAMSAR site, if there is one it causes more phosphate issues.

The new recycling scheme is now in place and the amount of recycling has gone up, food waste recycling has also gone up as well. There will be a new van coming around to fix electrical items, if they cannot be fixed they will be recycled by many things are thrown away when they could be replaced. Everything you put in the recycling in Somerset is recycled it does not go to landfill.

The Quantock hills have a yearly burn out so they do not burn out when you do not want them to. This stops things happening and causing fires either on purpose or by accident.

A Parishioner asks about the move of the carpark at crowcombe. Cllr Trollope-Bellew explains this is an ongoing due to some issues that were incurred. A further Parishioner suggest there should be some more signage to tell people to keep dogs on leads and not to feed the ponies, people are making the ponies to tame and this is causing an issue as they then expect to be fed. Dogs should be kept on leads to prevent them chasing sheep or other livestock.

**2022/8) Update on Police matters and what the PCSOs do for the community (Louise Fyne, PCSO)**  
no report given as Louise is on leave.

**2022/9) Report from local groups**

**1. Parochial Church Council**

Due to Covid lockdown the church had faced several lockdowns and it reopened in Easter 2021. There have been weddings that had been delayed and fundraising event that raised £400.

The priest retired and the church is now being managed by a priest who has five parishes to manage as best as he can. In Jan 2022, all Covid-19 restrictions were lifted and this is the first time there could be a full attendance for any services.

Fund raising for the roof is going to be broken down into smaller sections and the quote for the first section of work is for £40K.

The PCC thank the parish council for the grant for the burial ground that is moved passed over every year from Somerset West and Taunton

**2. Village hall**

There have been a couple of quiet years due to Covid but there has now been a quiz night raising funds for Ukraine refugees and there has been a plant sell. The Christmas bazar is being considered for later this year but there have been a change of appetite for things since Covid. The Village Hall have regular bookings but in the last two years, there have been several losses of classes and this is causing a financial impact.

There has been some painting undertaken outside and the inside of the hall is now cleaned on a regular 6-week basis.

There were grant applied for during Covid that helped with losses in revenue.

There is going to be some work undertaken in the carpark in 2022 and there will be some Ash trees removed from the back after the bird have finished nesting.

Cllr Robin Cleverly said about the fact the fire exit needs moving to an area that there is a clear exit for escape.

**2022/10) Village Jubilee update**

The event on the 3rd of June has now sold 38 tickets for the Jubilee event. This will be along the lines of the event that took place 10 years ago. The budget has been approved to be underwritten by the Parish Council and it is anticipated there will be a small loss to be covered by the parish council.

There will be a road closure from 10am - 5pm, meats cooked on the BBQ, all vegetarian foods will be cooked on a different BBQ, tables in the street but this is weather dependant, salads need to be provided by yourself. There will be some beer and soft drinks available and hopefully a glass of bubbly to toast her majesty.

Parking should not be an issue as the road will be closed. The village hall have offered to provide the hall to serve strawberries, the village hall are only insured to hold 60 people so we hope there will be good weather.

It is asked to bring your own chair if you can, such as a fold up chair as seating will be limited.

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

**2022/11) Village Garden, open discussion**

The village garden is moving slowly forward. There are some more things to do now such as the wall at the back of the garden. There are some differences of opinion on if the wall should be pointed and the stability for some areas of the wall. There have been some quotes obtained for pointing the wall and they are come in at approx £2.5K, this is lime pointing and we are looking at lime pointing specialists. There has been some suggestions that the pointing does not need doing so this needs to be looked at to ensure if the wall is not pointed it is safe. This is a party wall and the people the other side have been maintaining their side. The neighbours have built up some of the wall and the part they have built up is seen as theirs but we could be liable for the bottom of the wall. Someone offered to remove the buttress for free as he could reuse the bricks, the bricks are 21 hole Victorian bricks, could this be done by us and sell the bricks. The area where the old shed was has now been levelled off, this is the area the seat will go.

Now we are entering phase 2 we need to look at costs and what is wanted. The RFO is suggesting a budget of £2-3K over a couple of years but the wall need to be done this is a big project and could eat a big part of our budget. It is suggested if there is a gap between what we want to do and budget we can do fund raising. We also need to consider the annual maintenance costs. There was an issues in the past if it was to be kept or sold but the majority wanted to keep it as a community asset, as we are keeping it as a community asset we should do things like working parties to keep costs down.

What will the garden be used for? It needs to be a clear vision before we ask for quotes for garden design for example. Cllr John Passingham has a garden designer who is happy to offer his services for £100 to the council to provide a clear plan going forwards. There has been a request for a swing to be installed but there are issues around insurance and ongoing maintenance with this option but the person suggesting has offered to pay for the swing. This is more of a place of quiet contemplation, this is where we see people after they have visited the church or stopping from a bike ride or hike.

A Parishioner suggests contacting Cannington College to see if a student would like to design the garden as part of their course. The youth justice board is also worth contacting for ongoing maintenance.

There was a suggestion a while ago about a Jubilee tree, a parishioner has expressed a wish that this is carried out. This can be planted in the Autumn.

**2022/12) Public Forum, discussion and general questions:  
Establish parishioners' priorities for forthcoming year.**

A Parishioner has suggested a newsletter where all different information / news goes from groups such as the WI, Village Hall, Church, pub and Parish Council. This would need to have someone who is passionate about this to run and maintain it.  
Cllr Steel is happy to look at the GDPR surrounding this.

A parishioner suggested the parish council notice board is the go to place for things but should all the parish council meetings be emailed out to everyone? This can be covered if there is a newsletter.

Nethercott lane from A358 is in pour state of repair, this was after the A358 was closed and there was very poor signage. This issue needs to be reported to Somerset County Council.

The pull in by Trebbles Holford needs some attention, when we asked Mark to look at it last year it was done when he got there. Cllr Simon Hawes will ask Mark to have a look at it again this year for us.

**Meeting closed:** at 20.42

**2022/13) Next Parish Council Meeting:**  
Date: Tuesday 24th May 2022 at 7pm  
Location: Combe Florey Village Hall  
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**Signed:** ..... [Chairman]

Date to be set next year.

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