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| Combe Florey Parish Council | | |
| **Date of Meeting:**  Tuesday 24th March 2020 7.00 pm  Meeting held remotely | | **Written by:**  Gemma Coombes (Parish Clerk) |

# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**Councillors**

Cllr Robin Cleverly (Chairman)

Cllr Simon Hawes

Cllr Nick Weeks

Cllr Adriana Truby

Cllr Peter Tayler

Clerk: Gemma Coombes

1. Welcome by Chairman

Owing to the coronavirus restrictions this meeting was held remotely by email. The agenda had been updated to this effect inviting parishioners to contact the clerk if they had any matters to bring up.

1. Apologies for absence

None

1. Declarations of Interest

None

1. Approval of minutes of last meeting

Approved. Proposed by Cllr Cleverly; seconded by Cllr Hawes, all in favour.

1. Public participation

None

1. Matters Arising
   1. **Consider the cemetery being nearly full.**

No progress

Action: remove from agenda.

* 1. **Letter ref Coggans lane**

Reply received from SCC: I have checked our gazetteer and the road in question is not named. The gazetteer is the database which has all street/road names and property addresses in the council area. It is possible to request for the name of the road to be registered and added to the gazetteer.

Action: Not a priority for the PC – remove from agenda.

1. Somerset County councillor’s report

None provided

1. Somerset West and Taunton District report

None provided

1. Policing report

None provided

1. Planning
   * 1. **Current planning applications**
        1. **Application No 11/20/0001 Chesil House, Combe Florey**

Owing to restrictions on meetings the PC were unable to make a site visit. However the councillors are all familiar with the site and have no objections to the planning application, and consider that the proposals represent a worthwhile upgrade and modernisation.

* + 1. **Other planning matters**
       1. **Alleged illegal occupancy of stable next to Farmers Arms railway bridge**

Response from Myra Spalding, Planning and Enforcement Officer, SCC:

Dear Cllr Trollope-Bellew

Thank you for your e-mail and how timely!  I actually trekked across to these stables yesterday.   I could see no evidence that it is being lived in – there were no fresh tyre marks across the land, there were some alcohol bottles outside which had been there for a while and appear to suggest that perhaps it is used periodically ?  I have the contact number for the owner who I will be contacting shortly to establish the exact situation.

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Further to my e-mail yesterday, I have now spoken with the Owner.

He has categorically assured me that there is no-one living at the stables.  As this was also my own observations, this case will be closed unless further evidence comes to light to suggest otherwise.

Mr Harker was concerned to hear that these enquiries had been made as he stated that he has had similar spurious ones made in the past.  He is intending to speak with Mr Cleverly in an attempt to get to the bottom of this.

Please do not hesitate to contact me further if you wish to discuss.

This issue has been resolved – for now. The PC will keep an eye on the site for any changes. Note that the owner has not contacted the PC.

Action: Remove from agenda

1. Finance
   * 1. **Account balance**

Current account: £7,420.24

* + 1. **Remittances**

None

* + 1. **Invoices for payment**
       - Parish Clerk wages £162.60
       - Parish Clerk expenses £7.20
       - HMRC £40.60
       - Mark Perry (Lengthsman) £820
       - Burial grant payments to church £350
       - Footpath payment to John Passingham £100

The Chairman seeks approval for payment of invoices. All invoices were sent out by the RFO and one set of approvals sort. Proposed by Cllr Adriana Truby and seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly.

* 1. The RFO made councillors aware that CFPC’s auditors, PKF Littlejohn, has emailed, explaining that the 2019/20 AGAR instructions have been delayed due to the Coronavirus measures and Government announcement on 23 March 2019. They will be writing to us with further instructions in due course.

1. Highways & Footpaths
2. **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.**

Carry forward as no update has been provided.

1. **Update on Farmers’ Arms / A358 road junction and result of discussion with Highways Officer.**

Carry forward as no update has been provided.

1. Village Maintenance.

Thomosina Hobhouse and Mark Lewis have made good progress in cutting back at the village garden. They have been unable to get onto the adjacent land (for which they have permission from the land-owner) to chip the cuttings, due to the wet weather. A chipper would cut the ground up. They are hoping to do this within the next week, at which stage they will render an account for their work to date.

1. Village Hall

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

By a notice dated 2nd March the Secretary of State has now authorised the stopping up of the highway corresponding to the village hall car park to allow the development to go ahead.

1. State of road between Hawkins Barton and the wood yard & also Combe Down Lane connecting with B3224

Kerry Jones, who helped last year with the Farmers Arms junction, has been contacted and asked for help but no progress on this yet.

1. Water seepage through wall by Cox's pond

This was reported to Meyrick Cox several times: this is his response:

Just to let you know that Jon [Manning] checked the sluice; and it is exactly as imagined. You may also recall that the Council replaced the pipe under the road into our property, so as to reduce the flooding on the road at that point. The 18” inlet pipe far exceeds the Victorian 5” outlet pipe, so inevitably in periods of heavy rain, the overflow will function as designed.

This tends to come up on at least an annual basis. Would it be possible to explain to those who are concerned how the system works; and that water flowing onto the road after periods of heavy rain is simply the system functioning as it is designed to. If it did not, there would be considerably more pressure on the walls of the lake and I dread to think what might happen.

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February has apparently been the wettest on record, so it's unsurprising that there is a lot of water around. It takes time for this all to filter through from the higher ground to the streams and into our ponds, so I would expect there to continue to be high water levels for a period. As I said, the over flow is there for just such circumstances.

I have inspected the pond this morning and it all appears to be functioning just as the engineers intended.

The issue of the seepage through the wall was not addressed by Mr Cox. This seepage has largely ceased now due to drier weather.

Action: Remove from agenda

1. Coronavirus / Business Continuity Motion

In response to the Government’s guidelines on meetings, parish council meetings will be held remotely until further notice.

There was some discussion about PC instigating a more formal help service for those unable to get out but it was felt that the community was sufficiently close-knit for that to be necessary.

The village hall website has details about local businesses offering take-away services, including the Farmers’ Arms.

1. Topics for future meetings

Nothing proposed

1. Correspondence

None

1. Next Meetings:

Date: Tuesday 5th May at 7.00pm for annual parish meeting & Tuesday 26th May for annual parish council meeting.

Unless the advice has changed by May and subject to advice from NALC, due to the coronavirus restrictions the annual parish meeting will not be held.

The annual parish meeting on 26th May will also be held remotely.

Parishioners are asked to contact the clerk to bring any matters to the attention of the PC.