

# COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held at the Town Hall on  
Monday, 8 February, 2010, at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Julia Clark, (Chairman) Ray Druce, Eric Hughes, Steve Seldon, Tracey Seldon,  
Jill Sidebottom, Peter Spencer.

In Attendance: PCSO Ade Drury, 7 Parishioners, Michelle Beaumont (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Cllrs Yvette Gubb, Trevor Kibble, John Martin, Sue Sussex, Arthur Yelton.  
County Cllr Andrea Davis.

The Parish Council meeting was opened with prayers.

## 202/09 **Matters arising from the Public Session**

### a Repairs to wall at Barton Gate Lane

The Parish Council will be obtaining quotations for repair works to the wall at the bottom of Barton Gate Lane, as soon as ownership issues have been resolved.

### b Railings at Newberry Road

It was confirmed that the railings at Newberry Road are owned by DCC, who have been made aware of their need for repair.

### c TV reception

It was confirmed that this Council had contacted both Nick Harvey, MP and ITV to complain at the loss of some channels and the poor quality of the reception since the switchover to digital TV.

### d Swing in Arnold's Plot

It was agreed to check that the missing swing in Arnold's Plot was the one that had been vandalised last month, and to find out when it was to be replaced.

## 203/09 **Police Report**

PCSO Drury reported that in the last four weeks there had been 8 crimes compared with 16 in the same period last year. These were:

- 1 theft of gate
- 1 burglary to dwelling
- 1 damage to waste pipe on building
- 1 domestic related assault

1 assault and 1 public order offence (same incident)  
1 damage to front door  
1 damage to vehicle

204/09 **Vandalism Report**

There was no vandalism to report.

205/09 **County Councillors' report**

In 44 days this winter DCC used one and a half times the amount of grit normally used in an entire winter. DCC will shortly be carrying out special road inspections to identify all the defects caused by the extreme cold weather.

Use of the mobile library service has declined considerably, so DCC is carrying out research to work out how to encourage greater usage of the service and safeguard this service both for older people and those who live in isolated areas.

206/09 **Adoption of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January, 2010, and the Extra-Ordinary meeting be confirmed and signed as a true record.

207/09 **Planning**

a Applications

The clerk declared an interest in the following item and left the room.

49581 – PROPOSED EXTENSIONS TO DWELLING AT WYNNESTEAD,  
KING STREET,

Applicant: - Mrs Agnes Bates

The letter of objection from parishioners was noted.

RESOLVED to advise the planning authority that this Council is responding not as a statutory consultee but as a neighbour, as the Parish Council owns the lane adjacent to the application site.

This Council recognises the applicant's desire to modernise an old property, but has the following concerns about the application:

a The planning authority is asked to satisfy itself that the application complies with the regulations regarding overlooking of adjoining properties, and neighbour's rights to air and light,

b Cracks have recently appeared in the neighbouring property's walls, since works commenced at the application site. The planning authority is asked to seek advice from building control about this.

c Concerns have been raised by neighbours about the roof construction and its effect upon the neighbouring property,

d Concerns have been raised by neighbours about possible alterations to drains serving both properties and the effect this might have on the neighbouring property,

e The proposed car port is reached by an unconsented access onto Barton Gate Lane, created by the demolition of the boundary wall. Although this is a legal rather than a planning matter, the applicant needs to seek a right of way from the owners of the lane, Combe Martin PC.

f Government advice is to reduce parking spaces, but Combe Martin suffers badly from a lack of parking and poor public transport. There are already parking problems in Barton Gate Lane, no nearby car park and no waiting at any time restrictions on the highway to the front of the property. The planning authority is therefore asked to consider whether a six bedroom dwelling is adequately served by one proposed space.

f It is understood that neighbour notification has not been carried out correctly.

Combe Martin Parish Council recommends REFUSAL of the present application, until a re-submission to the satisfaction of the planning authority is made. Should a re-submission be made, the planning authority is requested to advise Combe Martin Parish Council and permit it the opportunity to comment as a neighbouring property before approval is granted.

Cllr S Seldon abstained from voting.

#### 49693 - PROPOSED SITING OF FLUE AT 7 LONDON COURT, LYNTON ROAD

Applicant - Mr R Hyde

RESOLVED to advise the planning authority that this Council has no objections to the above proposal.

#### b NDC's Planning decisions

##### *Approvals*

49373 - Amended formation of balconies at Harbour Rise, Lester Point

##### *Refusals*

47199 - Retrospective application for erection of lion enclosure - Combe Martin Wildlife and Dinosaur Park, Higher Leigh

49389 - Retrospective application to divide one dwelling into two dwellings - Sweetbriar Cottage, Hams Place

#### c Planning correspondence

##### i *NDC - Appeal by Mr R Seldon, Knappdown Farm, Shute Lane*

It was noted that the appeal had been withdrawn, following the issue of the certificate which was originally applied for. Cllr S Seldon's interest in the matter was noted.

##### ii *NDC - Westleigh Farm*

It was not possible for a representative to be sent to the appeal Inquiry being held on 10 March, 2010. RESOLVED to write to NDC, by email, re-iterating this Council's original support of NDC's decision.

208/09 **Update on the Parade**

Notes of the Parade Working Party meeting held on 13 January, 2010 were accepted. It was noted that Cllr Yvette Gubb had also been present at the meeting, and that the costings were being provided by Simon Dovell and PWJ. A date is to be set for a meeting to look at other details required for the grant application.

209/09 **Committee membership and representatives to outside bodies**

a **Highways, Property and Planning Committee and Parks and Open Spaces Committee**

RESOLVED that Cllr John Martin be asked to become a member of the HPP Committee in order to balance out the membership of both committees. If this is acceptable, the committee membership would be:

<u>HPP</u>	<u>POS</u>
Chairman	Chairman
Vice-Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Peter Spencer (Chairman)	Cllr Steve Seldon (Chairman)
Cllr Ray Druce (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Trevor Kibble (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Eric Hughes (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Yvette Gubb
Cllr Arthur Yelton	Cllr Jill Sidebottom (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr John Martin	Cllr Sue Sussex

b **Audit Committee**

As agreed at Item 2 of the Audit Committee meeting on 25 January, 2010, RESOLVED to ask Cllr Kibble to become a member of the Audit Committee. If this is agreed, Cllr Mrs Sussex would step down from the committee.

c **Museum**

RESOLVED that Cllr Seldon will no longer be this Council's representative to the Museum, and he will be replaced by Cllr Mrs Clark.

210/09 **Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

a **Min 187/09 - Bathing Water Working Party – 3 February, 2010**

The notes of the meeting of the Bathing Water Working Party meeting held on 3 February, 2010, were ADOPTED, and are to be referred to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee meeting.

b **Min 192/09 - Traffic consultation meeting**

The meeting to feed back the results of the traffic consultation is to be held on 10 March, 2010, in the Village Hall (subject to confirmation that the hall is available).

211/09 **Committee Reports**

a **Parks and Open Spaces – 27 January, 2010**

Minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 27 January, 2010, and the notes of the site meeting were ADOPTED, subject to:

i Cllr Druce asking Mr T Yeo for his advice on the railings rather than Mr G Seldon.

- ii It was agreed that the details of the construction of the compost heap, which had been decided at the site meeting, need to be amended and Cllr Seldon will provide the Clerk with revised specifications.
- iii As both the identified locations for the dog signs at the slipway entrance to Combe Martin Beach are on property owned by other organisations, it was agreed to apply to DCC for permission for the wall and to look at putting a post in front of the SWW cabinet to house the sign.

b Highways Property and Planning – 25 January, 2010

Minutes of the Highways Property and Planning Committee meeting held on 25 January, 2010, were ADOPTED, subject to:

- i noting that any proposed conservation areas would be the subject of public consultation before they could be adopted, which will give villagers the opportunity to express their views on the proposals.
- ii accepting Mr Draper's quotation for £169 to clear the blockage in the chimney and re-instate the gas fire at Eberleigh House.

c Audit – 25 January, 2010

Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 25 January, 2010, were ADOPTED, subject to:

- i noting that the Internal Auditor had confirmed that the four policy documents are all satisfactory,
- ii referring the Anti Fraud and Corruption policy back to the Audit Committee to consider paragraphs 7.2.2 and 7.3.1 regarding the chain of notification.
- iii it was agreed that Audit Committee members would take it in turn to check the monthly bank reconciliations before Audit Committee meetings and report to the committee that this had been done.

212/09 **Traffic Consultation**

The notes from the meeting held on 29 January, 2010, with the County Councillor, officers from DCC and NDC and the police, were ADOPTED.

213/09 **Representatives to Outside Bodies**

a Community Centre

The IT server at the Community Centre is no longer working. Transform has agreed to pay for the repair works to be done.

b Tourism Association

The Tourism Association is concerned that the newly consented discharge at Sandy Cove will have an adverse effect upon the bathing water quality. The TIC has lost its funding from North Devon+ as well as Exmoor National Park, but is trying hard to raise replacement funding.

c Conservation Group

The Conservation Group is concerned about the bathing water quality and it

was agreed to provide the Group with details what the Bathing Water Working Party is doing and anything that they might help with.

214/09 **Chairman's Report**

Neighbourhood Watch has advised that there is a new phone scam in which the caller tries to obtain bank details under the pretence of a council tax rebate/the preventing of unwanted phone calls.

Devon and Cornwall Police will be sending two people from the Communications Room at Exeter, who man the telephone lines to talk to the Parish Council meeting in March, 2010.

The article in the North Devon Journal about the bathing water was incorrect in the details it gave about the bathing water results. RESOLVED to write to the Editor, to ask for these mistakes to be corrected.

It seems that NDC has decided not to award this Council a Beach grant for 2010-11, although notification has not yet been received. RESOLVED to write to NDC's Leader, Cllr M Prowse and the Journal expressing this Council's disappointment, especially as the decision seems to have been made so late in the day, and NDC must be aware that this Council would have included this sum in its budgets, as NDC asks Councils to set their budgets to provide NDC with the precept amount by mid January each year.

215/09 **Correspondence**

a The following items were noted:

Mrs L Hughes – thank you note

Combe Martin Tourism Association, Minutes of Meetings 03 December 2009 and 21 January 2010

Devon and Cornwall Police – Neighbourhood Policing Team Newsletters

NALC – Buckingham Palace Garden Parties - invitation to enter in draw

Exmoor National Park – Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum. Items for Agenda

Cormelles Le Royal – Annual Report

Senior Council for Devon – Newsletter

Devon Community recycling – Junkmail

Transform - Annual Report 2008-09

b Mrs Withers - request for pavement improvements at Church Street

RESOLVED to send Mrs Withers' request for pavement improvements at Church Street to the highway authority, DCC.

c Nick Harvey, MP - Questionnaire on problems in the recent bad weather

RESOLVED to refer Mr Harvey's questionnaire on problems experienced in the recent bad weather to the Emergency Officer.

d The following items were referred to the Highways, Property and Planning Committee:

North Devon Council – Letting Council and Housing Association homes in Devon  
North Devon Council - Draft Core Strategy Newsletter  
Devon Library Service – Parish Council Survey

e The following items were referred to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee:

North Devon AONB – Annual Report 2008-09  
- Explore the North Devon Coast Project

#### 216/09 **Finance**

a Monthly balances

The monthly balances for December, 2009, and January, 2010, were noted.

b Payments

The invoices for payment set out on the Financial Reports were approved following recommendation by the Chairman and Cllr E Hughes.

c Internal Audit

The Internal Auditor had carried out an interim audit on 1 February, 2010, and his report was noted. Cheque number 4916 had been made out in the sum of £35, but the invoice was for £26.10. RESOLVED to approve the payment of £35, as the invoice had been for flowers only for the Flower Festival, and the cheque had been rounded up to £35 in recognition of the work of Mrs Chater in making up the flower arrangement.

#### 217/09 **Dates of Committee Meetings**

Parks and Open Spaces – 3 March, 7pm  
Highways Property and Planning – 22 February, 7pm  
Parade Working Party - 1 March, 7pm  
Bathing Water Working Party – 17 March, 7pm

#### 218/09 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS AND RESTRICTION OF DOCUMENTS**

RESOLVED:

a That under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and the press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, ie information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

b That all reports and documents relating to the items be confirmed as ‘Not for publication’.

219/09 **Access to Parish Council land**

RESOLVED to take the steps set out in the attached report.

220/09 **Employee A008 - second employment**

There were no objections to the employee having a second weekend employment, providing that any such employment would not bring this Council into disrepute.

221/09 **Traffic Consultation**

a RESOLVED that the Parks and Open Spaces Committee should look at the issues which relate to off-street parking and bring recommendations back to the Parish Council meeting in March.

b RESOLVED that the Highways, Property and Planning Committee will look at the issues which the Police, District and County Council have agreed to look at with respect to the streets.

222/09 **Matters arising from the Parade Committee meeting held on 27 January, 2010**

RESOLVED to take the steps set out in the attached report.

The meeting closed at 9.28pm.

..... Chairman