

COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held at the Town Hall on
Monday, 12 July, 2010, at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Julia Clark (Chairman) Ray Druce, Yvette Gubb, Eric Hughes,
Trevor Kibble, Steve Seldon, Tracey Seldon, Jill Sidebottom, Peter Spencer,
Sue Sussex, Arthur Yelton.

In Attendance: 15 Parishioners, Parish Clerk.

The meeting was opened with prayers.

50/10 Matters raised by parishioners

a Letters received prior to the Parish Council meeting

Mrs S Webber - Concerns regarding older young people intimidating younger people at the play area, causing a nuisance to residents of Highfield Gardens and damaging the play equipment.

b Issues raised verbally without prior notice

- i Mr K Mullins - query on a gate-post at Arnolds Plot and complaint that it was too economical.
- ii Mrs C Mountain - query on when cars might be able to use the Coach Park, if permitted to do so. (A written copy of the question was handed in at the meeting after the query had been put verbally.)
- iii Mr J Lovering - notification that a hole has appeared in the sea wall below the former Museum building at the Parade.

51/10 Declarations of Interest

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Type of Interest</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Yvette Gubb	Personal	Hollands Park play area	Mother of Mrs Webber

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Type of Interest</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cllr Peter Spencer	Prejudicial	Planning application number 50596	Near neighbour
Cllr Eric Hughes	Prejudicial	Planning application number 50532	Near neighbour
Cllr Yvette Gubb	Personal	Hollands Park play area	Mother of Mrs Webber

52/10 **County Councillor's report**

The County Councillor had brought the Leader of Devon County Council, Cllr John Hart to Combe Martin today to look at the Parade. DCC is willing to support the grant application, but has requested the following information:

- a a greater level of detail of the project, as it has concerns that the project has been scaled back so much that it may not achieve its stated aims, and a second phase may then be needed.
- b information on why North Devon Council has not been willing to contribute more to the project.
- c assurances that more funding cannot be found from other sources.

County Cllr Andrea Davis agreed that DCC's officers would be available to provide details on possible funding sources from DCC's grant finder.

DCC has now amended its planned revisions to the On-street Parking Order for Combe Martin, to reflect points raised by members of the public at the recent consultation.

DCC will be reviewing its budgets and aiming for cuts of up to 30%. This will have massive impacts upon the facilities provided by DCC and it is questionable whether or not this can be achieved as such reductions in services may be too much for the public.

53/10 **Police and Vandalism Reports**

a Police

Both PC Nic Gould and PCSO Ade Drury sent their apologies, as both were on leave/on rest day.

During the last four weeks there had been 6 reported crimes, compared with 12 in the same period last year. These were:

- 1 common assault resulting from a dispute
- 1 domestic related common assault
- 1 criminal damage to motor vehicle – wiper blade ripped off a car
- 1 burglary to dwelling – holiday property entered via window that had been left open
- 1 theft of pedal cycle – cycle left unlocked and unattended outside a house
- 1 theft from machine or meter – car park ticket machines attacked in Kiln Car Park

Everyone is asked to ensure all windows and doors are closed and secure before going out, even if only for a short time, and to be vigilant with property especially as there are now more tourists in the area. It is not unknown for people to combine 'work' with pleasure whilst on holiday.

b Vandalism

- 1 Attempt to drive car up onto Cobblers – grass damaged
- 2 Bolts on swings undone at Hollands Park
- 3 Seats moved into Arnolds Plot from Blackmore Ham

54/10 **Matters raised by parishioners for which notice had been given**

Mrs S Webber - Concerns regarding new play area at Hollands Park

Mrs Webber's concerns were noted, as was the fact that the letter covered points raised by other residents in the area. Councillors had met the police to discuss the problem and it was noted that the area had been marked as a PACT priority area and a Red Zone, although this would change if further complaints about the area were not logged by the police. Residents were asked to contact the police if they felt that there was a problem in the area from now on, but it was agreed that there had been a need identified by villagers in the Parish Plan, and subsequently, for somewhere else for young people to play. If the problem continues, an open meeting will be held with residents to see how everyone can work together to address the issue.

55/10 **Matters raised by parishioners at the meeting without notice**

a Matter arising from a verbal question at the last meeting

Enquiries had been made, and the statement that an 18" mower had been used to mow Cobblers Park was incorrect. The machine used had been Council's new Hustler mower, which has a cutting deck of 36". It had been used as Keep Britain Tidy had been visiting on a beach inspection, and because the mower gives a smoother cut and the finished appearance of the grass is considerably enhanced. Compliments had been received from parishioners on the cut.

It was noted that, following an allegation that the workmen were not doing their job, the complainant had been asked to put supporting reasons in writing to this Council, but that this had not been done.

b Issues raised verbally without prior notice

i *Query on a gate-post at Arnolds Plot and that it should have been an 6"x 6" post*

It was noted that this matter had been raised on previous occasions and so had been checked by the Parks and Open Spaces Committee Chairman. The 8"x 8" posts used to hold up the other gates (one of which gates is substantially larger) were satisfactory, and this post is there to act as a stop only, and is not supporting the gate. It was agreed that it was necessary to concrete in the post, for safety reasons.

ii *Query on when cars might be able to use the Coach Park, if permitted to do so*

North Devon Council will assess the viability of combining car and coach parking at the Coach Park, but amendments to the Off-Street Parking Order cannot be made until 2011.

iii *Notification that a hole has appeared in the sea wall*

It was noted that the wall had been inspected by NDC's Engineering Unit as part of the Parade project, and NDC had advised that the wall was in excellent condition. It was therefore likely to be a new hole. An inspection of the wall will be carried out immediately to ensure the problem does not get worse.

56/10 **Minutes of previous meetings**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 June, 2010,

be confirmed and signed as a true record.

57/10 **Planning**

a Applications

Cllr Hughes declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and left the room.

50532 – ERECTION OF DETACHED DOUBLE GARAGE - 10 FLEXAPARK

Applicant – Mr and Mrs Catling

RESOLVED to advise the planning authority that this Council has no objections to the application as there appears to be no overlooking of adjoining properties and no increase in water run-off created by the proposal.

Cllrs Steve and Tracey Seldon declared prejudicial interests in the following item and left the room.

50376 – RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR SUBDIVISION OF DWELLING TO FORM 1 DWELLING AND 1 AFFORDABLE DWELLING AT IVYBANK COTTAGE 4 HAMS PLACE WATER LANE COMBE MARTIN ILFRACOMBE

Applicant – Mr Glyn Howell-Williams

RESOLVED to advise the planning authority that this Council owns land very near to the application site and is in legal dispute with the applicant, therefore members consider it proper not to respond to the application.

50596 – VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 (NON-OPENING WINDOWS) ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION 50093 TO ALLOW TOP HUNG VENT OPENABLE WINDOWS AT HARBOUR RISE LESTER POINT COMBE MARTIN ILFRACOMBE

Applicant – Mr and Mrs A Davis

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

Cllr Spencer declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and left the room.

50605 - RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR INSERTION OF WINDOW AND DOOR AND ERECTION OF WOODEN GANTRY - THE OLD FORGE, ROSEA BRIDGE LANE

Applicant - Mr A Thwaites

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

b Planning Approvals

49955 - Conversion of part of garage to living accommodation at Homelands, Victoria Street

50044 - Extension to Mayfield, Barton Gate Lane

50334 - Replacement pitched roofs and improvements to chalets, including decking areas at Manleigh Holiday Park

58/10 **Combe Martin Village Hall**

It was noted that the Village Hall Management Committee had been advised by NDC's Environmental Health that Environmental Health had received one complaint of noise nuisance. Members of the Village Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council had met officers from Environmental Health, and Environmental Health had been out to monitor the noise level during events. As a consequence, Environmental Health had stated that the Village Hall may not be used for any event which involves music or use of the bar.

An acoustic survey had been carried out, and resolving the problem is likely to be very expensive, and may not even be possible. A public meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, 27 July, 2010, to look at the options for the Village Hall and gauge public opinion about the Hall.

It was agreed to check the wording of the Trust Deed for the Village Hall and to make enquiries about the procedure for closing a venue through noise nuisance.

59/10 **Update on the Parade**

The County Councillor's earlier report on the Parade was noted. Answers to DCC's questions will be sent to the County Council.

60/10 **Matters arising from the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting**

a Min 42/10d(ii) - Sale of PA system

It was noted that the PA system had been sold for £325.

b Min 49/10 - Wall at Hollands Park

Quotations had been obtained for a replacement section of wall, and a concrete section wall would be the least expensive, as well as being lower maintenance than the wood option. To comply with planning regulations, the wall will be the same height as the existing wall. A grant application has been made to NDC under the Community Councillor's scheme, and a reply is awaited.

61/10 **Committee Reports**

a Audit, 28 June, 2010

Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on 28 June, 2010 were ADOPTED.

Cllr Sue Sussex left the meeting at this point.

b Highways, Property and Planning, 28 June, 2010

Minutes of the Highways, Property and Planning Committee meeting held on 28 June, 2010, were ADOPTED. It was agreed that the new location for the Combe Martin sign at Woodlands is a good site. DCC is to be asked to cut back the foliage which is presently obstructing the sign.

c Parks and Open Spaces Committee, 6 July, 2010

Minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 6 July, 2010 were ADOPTED.

62/10 **Standing Orders**

The Audit and HPP Committees had revised their roles, the Financial section has been reviewed and adapted, Financial Standing Orders have been amended to agree with the new draft Standing Orders and minor corrections as previously noted have been made. Members noted the draft policy on dealing with the press and media. The Personnel Committee needs to check its role, and the roles of the working parties need to be added. RESOLVED to leave draft Standing Orders on the table until the final amendments and additions have been made.

63/10 **Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies**

a DALC County Committee

Cllr Peter Spencer had attended the DALC's County Committee meeting.

b Bowls Club

Cllr Yvette Gubb had attended the Bowls Club meetings.

c Village Hall

Cllr Steve Seldon had attended the last Village Hall Management Committee meeting.

64/10 **Chairman's Report**

The police were advising members of the public to be alert to bogus phone calls from callers attempting to gain information such as bank details.

65/10 **Correspondence**

a The following items were NOTED:

Mr and Mrs Longland - compliments on how much they had enjoyed a recent holiday in Combe Martin and how this had been made special by the helpfulness of Council's workman, Mr Brookman

St Peter ad Vincula Combe Martin Open Gardens – Letter of thanks for the use of Adams Hay and Blackmoreham Gardens for the Combe Martin Open Gardens 2010

Tourism Association – Date of next meeting, 17 September 2010

North Devon Council – Workshop to inform the Landscape Character

Assessment of North Devon – Invite to attend workshop on the afternoon of 26 July, response required if attending by 19 July 2010.

- Street Collection Permit in favour of North Devon Mini Register on Monday, 30 August, 2010

Devon Partnership NHS Trust – North Devon dates for the Network Action Group – 8 September and 10 November 2010

Devon Wind Power - Fullabrook Wind Farm Community Newsletter, June issue
Exmoor Park Life – Community Newspaper June issue
North Devon Journal/Heart North Devon – Announcing a new campaign this summer ‘We love North Devon’ – volunteers requested
Devon Community Recycling & Community Composting Network – Junkmail newsletter
Devon County Council – Newsletter of the Emergency Planning Service
Devon County Council – Devon Talk and In Touch newsletters
Senior Council for Devon - Newsletter
Ilfracombe and District Crime Prevention Panel
CIPFA - enquiry on level of support for collecting data from parish councils for annual surveys.
DALC - newsletter

The Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and left the room.

b Combe Martin Museum – Request for charitable parking space

RESOLVED to advise Combe Martin Museum that, as previously stated, it would not be possible to provide a free parking space to the Museum for volunteers, as this would be unfair to volunteers to all the other worthwhile causes in Combe Martin.

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

Local Works c/o Unlock Democracy - Sustainable Communities Act

Amendment Bill was passed into law – further help is required to urge the government to deal with the proposals urgently

d The following items were referred to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee:
Open Space Newsletter – Summer 2010

e The following items were referred to the Personnel Committee:

National Training Strategy – 2010 Draft for consultation

66/10 **Finance**

a Payments

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

b Balances

The bank balances and car park takings were noted.

c Review of effectiveness of Internal Audit 2009-10

RESOLVED to adopt the Review of effectiveness of Internal Audit 2009-10. It was noted that there were no items raised, which needed to be addressed, by the Internal Auditor.

67/10 **Committee Meetings**

a *Dates of meetings*

Personnel - 27 July, 6.30pm

Parks and Open Spaces - 5 September, 2010, 6.30pm

Highways Property and Planning - 2 August, 2010, 7pm

Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting - 19 July, 2010, 7pm

68/10 **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'.

69/10 **Break in to car park machines at Kiln Car Park**

The report on the break in to the car park machines which occurred on 2 July, 2010 was noted. Council's workmen were commended for their prompt actions in moving the Parade machine to Kiln Car Park to reduce the loss of earnings. Arrangements have been made to install new machines in a week's time, and the claim has been made to the insurance company. The police are investigating the break-in.

RESOLVED to pursue the matter of the CCTV and seek advice on the matter.

70/10 **Access onto the Beach**

The Parks and Open Spaces Committee report was adopted. It was noted that insurance documents had been received.

71/10 **Land at the Coach Park**

It was noted that the matter had been resolved and documents are now awaited.

The meeting closed at 9.52pm.

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Chairman