

COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In Attendance: County Cllr Andrea Davis, PC Nic Gould, PCSO Ade Drury, 7 Parishioners, Paul Harper (reporter) Michelle Beaumont (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Cllrs Eric Hughes, Steve Seldon, Tracey Seldon.

The Parish Council meeting was opened with prayers.

223/09 Presentation by members of Devon and Cornwall Constabulary's Call Centre

Two representatives from the Police Call Centre in Exeter, which deals with both '999' and non-urgent calls to the police, gave a presentation on their work. The centre has 380 staff, including some specialist staff.

Non-emergency calls to the police are referred to the Force Enquiry Centre, which takes details and then refers matters to the Neighbourhood Beat Managers.

999 calls require careful handling, and staff are trained to keep members of the public on the line for as long as possible, whilst their mapping system is used to find the caller's exact location and, whilst the call handler is talking to the caller, officers are dispatched to the call. The call handlers also try to get as many details as possible from the caller to help in dealing with the emergency.

The call centre takes 238,000 calls each year, so it is essential to prioritise calls. In urban areas the aim is to get someone to the caller within 15 minutes, and in rural areas, within 20 minutes, if a life is in danger. For less urgent problems, the target is 60 minutes.

Improvements have been made to the 08452 777444 call responses, and the aim is for the switchboard to reply within 10 seconds.

224/09 Matters arising from the Public Session

Street lights

In reply to a question regarding the maintenance of street lights, the enquirer was asked to provide details of the exact location of the lights, so that this Council can arrange for their repair.

225/09 **Police Report**

PCSO Drury reported that in the last four weeks there had been 5 crimes compared with 13 in the same period last year. These were:

- 1 theft of a car tyre
- 1 burglary to caravan and camper van
- 1 drink driving offence
- 1 assault (complaint withdrawn)
- 1 criminal damage to motor vehicle – tyre slashed

226/09 **Vandalism Report**

A short section of the top of a wall at the Parade had been knocked out.
Abusive behaviour and dangerous driving in Kiln Car Park on one occasion.

227/09 **County and District Councillors' reports.**

a County Councillor

DCC will reduce the energy use of almost 9,000 street lights over the next six months.

Over 7,000 potholes have been repaired in the past two weeks by twenty-six teams of specialist gangs working across the county. Members of the public are encouraged to help the County Council identify potholes by either reporting any they see online at www.devon.gov.uk/pothole or by phoning 0845 155 1004 on weekdays between 8am and 8pm or on Saturdays between 9am to 1pm.

Devon County Council's biggest ever road safety campaign has helped reduce traffic speeds on the A361 North Devon Link Road. The majority of drivers on the A361 are now travelling below the national speed limit, and according to survey figures from October 2009, the average speed of all vehicles on the North Devon Link Road was less than 60mph.

The council tax increase for 2010/11 will be 1.98 per cent.

Ilfracombe & District Community Transport Association has a new accessible minibus for use in the Ilfracombe area. The 16-seater vehicle, which cost £43,000 in total, is wheel-chair-accessible and will be used to transport people unable to use public transport to go shopping and attend medical appointments. The extra capacity the new vehicle will bring will also allow the service to take people to social and leisure trips. People of all ages are eligible to use the service, which covers Combe Martin, and when the minibuses are not in use on regular services, they are available for private hire. For more information about the service contact Joan Miller on 01271 863425.

b District Councillors

NDC is very pleased that the Boundary Committee has not opted for a unitary Devon, and will be working with Torridge District Council to share resources and so make cost savings. The consultation period for the Draft Core Strategy has been extended to 15 March, 2010.

Concerns are expressed that NDC is making cuts to its budgets which will include the loss of the Beach Grant to this Council for this year.

228/09 **Date of Annual Parish Meeting.**

RESOLVED to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday, 26 April, 2010.

229/09 **Resignation of Councillor**

It was noted that Cllr John Martin had resigned. The Returning Officer had been notified, the vacancy advertised and, as no election had been claimed, the vacancy is to be filled by co-option.

230/09 **Declarations of Interest**

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Type of Interest</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Mrs Gubb	Prejudicial	Planning application Number 49867	Neighbour of applicant
P Spencer	Prejudicial	Planning application Number 49749	Friend of applicants

231/09 **Adoption of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February, 2010, be confirmed and signed as a true record, subject to noting that under Minute 202/09 a letter had been sent to the Department for Culture and Local Government and not to ITV.

232/09 **Planning**

District Councillors Mrs Gubb and Mrs Sussex drew the meeting's attention to the fact that, any observations or decisions which she made regarding planning applications at this meeting were based upon the information available at the time. Such observations and decisions might well change in the light of any information which might come before district councillors when sitting upon North Devon District Council's planning committee.

a Applications

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

49749 – PROPOSED ERECTION OF DWELLING - LAND ADJACENT
HEATHER BRAE, REWS CLOSE

Applicant – Mr & Mrs Webber

A letter of objection was read to the meeting and the applicant spoke in support of the application.

RESOLVED to recommend that the application be APPROVED, subject to its being a condition of any approval by the planning authority that any damage or subsidence to the private access roads to the site and the services under these roads, which is proven to have been caused by the works, will be rectified by the developer, as the road carries the services of adjoining properties.

49783 – PROPOSED EXTENSION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION OF 10 BEDROOMS TOGETHER WITH ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING SPACES - SANDY COVE HOTEL, OLD COAST ROAD, BERRYNARBOR, ILRACOMBE

Applicant – Mrs D Ten-Bokkle

Consultation as adjoining parish.

RESOLVED to advise the planning authority that this Council has no objections to the above application, save to emphasize that the main consideration is the effect upon the results of the EU Bathing Water tests for nearby beaches. The planning authority is asked to satisfy itself that the Environment Agency is content with the proposals. The planning authority is thanked for consulting this Council, as the application might well have a material effect upon Combe Martin, even though the proposal is within the neighbouring parish.

49795 – PROPOSED EXTENSION TO DWELLING - FAIRTHORNE, CHAPEL LANE

Applicant – Mr M Senn

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

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

49867 - PROPOSED REBUILDING OF PARKING DECK WITH ENCLOSURE BELOW TO FORM WORKSHOP/STUDIO SPACE ANCILLARY TO THE MAIN HOUSE - LYNDON, WOODLANDS

Applicant - Mr Ben Lewis

RESOLVED to advise the planning authority that this Council has no objections to the above application, but recommends that possible objections from the highway authority, on grounds of the unsuitability of the access from Chapel Lane onto the A399, be rejected on grounds that such parking already exists and no change is proposed.

b NDC's Planning refusal

49302 – Retrospective application for upvc windows and French door at Field House, King Street

233/09 **Update on the Parade**

Estimated costings for the proposed works to the Parade had been provided by PMJ and Mr Dovell, and these were considered by the Parade Working Party at its last meeting. A proposal has been made to the Parish Council, the details of which are to be considered at the end of this meeting, so that a detailed grant application can be made to DCC's Airport Monies Fund.

234/09 **Committee membership**

RESOLVED that Cllr Kibble become a member of the Audit Committee, and that Cllr Mrs Sussex is no longer a member of the committee. Membership of the Highways, Property and Planning Committee and the Parks and Open Spaces Committee is to be confirmed.

235/09 **Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

a Min 202/09d - Swing in Arnold's Plot

Two swings in Arnold's Plot had been vandalised but both of these have been replaced.

b Min 207/09a - Planning Applications

It was understood that the planning application for Wynnstead, High Street, had been withdrawn.

236/09 **Committee Reports**

a Parks and Open Spaces – 3 March, 2010

Minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 3 March, 2010, were ADOPTED.

b Highways Property and Planning – 22 February, 2010

Minutes of the Highways Property and Planning Committee meeting held on 22 February, 2010, were ADOPTED, subject to:

i Item 4biii - Belmont Terrace light - it was noted that, as the light serves several houses, that it should be repaired.

ii Item 10e - Cllr Spencer requested that all members be given a copy of his summary on the Core Strategy.

237/09 **Representatives to Outside Bodies**

Cllr Mrs Clark had attended the Museum Group's meeting in February.

238/09 **Chairman's Report**

Chairman reminded members that the Traffic Consultation feedback meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 10 March, 2010.

239/09 **Correspondence**

a The following items were noted:

Combe Martin Museum – Minutes of meeting held on 7 January and Emergency meeting held on 26 January 2010

Trinity House – Notice of inspection of the aid to navigation at Combe Martin

North Devon Council – Funding Agreement for play equipment at Highfield Gardens – signed copy has been received from NDC

North Devon Council – Comment on results of Local Government Review

Devon Pension Services – Barnett Waddingham have been appointed to provide actuarial services
Ilfracombe & District Crime Prevention Panel – minutes of last meeting
Devon Playing Fields' Association - Newsletter
Exmoor National Park Authority – Agenda and minutes of last meeting of the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum
Exmoor Association of Parish Councils – Agenda and minutes of last meeting

b North Devon Council – Policy on street collection permits

RESOLVED to advise NDC that this Council still wishes to be notified of street collection permit applications for information.

c North Devon Council – Request for councillors to become members of the Standards Board Focus group

RESOLVED to advise NDC that Cllr Yelton is willing to become a member of the Standards Board Focus group.

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

Southern Electric Contracting - Reply re changing street lights to timers
Devon County Council – Strategic Plan 2009-2013 - Investing in our Devon
North Devon + Consultation on the North Devon and Exmoor Tourism Strategy Position Paper (closing date 31 March, 2010)
North Devon Access to Services Project – Taxi Voucher Scheme
Energy Saving Trust – Joining Green Communities

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

Open Spaces Society - Newsletter and Member Survey 2010

240/09 **Finance**

a Monthly balances

The monthly balances for February, 2010, were noted.

b Payments

The invoices for payment set out on the Financial Reports were approved following recommendation by the Chairman and Cllr Miss Sidebottom. Chairman and Cllr Miss Sidebottom are authorised to approve payment of any invoices received before the end of the parish council financial year.

241/09 **Dates of Committee Meetings**

Highways Property and Planning – 22 March, 7pm

Personnel - 24 March, 7pm

Bathing Water Working Party – 17 March, 7pm

242/09 **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'.

243/09 **Access to Parish Council land**

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

244/09 **Project at the Parade**

The notes of the Parade Working Party meeting held on 1 March, 2010, and the Cost Plan from PMJ were adopted. The plan includes removing the walkways and part of the supporting pillars, rebuilding, piling another pillar, reinstating the walkways, putting railings at the side of the walkways and refurbishing the former museum building. The refurbishment does not currently include any works to the roof, which may require attention, nor does it include re-opening windows and replacing doors.

RESOLVED to apply to DCC's Airport Fund for the maximum grant available, to ask businesses to support the project, to seek any additional grant funding available, and if this is not feasible, to apply for loan sanction to borrow the shortfall.

245/09 **Quotations for works to Barton Gate Lane**

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

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

246/09 **Access to the Coach Park**

The report was noted.

The meeting closed at 10.13pm.

..... Chairman