

# COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held at the Town Hall on Monday, 11 October, 2010, at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Julia Clark (Chairman) Yvette Gubb, Eric Hughes, Trevor Kibble, Jill Sidebottom, Peter Spencer, Arthur Yelton.

In Attendance: County Cllr Andrea Davies, 10 Parishioners, Parish Clerk.

The meeting was opened with prayers.

## 119/10 **Matters raised by parishioners**

### a Letter received prior to the Parish Council meeting

Christine Nelson (Shammick Farmers Market) - Farmers' Market traders are having difficulty in finding parking places and if this continues there is a danger that they will not come to the market in future. The number of people visiting the market has also fallen in recent months and this is attributed to difficulties with parking.

### b Issues raised verbally without prior notice

Nicky Tossell - request for reserved parking spaces, which could be created as new spaces using land at Blackmore Ham Gardens.

Peter Warren - why doesn't the Parish Council declare an interest about the Farmers Market, as it owns the Town Hall and receives the income from the market? Other traders in the village are disadvantaged by the Farmers Market.

Ken Mullins - don't want Blackmore Ham used as a car park. Other options should be explored first.

John Lovering - why don't stallholders park in the Coach Park.

Paul Blackman - thanks for letter received in reply to previous query. Is late night monitoring of Cormelles Car Park continuing?

The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to the fact that, although the Parish Council owns the Village Hall, the Village Hall Management Committee manages the hall and receives all the income from rentals.

## 120/10 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ray Druce and Sue Sussex.

## 121/10 **Declarations of Interest**

| <u>Councillor</u> | <u>Type of Interest</u> | <u>Subject</u>                           | <u>Reason</u>     |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Julia Clark       | Prejudicial             | Planning application number 50559        | Near neighbour    |
| Julia Clark       | Personal                | Request by Museum to hold car boot sale. | PC representative |
| Yvette Gubb       | Prejudicial             | Planning application number 50784        | Near neighbour    |

## 122/10 **County and District Councillors' Reports**

### a County Councillor

DCC is sending out letters regarding provisions for winter service on the roads and the location of grit bins. John Hart, Leader of DCC, is holding a series of roadshows to discuss the difficult budget decisions that the County Council will have to make.

The A399 is closed at Brayford, which is causing some disruption to traffic. It will re-open on 5 November, 2010. New bus timetables have recently been published.

### b District Councillors' report

12,000 electoral registration forms have yet to be returned. The deadline is 15 October, 2010. Anyone who does not put their name on a form and return it to NDC will not be able to vote in the District and Parish Council elections next spring. Nor will they be able to vote in the referendum on whether or not to change the system of voting in general elections.

## 123/10 **Police and Vandalism Reports**

### a Police

PC Gould gave his apologies as it was his rest day, PCSO Drury gave her apologies as she was ill.

During the last four weeks there had been 5 reported crimes, compared with 11 in the same period last year. These were:

- 1 theft of a motor vehicle (previously written off by insurance company, stolen suspected for scrap)
- 1 burglary (barn entered and property stolen)
- 1 attempt theft from automatic machine
- 1 criminal damage to vehicle - vehicle punched resulting in dent
- 1 theft of an electric pump removed from a well

### b Vandalism

Damage has been done to the fencing panels in the new wall at Hollands Park. A slat from the seat at Arnold's Plot has been broken.

The car park sign was removed from the ground at Adams Hay and the picnic table overturned.

One of the bracing struts from the picnic table at Hollands Park Play area was removed and deposited at Arnold's Plot.

One of the brick in-fill sections at the Parade has been dismantled and the bricks thrown onto Newberry Beach. One of the Alcoves has been covered in graffiti.

## 124/10 **Responses to matters raised by parishioners for which notice had been given**

RESOLVED to refer the matter of parking at Cormelles Car Park on market days to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee.

125/10 **Responses to matters raised by parishioners without giving notice, including consideration of how to deal with such matters**

In view of the complex nature of the parking issues, all the questions and comments received from members of the public without notice will be referred to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee. Mr Blackman's question will be answered directly to him.

126/10 **Minutes of previous meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 September, 2010, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

127/10 **Planning**

a **Applications**

Cllr Yvette Gubb declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and she left the room during its consideration.

50784 - RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR REMOVAL OF EARTH BANK & FENCE & ERECTION OF WALL AT WOODLAND GLEN WOODLANDS

Applicant: Mr Andrew Hill

RESOLVED to recommend APPROVAL of the above application, as it enhances the area. The planning authority is to be asked why planning permission was required.

Cllr Julia Clark declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and she left the room during its consideration.

50559 – AGRICULTURAL BUILDING WORKS PRIOR APPROVAL FOR ERECTION OF ONE AGRICULTURAL STORAGE BUILDING AT KNAPP DOWN FARM

Applicant: Mr Robyn Seldon

RESOLVED to advise the planning authority that this Council has no objections to the above application, provided that the tree screening is of native broadleaved trees, and not of leylandii.

The Clerk declared a prejudicial interest and she left the room during its consideration.

50226 – ERECTION OF CAR PORT WITH DECKING OVER (AMENDED PLANS) – WYNNESTEAD, KING STREET

Applicant: Mrs Agnes Bates

The planning authority's attention is to be drawn to the fact that this Council is responding as adjoining landowner rather than as a statutory consultee, as it owns Barton Gate Lane.

Two objectors were present and presented a letter to the Parish Council. RESOLVED to recommend that the application be REFUSED on the grounds that the application will have a materially adverse effect upon the privacy and ability of the next-door neighbours to enjoy their property. This would be consistent with the planning authority's decision to refuse an application for decking at a property some yards from this property.

51018 - RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR SUB DIVISION OF DWELLING TO FORM TWO SEPARATE DWELLINGS - SPAR COTTAGE, SUNNYSIDE.

Applicant - Mr Melville Stephens

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

b Planning correspondence

i *The following items were noted:*

NDC – Certificate of Lawfulness – siting of static caravan at South Dene, Comers Lane.

Planning Inspectorate - Appeal Decision to grant permission for replacement upvc windows at rear of Field House, King Street, but to refuse permission for the windows at the front of the property.

ii *James Bate, NDC – Draft appraisal document for conservation areas*

RESOLVED that the Parish Council Chairman and the Chairmen of the HPP and POS committees should consider the draft document and bring their recommendation back to the next Parish Council meeting.

128/10 **Update on the Parade**

A response from Devon County Council is awaited. District Cllr Yvette Gubb has made an application to North Devon Council for release of some S106 monies for use at the Parade.

129/10 **Matters arising from the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting**

a Min 109/10a – Beach Cleaning Grant

Letters had been received from Cllr Brailey responding to the Chairman's letter and an NDC officer, both confirming that beach grants will not be available after this financial year. RESOLVED to respond to Cllr Brailey raising concerns that small parishes will receive less favourable treatment from NDC than larger ones, which is inequitable.

b Min 110/10a – Meeting with Mr Edwards, DCC, re road closures at Cross Street

Cllrs Julia Clark and Peter Spencer had met Trevor Edwards. Mr Edwards had agreed to organise signs to be used when Cross Street is closed, to show that access to facilities in Cross Street is still available.

c Min 110/10c – Steps at bottom of Lester Point

Advice had been received that the steps at Lester Point had been created by the Ilfracombe Community Programme in 1985 or 1986, but concerns were expressed that there was some confusion between the steps at the bottom of Lester Point and the steps crossing Greenhills. Clarification is to be sought.

d Min 110/10a – Peeling paint on railings at Seaside Hill

The reply from DCC, advising that the railings had been inspected, will be monitored

over the coming months and will then be repaired in the spring, was noted.

e Min 113/10e - Community Resilience Plans

Cllr Yvette Gubb will be attending NDC's Community Resilience meeting as Emergency Officer.

f Min 113/10f - Joint Core Strategy

Cllrs Julia Clark and Peter Spencer had responded to NDC's consultation on the Joint Core Strategy.

130/10 **Committee Reports**

a Highways, Property and Planning Committee, 27 September, 2010

Minutes of the Highways, Property and Planning Committee meeting held on 27 September, 2010, were ADOPTED, subject to adding that Cllr Arthur Yelton was present at the meeting.

*Item 3b - Mr Lovering - donation of seat*

RESOLVED to accept Messrs Lovering and Brook's kind offer to donate a seat each to be installed at the junction of Borough Road and Cross Street. The seats are to be locally constructed from thick slate, and will be inscribed to note the donor's names. Application will be made to the County Council for permission as the site is on the County Highway.

131/10 **Chairman's Report**

The new wall at Hollands Park has been repaired where it was vandalised. No-one telephoned the police, despite the vandalism going on for some time and being observed by a neighbour, and despite the Police's request that any problems be reported or the area will lose its status as a crime hot-spot. The second workman had suggested that young people could graffiti the inside of the wall in the same fashion as that done at the football dug out. It was agreed that the Chairman should speak to Transform's neighbourhood warden about this. It is concerning that garden waste is being dumped in Hollands Park. The location of this is to be confirmed.

The unsatisfactory work in replacing the section of pavement at Borough Road by the former sub-post office has been drawn to the attention of the County Councillor.

132/10 **Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies**

a The following written reports from Cllr Peter Spencer were noted:

- i DALC AGM – 25 September 2010
- ii Tourist Information Association – 16 September 2010
- iii AONB Partnership Meeting – 21 September 2010

At the AONB meeting a presentation was given on the four RDPE grants received in the AONB, one of which was Combe Martin's for the Parade. It was interesting to note that the lead bodies for the other three were all principle authorities or national charities, whereas at Combe Martin it is the Parish Council which is the lead body.

b Combe Martin Museum

The Museum has received a grant from Devon Foundation under the Small Green Steps fund, part of which will be used to fund a litter pick on the Beach. The Museum has changed to its winter opening hours and will be open at the following times:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays - 11am to 3.30pm

Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday - closed (unless by prior arrangement for schools/groups)

The Museum will close for Christmas from 17 December to 10 January, but will open daily between 11am and 3.30pm for the February 2011 half term.

133/10 Correspondence

a The following items were NOTED:

Combe Martin Carnival – Thank you letter and donation (thanks to be sent for the donation)

North Devon Council – Parish Council Planning Forum - update of Forum held in June 2010 and notice of next meeting on 14 October 2010

Combe Martin Museum – minutes of meeting held on 23 September, 2010

Combe Martin Tourism Association – Minutes of meeting on 16 September, 2010

Sutcliffe Play – Highfield Gardens Play Area – Maintenance Information

NALC – Future of the Standards Framework for members of local authorities in England

Devon Association of Parish Councils – minutes of AGM

Parkeon – Introduction of new 5 and 10p coins and possible need for additional software.

Barnstaple Town Council - Planning School on 30 October 2010.

North Devon Council – Visit to new location in Brynsworthy on 15 October 2010 - Cllr Jill Sidebottom to attend.

Cllr Julia Clark and the Clerk declared interests in the following item.

b Combe Martin Museum - request to hold car boot sale at Kiln Car Park

There were no objections to the Museum holding a car boot sale at Kiln Car Park on Sunday, 28 November, 2010, providing that the appropriate insurance was provided and the area was left in a clean and safe condition. The Museum are asked to hold the car boot sale on the landward side of the car park.

c Robbie Reynolds – Request for a designated skating area

RESOLVED to write to Mr Reynolds, explaining that attempts have been made previously to install a skatepark at Hollands Park, and setting out the problems such as funding and the planning refusal. It was noted that a skate park is now available in Ilfracombe.

d Combe Martin Village Hall Management Committee – Request for contribution towards the cost of moving the bar into the main hall

RESOLVED to refer the request for a donation towards the anticipated cost of £20,000 for moving the bar into main hall, to the Finance Committee meetings. The VHMC are to be asked for full details of their plans to move the bar.

e Shamwick Gardening Club – request permission to plant up the walls of Adams Hay and erect a small plaque as a memorial to John Trueman

There were no objections to the Gardening Club's request to plant the beds at the top of the walls at Adams Hay and erect a memorial plaque there. The Gardening Club is to be asked to confirm that it would then maintain the beds.

f Earl of Rone Council request for letter of support for Heritage Lottery Funding application

It was agreed to write a letter of support to the Earl of Rone Council for their grant application.

g Mr Townend - complaint about Combe Martin being wheelchair/mobility scooter unfriendly

RESOLVED to write to Mr Townend advising him that there are two disabled bays beside an entrance to the Museum, which is fully wheelchair friendly, that the chemist is wheelchair friendly, and that lots of drop kerbs have been installed by DCC.

h Mrs Druce - Noise nuisance outside the Youth Club

The copy letter from Mrs Druce and neighbours to the Youth Worker was noted. Transform is taking steps to address the problem of young people being noisy outside.

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

Exmoor National Park - Future Priorities Survey

NDC - Affordable Housing Code of Practice.

DCC - Transforming Community Services - NHS Devon Provider Services

#### 134/10 **Finance**

a Payments

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

b Balances

The bank balances and car park takings were noted.

c Completion of the Annual Audit

It was noted that the Audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March, 2010, has been completed satisfactorily, and that there were no matters that gave cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

#### 135/10 **Committee Meetings**

a *Dates of meetings*

Highways Property and Planning - 25 October, 2010, 7pm

Parks and Open Spaces - 26 October, 2010, 7pm

Audit Committee - 26 October, 6.30pm

136/10 **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'.

137/10 **Request by Village Hall Management Committee for a new lease for the Village Hall**

The Village Hall Management Committee has been advised that it would be prudent to separate the existing trust deed and lease, in order to safeguard the liabilities of the trustees. The VHMC is therefore proposing that the trust deed and lease be replaced by a new business lease, which reduces the VHMC's liabilities for maintenance and the VHMC would become a company limited by guarantee. The VHMC had offered to pay for the cost of the new lease.

RESOLVED to advise the VHMC that this Council is happy to assist with the changes, but that it wishes to look into the matter fully. A working party is to be set up to look into the new lease.

138/10 **Meeting with Nick Harvey, MP**

A meeting had been held with Nick Harvey, MP, regarding a complaint. The matter had been discussed, and no further action had been required of the Parish Council. Mr Harvey had suggested that a meeting be held by the Parish Council with the complainant.

Subsequent to the meeting with Mr Harvey, full consideration was given to this proposal at this Parish Council meeting, in light of all the relevant legislation.

RESOLVED to take no further action on the matter, as too much public money had already been spent on this. The matter is now closed.

The meeting closed at 10.21pm.

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Chairman