

COMBE MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Combe Martin Parish Council held at the Town Hall on
Monday, 13 September, 2010, at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Julia Clark (Chairman) Ray Druce, Eric Hughes, Trevor Kibble,
Jill Sidebottom, Peter Spencer, Sue Sussex.

In Attendance: County Cllr Andrea Davies, PCSO Ade Drury, 17 Parishioners,
Parish Clerk.

The meeting was opened with prayers.

99/10 **Matters raised by parishioners**

a Letters received prior to the Parish Council meeting

i Michelle Goss, Carol Newman and Sheena Franks - Proposed amendments to On-Street Parking Order at Highfield Gardens - questions attached at Appendix A.

ii Clare Mountain - Query regarding legal case at Combe Martin Coach Park: CMPC appear to have used £22,000 of Parish Funds to pay for the legal costs (shown on the accounts as Professional Fees) - doesn't the "Block Insurance" policy costing £8927.30, as shown on the accounts obtained via the FOI request, cover CMPC for any legal action that they initiate?

b Issues raised verbally without prior notice

Ken Mullins -

In 2008-09 the salary bill was £92,000 and in 2009-10 was £77,000. Council must reduce the salary bill.

Why did Council borrow £39,000 to renovate Eberleigh House when it has money in its bank account and why has it not repaid the loan if it has money in the bank?

100/10 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Yvette Gubb and Arthur Yelton.

101/10 **County Councillor's report**

Carers of friends and loved ones in North Devon and Torridge have been asked by GPs to come forward to take advantage of free health checks. The checks are also available to people already known to Devon's Health and Social Care Complex Care Team, based in Barnstaple. Carers can re-claim the cost of someone looking after their cared-for person while they attend the free health check. Devon County

Council and NHS Devon are concerned that many carers are neglecting their own health needs whilst looking after others, and want to address this.

An Extreme Events conference is being held to help agencies across Devon discuss how to respond to severe weather. Despite DCC being ranked the best authority in the country for cold weather gritting and snow clearance, the Council's Cabinet has approved a number of changes to further enhance the service this winter.

102/10 **Matter arising from Minute 85/10 and response to matters raised by parishioners for which notice had been given - DCC's Proposed amendments to On-Street Parking Order**

The Chairman brought forward this Matter Arising and Response to Questions so that it could be discussed whilst the County Councillor was present.

RESOLVED to support the residents at Highfield Gardens, in objecting to the placing of No Waiting At Any Time restrictions on parking at the vision splay at the highest part of Highfield Gardens. Residents were asked to ensure that as many people as possible also objected to Devon County Council.

103/10 **Police and Vandalism Reports**

a Police

During the last four weeks there had been 9 reported crimes, compared with 25 in the same period last year. These were:

- 1 criminal damage - garage roof damaged
- 1 criminal damage to cash machine
- 1 criminal damage to window
- 1 criminal damage - pane of glass in door
- 1 actual bodily harm - not supported by victim
- 1 theft - offender reprimanded
- 2 actual bodily harms
- 1 dangerous dog - sheep worrying.

b Vandalism

No vandalism had been reported.

104/10 **Responses to matters raised by parishioners for which notice had been given Clare Mountain - Query regarding legal case at Combe Martin Coach Park**

Chairman welcomed this question, as the statement agreed by both parties had only been partly published in the Journal. The full statement was read out, and the meeting's attention was drawn to the last sentence, which states:

A term of the compromise agreement is that this agreed statement is issued to inform parishioners and parties have agreed not to comment any further on the matter.

Chairman advised that Council's insurance policy does not cover this Council for any legal action that they initiate.

Chairman declined to accept any further questions in view of Council's legal obligation to honour the agreed statement.

105/10 **Responses to matters raised by parishioners without giving notice**

All the figures stated by the questioner were incorrect. Council borrowed £18,000, not £39,000. The loan was taken out as Council's money in the bank is all allocated to expenses during the year or reserved towards foreseeable larger expenses. Council has several loans from the Public Works Loan Board, which is the body that issues loans to local government. PWLB loans have repayment penalties which vary depending upon the current base rate. It has not been beneficial to repay the loans, and this has, and will continue to be, reviewed annually.

106/10 **Minutes of previous meetings**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 August, 2010, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

107/10 **Planning**

a Applications

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

50828 – CHANGE OF USE OF PART OF SHOP TO CAFÉ AT HARLEQUIN HOUSE, 4 BOROUGH ROAD

Applicant: Mr D Addie

RESOLVED to recommend that the above application should be APPROVED, subject to the planning authority satisfying itself that there is no material adverse impact upon neighbouring properties from the fish operation, or noise from the deep freezers. The reason for the approval recommendation is that this Council wishes to see an empty shop returned to active use in support of Combe Martin's economy.

50954 – ERECTION OF SUN LOUNGE AT VELLACOTT HOUSE VICTORIA STREET

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Pullen

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

50681 – VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 (APPROVED PLANS) ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION 43564 TO AMEND BOUNDARY TREATMENTS (PLOT 10) (AMENDED PLANS) AT 7 HILLSIDE VIEW

Applicant: Mr Deryck Brooks

A letter had also been received from the planning authority, seeking this Council's views on the construction of the existing fencing on the site, which was not in accordance with the original planning application.

RESOLVED to advise the planning authority that this Council is concerned that the existing fencing on the site is not in accordance with the original planning application and may very well hinder this Council's access onto the river bank for maintenance purposes. Council's workmen are to be asked how wide the access needs to be to allow mowers to be taken onto the riverbank. The planning authority is to be advised that this Council wishes the access to the riverbank to be as on the original plans. Depending on the workmen's response, this could be narrower than the original plan, provided Council can access the site adequately, without going through the neighbouring garden.

(When the response was sent, the planning authority's attention was drawn to the fact that this Council is responding as an adjoining landowner, and not as a statutory consultee, as the land between the applicant's property and the River UMBER has been transferred to this Council for use as the Riverside Walk.)

b NDC's Planning Approvals

50532 - Erection of double garage at 10 Flexapark

50641 - Retrospective application to refurbish and put two new roof windows into Ye Olde George and Dragon, Castle Street

108/10 Update on the Parade

A reply is awaited from DCC. The RDPE (Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013) has offered a grant of £29,500 towards moving the SW Coast Path and interpretation and publicity material. The grant is subject to confirmation that the Parade will be completed by 2012 and only £5,000 can be used as match funding, as the rest is additional to the proposal put in to DCC.

109/10 Matters arising from the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

a Min 81/10b - North Devon Council – Beach Grant

Following this Council's representations to NDC, a letter had been received from NDC, agreeing to pay a Beach Grant of £1,500, for the 2010-2011 financial year. District Cllr Sue Sussex advised that, after this year, beach grants will no longer be available. RESOLVED to write to Des Brayley:

- i thanking NDC for this year's grant,
- ii acknowledging that the grants have now stopped,
- iii expressing concerns that NDC is not recognising the work put in by this Council on maintaining the Beach and the importance of well kept beaches to tourism in North Devon and the impact upon the economy of the area as a whole.

b Min 84/10b - Illegal parking at Cormelles Court

The person who had complained about vehicles not paying whilst parking at Cormelles Car Park had supplied details of cars parking without paying over a week period. Civil Parking Enforcement Officers had patrolled the car parks late at night and had issued a number of Parking Charge Notices.

c Min 88/10c - Play area at Hollands Park

The wall at Hollands Park beside the play area had been removed and the new wall is almost complete.

d Min 88/10d - Policy for dealing with the Press and the Media

RESOLVED to adopt the policy for dealing with the Press and the Media as agreed by both the Highways Property and Planning Committee and the Parks and Open Spaces Committee.

e Min 88/10g – Order to extend 30mph zones at both ends of A399

RESOLVED to advise Devon County Council that this Council supports the proposals to extend the 30mph signs at both ends of the A399, and asking that rumble strips be included in the revised signing/markings.

110/10 **Committee Reports**

a Highways, Property and Planning Committee, 23 August, 2010

Minutes of the Highways, Property and Planning Committee meeting held on 23 August, 2010, were ADOPTED.

Item 3.5 - Members provided three dates to meet Trevor Edwards, NDC, to discuss problems with road closures at Cross Street.

Item 3.7 - The nameplate at Umber Close has not been replaced and is still in the garden of 'Trevue'.

Item 8.4 - The school sign which needs to be realigned is at the junction of King Street and Libra Gardens.

Item 8.5 - the stones are missing in the Sea Wall on the Bridge at the junction of Cross Street and Borough Road.

b Personnel Committee, 1 September, 2010

Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 1 September, 2010, were ADOPTED.

c Parks and Open Spaces Committee, 7 September 2010

Minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee, meeting held on 7 September, 2010, were ADOPTED.

Item 4b - the kayaks are to be sited at the head of the Beach, between the River Umber and the slipway.

Item 4c - Mr Brookman is to attend the next POS Committee meeting to discuss rakes with members.

Item 6a - following discussion, it was still not clear who had built the steps at the bottom of Lester Point.

d Emergency Committee, 8 September, 2010

Minutes of the Emergency Committee meeting held on 8 September, 2010, were ADOPTED.

111/10 **Chairman's Report**

There appears to be some confusion about which parking space is for which property at the rear of the Village Hall. RESOLVED to write to the owner of the vehicle parking in the wrong bay.

112/10 **Reports by Representatives to Outside Bodies**

a Museum

Cllrs Spencer, Druce and Kibble had attended the function at the Museum to celebrate its acquiring accredited Museum status and to launch a 100 club.

b Crime Prevention Panel

Cllr Jill Sidebottom had been out with Crime Prevention Panel members marking farm equipment to discourage thefts. The police are to be asked to put a notice in the Shammickite to publicise this facility.

113/10 **Correspondence**

a The following items were NOTED:

TIC – Post Summer Committee Meeting, Blair Lodge, 16 September at 2.30 pm.
Devon County Council - Winter Service on Devon's Highways.

- Emergency Planning Newsletter.

Environment Agency – Preparing for a flood.

North Devon Council - Street Collection Permit for Poppy Appeal

Consultation on Joint Core Strategy (attached)

Devon & Cornwall Police Authority – Review of current Police Authority Liaison Meetings.

National Association of Local Councils – Changes to big lottery grant funding.

Devon Association of Local Councils – Empowering Communities in Devon –

A Local Perspective, a series of 4 events in September and October 2010.

North Devon Homes – Invitation and Agenda for the Meeting on Tuesday 21 September 2010.

North Devon Council – Invitation to attend a meeting of the AONB Partnership on 21 September re the South West Coast Path Project.

Corporate Communication – Invitation to attend public meeting in September/October/November 2010.

Macmillan Cancer Support – World biggest Coffee morning, 24 September.

Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust – August 2010 Newsletter.

Exmoor National Park – Achievements Newsletter.

– Your Future Exmoor – Community Consultation Feedback Report.

North Devon Community Mediation – Letter and leaflets re free confidential help in your own home.

North Devon Council – Direct Magazine, Autumn 2010.

Safer North Devon – Stop anti-social behaviour.

South Western Ambulance Service – Twentyfourseven Summer 2010.

b Bown Family– compliment on condition of Combe Martin Beach

RESOLVED to write and thank Mrs Bown for her very complimentary letter.

c Mr J. Westley – Complaint that dogs are not allowed on the beach
RESOLVED to write to Mr Westley, explaining that it was a condition of the Quality Coast Award that dogs were banned from the beach in summer, that both this Council and the Tourist Information Centre had received numerous complaints about dogs on the beach in previous years when there was no Beach Award, and that it is challenging to pick up dog urine.

d Devon County Council - Complaint regarding Armco barriers at Parade Car Park
RESOLVED to advise DCC that no Armco barriers have been removed from Parade Car Park and in fact new Armco barriers have been installed at the section where the greatest risk was. Concern was expressed that members of the public seemed to be so mis-informed.

e North Devon Council – Community Resilience Plans
RESOLVED to ask the Emergency Officer to attend NDC's meeting on Community Resilience Plans.

f North Devon Council – Consultation on Joint Core Strategy
RESOLVED that Cllrs Julia Clark, Peter Spencer and Trevor Kibble should have Power to Act to respond to the consultation.

g Ilfracombe Town Council – Traffic calming measures on the A3123/B3239 Lynton Cross

RESOLVED to support Ilfracombe TC in asking for traffic calming measures on the A3123/B3239 Lynton Cross, as this Council shares their concerns.

h Network North Devon – How can we get a 2nd Radio Licence in North Devon
RESOLVED to support the campaign to get a second radio licence for North Devon.

i House of Commons Early Day Motion No 557 – No need for nuclear.
RESOLVED to support the House of Commons Early Day Motion No 557 to reduce the number of new nuclear power stations.

114/10 **Finance**

a Payments

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

b Balances

The bank balances and car park takings were noted.

c Chapel Lane and Hollands Park Residents' Association - road repairs Chapel Lane
Chapel Lane and Hollands Park Residents' Association has provided three quotations for the repairs to Chapel Lane. This Council agreed at the HPP meeting held in July, 2009, to make a contribution to the cost. RESOLVED to reply that this Council is happy for the Residents' Association to accept the quotation from Mr Rottenbury, as it is the lowest quotation, and Mr Rottenbury has done similar work in the past which has been satisfactory. The cost to this Council will be £1,073.33.

115/10 **Committee Meetings**

a *Dates of meetings*

Highways Property and Planning - 6 October, 2010, 7pm

Parks and Open Spaces - 27 October, 2010, 6.30pm

116/10 **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'.

117/10 **Personnel Committee Report**

The report was noted.

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

118/10 **Car park management issues**

a No heading in the budgets was identified for the grant for the Museum but this will be taken into account when setting the budgets in November, 2010.

b Passes in Kiln Car Park for family or friends transporting children to and from school will in future not be issued. Adjustments to the Civil Parking Enforcement in the car park will be amended as discussed.

c The reply from Mr C Bulley was noted.

The meeting closed at 9.53 pm.

.....
Chairman