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| Combe Florey Parish Council | | |
| **Date of Meeting:**  Tuesday 23rd March 2021 7.00 pm  Via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions | | **Written by:**  Gemma Coombes (Parish Clerk) |

# Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**Councillors Present**

**In attendance**

Parishioners none

Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew

Cllr Mike Rigby

Neil Truby (advising on Village Broadband matter)

Cllr Robin Cleverly (Chair)

Cllr Adriana Truby (Vice-chair)

Cllr Simon Hawes (RFO)

Cllr Nick Weeks

Cllr Peter Tayler

1. **Welcome by Councillor**

Cllr Robin Cleverly welcomed the other councillors to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

1. **Apologies**

None

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None declared

1. **Approval of minutes of last meeting**

The minutes from the last meetings on 05th January were taken as read.

Proposed by Cllr Adriana Truby Seconded Cllr Peter Tayler

All in favour to adopt the minutes.

1. **Public participation**

None

1. **Matters Arising**
   1. Village broadband -
      * 1. **Upgraded broadband for the area, investigate grants to get better speeds.**

A project has been registered with the Government scheme for OpenReach (OR) to install faster fibre-based broadband in homes in the central Combe Florey area. The area of the parish towards West Bagborough has been included in the Bagborough scheme. The initial feasibility project has 45 homes signed up. The cost would be approx £1700 per household though this will be covered by a £1500 government grant per private household and £3500 per business. The cost in total is around £73k.

There is a new voucher scheme starting in April though the funding is expected to be the same. It is not clear at the moment what happens if some of the houses do not wish to take up this scheme or whether the cost reduces if fewer houses take part?

There is no idea of installation time yet. More meetings will be held with OR to finalise the details.

Cllr Mike Rigby will see if he can help with contacts.

* + - 1. **Formal note of support and thanks to Chairman and Neil Truby**

Cllr Robin Cleverly offers his formal offer of thanks

* + - 1. **What can we do to help?**

Cllr Simon Hawes asked what we could do to help? At the moment nothing but we are here to support in any way we can.

1. **Somerset County councillor’s report (Cllr Rigby)**

No planning is being approved that can create phosphates in the area as this can raise the level in the Somerset moor area. The phosphates can kill the wildlife in that area so in the Tone catchment we cannot approve new housing.

There is a Local plan to cover the whole area that was due soon but Covid-19 has caused some issues, this is unlikely to be approved before any unity is in place.

1. **Taunton Deane district report**

The unitary debate is one that is still ongoing: should there be one unitary or two? There are consultations going on now for a decision in June/July this year. It will not be clear if the elections will be delayed from this year to next or whether these this will be shadow elections. There will be a new election in 2023 for the unitary, as the unitary needs to exist first.

Some staff do not like working from home and others prefer it.

Black bins will only be collected every 3 weeks in the near future but announcements will be made when this will come into force. The recycling will be collected every week. This is to help encourage recycling. 98% of plastic is recycled here and they are looking to make sure you can recycle food wrappers and other things you can't recycle at the moment

1. **Policing Report**

None submitted.

1. **Planning**
   1. ***Current planning applications***

Nothing new

* 1. ***Other planning matters***

None

1. **Finance** 
   1. ***Account balances***
      1. Current account - £8592
   2. **Remittances** 
      1. None
   3. **Invoices for payment**

The RFO Cllr Simon Hawes read out the invoices for payment and sought approval for all. Proposed by Cllr Robin Cleverly, seconded by Cllr Adriana Truby. All in favour.

* + 1. Parish Clerk wages £ (February 2021 – March 2021inclusive) £208.80 (before deductions)
    2. HMRC - £41.60
    3. Mark Perry (Lengthsman) approval of costs £880 - a year in arrears.
  1. **Other Finance matters.**

We are spending more on projects and the new precept is due to be paid in April

1. **Highways & Footpaths**
   1. **Moving footpath so there is no need to walk along the main B3224 for about 50m. As an official change could take 30 years we need to speak to land owner.**

Cllr Robin Cleverly thought this had been agreed in principle with the landowner (Robert Heywood) but after discussion with him it appears this is not the case and he would seek some compensation for diverting the footpath. A difficulty is the 2m drop from his field to the road which may require some earth moving. An easier alternative may be to move the footpath in the field on the south side (Mervyn Ellison Nash) as this is more level.

Cllr Rigby will pick this up as he has other business to discuss with Mervyn Nash.

* 1. **Update on Farmers’ Arms / A358 road junction and result of discussion with Highways Officer.**

Work should begin soon for new traffic related signage and new anti-skid road surface. This should help reduce the accidents.

* 1. **Status of tower lane**

Emails have been sent to Glenn Hughes but at the moment he is not responding. Cllr Rigby said Glenn is overworked and does not have the time to always answer; he recommended that emails are copied to his boss, D Peake, as well.

1. **Village Maintenance** 
   1. **Village Garden - project remit**

We are looking to improve the garden to make it a more appealing area where people can meet and socialise. We feel it needs better seating and improved low maintenance planting. The PC has received some correspondence from some neighbours who would like to ensure that any work on the garden does not affect their privacy.

* + - 1. Budget

We need to set an ongoing budget to make sure we can cover this work. So far, we have spent £460 on maintenance and there should be an upcoming bill for the work taken place recently. As an indication we would realistically need to look at a budget in the region of £3000 to include any structural changes and new planting.

* + - 1. Process to secure proposals

We thought a simple tender process would be best – with several garden designers asked to submit proposals. The expectation is that the designers would not charge for the proposals.

There is an accurate plan taken from a drone that will serve as a good base for planning.

We can advertise this in Fiveways parish magazine to see if there is local interest.

There is a gardener from Hestercombe who offers free garden designs for charity contributions.

Cllr Adriana Truby to create the initial brief.

* 1. **Repair to pump**
     + 1. Update

There has been some mud cleared and the pump seems to be working well. Thanks to Cllr Nick Weeks for the work he has done.

* + - 1. Approval of cost overrun:

Cllr Nick Weeks proposes an extra £300 to cover ongoing costs including works to the wall and broken concrete base. Proposed by Cllr Nick Weeks Seconded by Cllr Robin Cleverly. All in favour

* 1. **State of road between Hawkins Barton and the wood yard & also Combe Down Lane connecting with B3224**

Tower Lane was patched this week and they have filled one hole in. Cllr Nick Weeks has asked for the areas to be scraped to clean and clear the road, and will continue to send emails.

There are some orange strips recently painted on the road to mark more potholes.

The two drains at the bottom of Tower Lane have been blocked for months; this has been reported several times but nothing has happened.

There has been also some fly tipping near the Coggan’s Lane small railway bridge.

1. **Village Hall Status Report**
   1. **Moving of rubbish bin**

After the recent planning application and application to the Dept of Transport the highway rights over the area outside the village hall have been removed. The village hall committee want the bin removed from the village hall property and, moreover, the Council will not empty bins on private property.

The PC have no rights in the matter, as this is neither our land nor our bin.

Cllr Cleverly to find out who to contact at the Council and put them in contact with the village hall to arrange removal of the bin.

1. **Annual meetings (subject to covid restrictions)**

Proposed Annual Parish Meeting Monday 17th May

Annual Parish Council Meeting Monday 24th May

1. **Topics for next agenda**

None

1. **Correspondence**

None

1. **NEXT MEETING:**

Monday 17th May - Annual Parish meeting at 7.00pm.

Monday 24th May - Annual Parish Council meeting 7.00pm.

Location: Combe Florey Village Hall (Covid restrictions permitting)

Meeting closes at 20.25