

# COMBE HAY ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

## Parish Council contacts

Chairman: John Long, The Old Byre, Combe Hay, Bath BA2 7EG 01225 835468 jandcl.long@btinternet.com

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The annual meeting of electors took place on 19 May in Combe Hay Parish Church at 19:15. It was attended by 11 parishioners, Ward Councillor David Veale, Jon Poulton of the Community Heartbeat Trust and Robin Campbell (note taker)

## MINUTES

### Introduction and Chairman's report

The outgoing Parish Council Chairman, John Long, welcomed all present and gave his report for the year just ended, a copy of which is attached to these minutes

### Defibrillators in villages

Mr Long then introduced Jon Poulton of the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT).

Mr Poulton said he was passionate about providing communities with defibrillators; he had no financial incentive to sell them. Defibrillators save lives. Working with Susan Bowen of B & NES, CHT had installed 32 in the Bath area to date. The package included free electricity for eight years to heat the defibrillator cabinet and paint for the phone box. Awareness sessions to show villagers what to do are also provided. Anyone could use a defibrillator. In his own village CHT had helped set up fundraising. CHT provide an ongoing governance scheme.

He showed two defibrillator models recommended by the SW Ambulance Trust. He said that the machines are foolproof, will only provide a shock if it is needed and can detect pacemakers. The cost of the package would be approximately £1,600. CHT is a charity which behaves in an ethical and correct way. If there were a problem with a defibrillator, it would be swapped.

Mr Poulton invited those present to look on the CHT website for further information.

Questions and comments included

- concern about whether an ambulance would be delayed if it was know there was a defibrillator
- would there be a lock on the box? (answer: key code known to villagers)
- medical people in the village had opposing views about the desirability of having a defibrillator. (Mr Poulton suggested that retired doctors might not be up to speed with the ease of use of current defibrillator.)

- the length of awareness training sessions (2.5 hours)
- the community would feel terrible if it didn't have one and it was needed

### **Local law and order & Neighbourhood Watch**

The local PCSO had hoped to attend the meeting, but was unable to do so. A theft from the building site at Week Cottage was reported.

### **The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations**

Lynn Davis thanked all who had already responded; at least 60 people would be at The Paddock for lunch and tea on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. It was not too late to reply. She also thanked the other volunteers on the organising committee.

### **Living Archive**

Malcolm Austwick said there would be a small exhibition in the church as part of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, with photographs of places and people important to the community. The aim was to preserve and enhance records from the last 40-60 years, add to them and make the whole more widely available. It was intended to create a website, for which a lottery grant would be sought in the following 12-18 months.

### **Parish Finances**

Copies of the internally audited Parish Council accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 were circulated and presented by Robin Campbell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. The accounts are attached to these minutes

### **Other business**

- David Veale explained his Ward Councillor's Initiative Grant and said that if the Parish wanted a defibrillator, he could provide some funding towards it.  
A current hot potato was the proposed devolution of services to a West of England body with a Mayor, consisting of the four areas of B & NES, Bristol, N. Somerset and S. Gloucestershire, with devolved infrastructure funding (to include trunk roads) of £1billion over 30 years. Bristol were keen, N. Somerset were not and could pull out.  
B & NES, which of course had recently decided against having a mayor, would vote in June. It had said it would carry on exactly as before, with self-governance within the new body.
- John Long said the community should be canvassed about whether it wanted a defibrillator.
- Crock Harrison was disappointed that more people had not attended the current meeting, which had been advertised as considering a defibrillator

New Parish Council Chairman Malcolm Austwick thanked John Long for all his work