Combe Hay Parish Council

**https://combehaypc.org.uk**

BATHAVON SOUTH WARD, BATH & NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.00pm**

**on Thursday 9th March 2023 in Combe Hay Church**

Present: Malcolm Austwick (Chairman), Crock Harrison, Rod Davies, Paul Wontner, Janet Young, Joan Grieveson

In attendance: Matt McCabe (Ward Councillor), Olga Shepherd (Clerk), one Member of the Public

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no matters raised under this section

**23.116 APOLOGIES** To CONSIDER apologies for absence.

Apology was received and accepted from Rob Burdett

**23.117 INTERESTS**

No interests were declared

23.118 Minutes

Minutes of the previous Council Meeting of 9th January 2023 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman

23. 119 Introducing your Village Agent

- Combe Hay Village Agent explained her role in representing West of England Rural Network which work closely with B&NES Council, Public Health and Community Health with a focus of connecting people in rural areas to appropriate services such as finance (making claims), loneliness, mental health, plumbers, GP appointments. Chantal answered some questions and will email an article with this information to the Clerk to be published in the village newsletter.

23. 200 Clerks report

a. Clerk has updated the Council on the main dates and procedures for the Local Elections: The Nominations can be submitted from 21 March 2023 to 4 April 2023 (4pm). The election nomination packs will be sent out by BANES both in hard copy and electronically. These will need to be returned to the Guildhall in person or by the nominated person. Candidate’s elections expense must be returned by 1 June 2023. Photo ID is required to be able to vote at a polling station. Those without photo ID can apply for a free voter ID document known as Voter Authority Certificate.

23.201 Councillors report

- Village Spring Clean has been organized for 16th April.

- Discussions took place about organizing a Community Speed Watch. There are some volunteers already signed up, but 6 more people are needed. A note will be prepared and sent out to the residents after the Coronation event in May.

**23.202 Planning Applications**:

a. Discussions took place about the planning application 22/02169/EOUT for 300 new homes in Sulis Down: 1000s pages of new documents have been uploaded into BANES Planning portal. As a result the Consultation period has been extended until 25 March 2023. SOBA is preparing their response as is the Parish Council. The Members discussed plan of action in case the decision of the planning officer will need to be challenged. ……..

b. The following planning applications were considered:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Planning Application number and address** | **Description of proposal** | **Parish Council Comment** |
| 23/00472/TCA  Westhill House, The Lower Lane, Combe Hay | Acer- (T1)- Reduce crown by 50%. Ash Tree (T2) -Crown lift lowest two limbs to approx. 5m | No Objection-submitted 27 Feb 23 |
| 23/00021/FUL  Parcel 7512 Fosseway Englishcombe | Reprofiling of land for the purposes of agricultural improvement, biodiversity benefits and landscape screening (resubmission). | Refuse |
| 23/00824/TCA  Combe Hay Manor | Dismantle all road side Ash trees showing signs of die back on the estate. Discmantle Ash trees with dieback of more than 50% in the gardens. | Comments to be submitted at a later date |

c. It was NOTED that no planning decisions by B&NES Council were received since the last PC meeting.

23.203 Highways and Rights of Way

a. Discussions took place about a replacement option for the cancelled bus 757. Cllr McCabe updated the Members on the meeting held with WECA (West of England Combined Authority) on the 8th March 2023 online. All agreed that proposed alternative solution - Demand Responsive Transport scheme did not seem to be promising for Combe Hay. Other possible solutions were discussed such as car-swaps in Combe Hay and possible use of Wellow Community Bus, which is currently in negotiations with WECA to obtain a grant for a possible provision of an alternative bus route locally. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

b. Potholes on Anchor Lane and Combe Hay Lane were reported on Fix My Street portal. Some were repaired already, but it was noted that the repairs are not lasting. Cllr MacCabe have informed the Council that BANES aware of the road surface problems caused by recent harsh weather conditions and is considering a total resurfacing program.

c. Request was sent to B&NES to install Weight restricting signs as concerns were raised about Heavy Goods Vehicles using the narrow lanes and the bridge.

**23.204 Environment**

a. No updates were received on renewable energy initiative

**23.205** **Parish Assets**

a. It was confirmed that village defibrillator is connected to the ambulance services.

23.206 Cemetery

a. No update on water supply to Week Farm were received. The Council thanked Annabel Richter for planting the spring bulbs in the cemetery and elsewhere in the village.

23.207 Community and Communication

- Welcome Pack It was NOTED that no new residents arrived in the village since the last meeting.

23.208 King Coronation – 6th May

a. The organization of the event is well under way with 98 people already signed up.

b. The Parish Council’s Insurance Risk Assessment for the Coronation event was NOTED.

23.209 Grounds maintenance

a. The grounds maintenance schedule 2023-24, which was emailed to all Members, was APPROVED and adopted. Cllr Rod Davies was appointed as a Lead Councillor in this area.

The Council thanked David Burrows for his work in preparing the grounds maintenance schedule and generally.

23.210 Finance and Administration

a. Council’s Asset Register 2023 was reviewed and APPROVED. Clerk will check with the insurance company about the inclusions of the cemetery and the Avenue.

b. The Risk Assessment and Management Scheme 2023 was reviewed and APPROVED. The updated version will be emailed to all Members.

c. The Council NOTED that the VAT claims have been received- of £396.00 for the financial year 2021-22 and £196.00 was received for 2022-23.

e. The following schedule of payments was APPROVED:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Net | VAT | Total amount |
| IONOS invoice: £2.40/mnth  January 2023, February 2023, March 2023 | £6.00 | £1.20 | £7.20 |
| Idverde final Invoice | £414.00 | £82.80 | £496.80 |
| Heartbeat Inv 15670 (new adult pads) | £116.00 | £23.20 | £139.20 |
| Materials for the restoration of the railings | £33.63 | £6.73 | £44.36 |

To NOTE payments made since the last meeting:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Net | VAT | Total amount |
| Staff pay – January 2023, February 2023 |  |  | Available to Council Members |

23.211 Open forum for Information only

It was mentioned that landowners are responsible for managing overgrown vegetation into the public footpaths and roads.

23.212 Proposed dates of future meetings:

Thursday 11 May 2023 – Annual PC Meeting (new Council take office and the Chairman elected)