Combe Hay Parish Council

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

BATHAVON SOUTH WARD, BATH & NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm**

**on Thursday 6th July 2022 in Combe Hay Church**

Present: Rob Burdett (Chairman), Crock Harrison, Janet Young, Paul Wontner

In attendance: Fiona Gourley (Ward Councillor), Olga Shepherd (Clerk), Two Members of the Public

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**1.7.23 Apologies**

Apologies received from Malcolm Austwick, Rod Davies and Joan Grieveson.

**2.7.23 Interests**

No interests were declared.

3.7.23 Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May 2023 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

4.7.23 Clerks report

- The Clerk has reported that not all invoices have been received for the coronation party. The total amount of donations received so far towards possible South Stoke legal advice is £2,485.

5.7.23 Councillors report No updates were received.

**6.7.23 Planning Applications**:

a. An update on Sulis Down planning application was received from the Chairman by email - SoBA (South of Bath Appliance), South Stoke Parish Council and CHPC are in the process of updating a summary of areas where legal advice may be needed in relation to any challenges to be made against a decision to approve the application. The current intention is that the funds raised by CHPC will be used in conjunction with the funds that South Stoke PC have raised to jointly fund legal advice to both councils.

Fiona Gourley informed that the next BANES meeting to discuss the Sulis Down planning application will take place in September/October and that she will speak out against the proposal.

b. The following planning applications were considered:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Planning Application number and address** | **Description of proposal** | **Parish Council Comment** |
| 22/01370/FUL  Parcel 4234, Combe Hay Lane | Creation of new allotments including associated facilities and landscaping, including access serving the allotments. | OBJECT |
| 22/02169/FUL  Parcel 4234, Combe Hay Lane | Additional documentation submitted to this planning application | OBJECT |

d. The following decisions on planning applications by BANES were NOTED:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Planning Application number and address** | **Description of proposal** | **BANES decision** |
| 22/04880/CLEU  Woodland Farm,  Old Bath Road | Use of land for equestrian use, grazing of horses and making hay  (Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use). | Lawful |
| 22/04881/FUL  Woodland Farm,  Old Bath Road | Retrospective application for the retention of two stables. | Permit |

- It was mentioned that trees planted at Sulis Down site, with the purpose of screening have not been watered and are likely to die.

7.7.23 Somer Valley Links Public Consultation (A367 Corridor) -run until 6 August 2023

Discussions took place about the proposed changes to Wellsway to create a cycleway and its potential impact on local traffic. Drop-in sessions will be run on the 12th, 19th and 24th July to consult the residents on the proposal. A note will be posted on the village Whatsapp group and the newsletter to draw residents’ attention and to encourage them to submit their comments. It was noted that P&R area is more concerning for Combe Hay village.

8.7.23 Highways and Rights of Way

a. A Weight limit sign had now been installed.

b. Welcome sign – the parish council has in principal agreed to pay for the new ‘Welcome’ sign, which was removed when 20mph signs were installed. However, the final decision is subject to a consultation with residents, design and the cost.

c. Speed watch – the date for organizing the village speed watch will be agreed at the next PC meeting in September. Police need to be contacted to organize roadside training.

**9.7.23 Environment**

a. The PC ran a survey about what residents want to do about deer damaging gardens. 15 people have responded, and the opinions were mixed. Three possible solutions were suggested: 1 - adequate fencing, 2 - a cull (some residents consider it inappropriate), 3- contraception; 4- relocation.

Professional advice will be taken by the council on how best to tackle this problem. It was mentioned that a sufficient survey needs to be done prior to any decisions are made. It was mentioned that only a licensed person can deal with this problem. Permission of landowners will be required. Enquiries will be made by the Council.

**10.7.23 Parish Assets**

No updates were received.

11.7.23 Cemetery

- Discussions took place about the recent damage to the cemetery stone wall. The landowner of the adjacent land agreed to repair the wall at no cost to the Council.

- The pipes are being laid to connect Week Farm to the water supply. The final connections are expected to be completed next week. A plan of new pipes is to be drawn up for future reference. Bristol Water will be notified.

- The owner of Week Farm reported that a contract has been signed with ‘Total Weed Control’ company which is associated with BANES to treat Japanese knotweed over the next 5 years in order to eradicate the growth.

- The new gates will be installed at the old part of the cemetery by the end of summer.

- A tap will also be installed for the visitors’ use.

- Request from a former resident of Combe Hay to purchase a cemetery plot for cremated remains was APPROVED. A family member of the deceased will visit the cemetery with one of the Councilors to identify the location and the Clerk will issue an invoice for the purchase of the plot and the memorial stone.

12.7.23 Community and Communication

- No new residents have arrived in the village since the last meeting.

13.7.23 Grounds maintenance

a. The maintenance schedule was reviewed. The updated schedule will be circulated to include strimming of triangle between the top of Backy Hill and Anchor Lane.

b. A new strimmer was purchased by the Council, it will be included in the PC Asset Register.

c. It was AGREED to purchase a small replacement tent.

14.7.23 Finance and Administration

a. The Councilors’ Code of Conduct was reviewed and ADOPTED.

b. Data Protection Policy will be reviewed at the next meeting.

c. The current Parish Council Insurance Schedule is to be reviewed at the next meeting.

d. The Q1 bank reconciliation was reviewed and APPROVED (emailed to all members along with the bank statements prior to the meeting).

e. The following schedule of payments was APPROVED

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Net | VAT | Total amount |
| Strimmer Stihl - invoice | £432.50 | £86.50 | £519.00 |
| Strimmer accessory |  |  | £48.00 |
| IONOS June invoice: £2.40/mnth | £6.00 | £1.20 | £1.80 |

The following payments made since the last meeting were NOTED:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Net | VAT | Total amount |
| Staff pay |  |  | Available to Council Members |
| Home office allowance |  |  | £24/month |

15.7.23 Date of the next meeting: 7 September 2023