Combe Hay Parish Council

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

BATHAVON SOUTH WARD, BATH & NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7pm**

**on Thursday 4th January 2024 in Combe Hay Church**

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

In attendance: Fiona Gourley (District Councillor), one resident and Clerk (Olga Shepherd)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No matters were raised under this section.

**1.1.24 Apologies**

No Apologies were received.

**2.1.24 Interests**

No interests were received.

3.1.24 Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 9th November 2023 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

4.1.24 Clerks report

there was no business, which is not included on the Agenda.

5.1.24 Councillors report

there was no business, which is not included on the Agenda.

**6.1.24 Planning Applications**:

a. 22/02169/EOUT Sulis Down – The Chairman updated the Council that the next Planning Committee is likely to take place in April 2024 or later. Applicant is to carry out further traffic surveys which will include impact on villages to South (Combe Hay and Wellow). SOBA and South Stoke PC have re-engaged the traffic consultant to evaluate the effects of the expected traffic increase. The Case Officer was requested to produce a report for Councillors on the exceptional requirements for more housing development. It was noted that the major concern of the development remains the lack of infrastructure required for the development.

b. No new planning applications were submitted since the last meeting.

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Planning Application number and address** | **Description of proposal** | **BANES decision** |
| 23/03797/FULBrook HouseAnchor Lane | Removal of existing roof lights and the installation of new double-glazed timber framed glass panels with re-use of existing tiles. | Permit |
| 23/03803/TCABeechcroft, Anchor Lane | 2no Cherry remove. One tree is dead or dying and the other tree is showing considerable signs of hardship.  | No objection |
| 23/03923/TCAWesthill House The Lower Lane | Conifer - dismantle to near ground level. Five Hazels - Coppice to near ground level. | No objection |

7.1.24 Highways and Rights of Way

a. Village Speed Watch - discussions took place if there is a need for the Village Speed Watch scheme to be organized. Everyone agreed that the 20mph signs helped to slow down the traffic. Clerk will find out the requirements for Speed Watch and report to the council.

b. A replacement Welcome sign – residents proposed to design, to make and install two ‘Welcome to Combe Hay’ signs at the agreed location by the parish council. An oak wooden piece sourced from the local estate was brought to the meeting for everyone to see if it is suitable for the new sign. All Councilors agreed to go ahead with this idea. The estimated cost of two signs is expected to be around £600. Clerk will contact BANES for formal agreement to install the two replacement ‘Welcome to Combe Hay’ signs.

**8.1.24 Environment**

a. A draft Environmental Policy will be prepared for approval at the next meeting.

**9.1.24 Parish Assets**

1. The updated Parish Assets Maintenance program was APPROVED, which included the levelling of the cemetery grounds for the ease of the maintenance works in the future.
2. The grounds maintenance Rota for 2024 will be reviewed and confirmed at the next meeting.

10.1.24 Cemetery

1. The income of £100 for the installation of the gravestone was received. The cemetery pricelist will be sent to the local vicar for information.
2. It was agreed to install 5” gate at the cemetery.
3. The Council AGREED to purchase a new mower for the use at the cemetery at the approx. cost of £600 and some soil for levelling. Volunteers help will be needed in May 2024.
4. Quotes to be obtained for the repair of the cemetery wall.

11.1.24 Community and Communication

a. No new residents arrived in the village since the last meeting.

1. Village Photo Project was very successful. Over 70 books were purchased by the villagers.

c. Spring Litter pick is to be organized on 13th April 2024 at 10am.

d. AGM will be organized on Thursday the 9th May 2024

e. Village summer event on the 5th to 7th July 2024: The working group has been set up. The organization, costs, budget and the itinerary agreed with the Council. The final details will be announced in due course via village communications.

12.1.24 Finance and Administration

a. Q3 bank reconciliation and the allocation of funds (emailed to all councilors prior to the meeting) as at the end of December 23 was reviewed and APPROVED.

b. The 2023-24 Budget outcome to date NOTED.

c. The 2024-25 Budget reviewed and AGREED.

d. It was AGREED to set the 2024-25 Precept amount at £9,750. Clerk will send the Precept requirement form to BANES.

e. £500 donation to the parish council from a resident was NOTED. This money will be used to purchase a gazebo to be used for future village events.

f. It was NOTED that Combe Hay PC share of £900 has been paid to South Stoke PC for legal fees for the advice relating to the representation at Sulis Down Planning Committee on 15th November 23.

The remaining balance of this fund is £1,635.

j. The following payments made since the last meeting were reviewed and RATIFIED:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Net | VAT | Total amount |
| Information Commission Office 2024-25 |  |  | £35.00 |
| Grant 2024-25 to Midsomer Norton Dial-a-Ride  |  |  | £30.00 |
| Village Photo Project expense (Chairman allowance) |  |  | £73.86 |
| Payment to South Stoke PC for legal fees (see 12.1.24 f) |  |  | £900.00 |
| IONOS domain 22 Nov 23-22 Nov 24 andNovember 23  | £18.00 | £3.60 | £21.60 |
| IONOS December 23 | £3.00 | £0.60 | £3.60 |
| Staff pay  |  |  | Available to Council Members |
| Home office allowance |  |  | £24/mnth |

13.1.24 Any other business

- Councilors mention that IONOS email hosting is not working very well. Clerk will contact IONOS helpline to address this problem. The option of using an alternative email was discussed. If IONOS continue to be a problem, the council will consider switching to different email addresses.

14.1.24 Date of next meeting: 7th March 2024