Combe Hay Parish Council

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

BATHAVON SOUTH WARD, BATH & NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Thursday the 14th November 2024 at 7.00pm**

**in Combe Hay Church.**

Councillors present: Malcolm Austwick, Rob Burdett, Crock Harrison, Joan Grieveson, Paul Wontner, Rod Davies.

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

###### MINUTES

**1.11.24 Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies received and accepted from Janet Young.

**2.11.24 Interests**

None were declared.

3.11.24 Minutes

Resolved:

1. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5th September 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
2. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 28th October were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

* The Representative from Avon Wildlife Trust spoke about a new Pollinator Pathways project which runs until June 2026. This project aims to connect biodiversity lines, offer free habitat advice for farmers and landowners. Environmental Land Management Scheme specializes in nature conservation areas where valuable habitat is identified and helps farmers to sign up to the government support schemes. This information will be published in the parish to raise awareness.
* Cllr Fiona Gourley reminded the council that the District Councilors Empowerment Fund is available for any project in Combe Hay.
* It was mentioned that Bathavon Forum is scheduled on the 25th November. The Clerk will attend and update the council.

4.11.24 Clerks report no further updates received

5.11.24 Councilors report no further updates received

**6.11.24 Planning Applications**:

a. Appeal re 22/02169/EOUT Sulis Down. The Chairman gave an update. The Parish Council RESOLVED to enter into a Statement of Common Grounds with the Appellant in a form to be negotiated and agreed by the Chairman and to continue fund raising efforts to pay for further professional support.

b. No new planning applications received since the last meeting.

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Planning Application number and address** | **Description of proposal** | **BANES decision** |
| 24/012576/VAR  1 Rose Cottages , The Lower Lane | Variation of condition 2 (Plans List (Compliance)) 21/04424/LBA (Internal and external alterations for the erection of link extension connecting host cottage to outbuilding to provide additional ancillary habitable accommodation, reinstatement of 2nd floor window to front elevation, alterations to rear dormer window, replacement of summerhouse, erection of greenhouse and associated landscaping works). | CONSENT |

7.11.24 Highways and Rights of Way

The following was discussed:

1. Recent graffiti attack on the bridge. A Councilor agreed to attempt to remove it.
2. Village speeding Focus Group (formed following the village questionnaire) – to be discussed at next meeting.
3. A problem of cars using a narrow Anchor/Lower Lane. It was decided to request local business owners to amend their post code in the SatNav app. to use the Backy Hill instead.

**8.11.24 Environment**

The following was discussed:

1. Avon Wildlife Trust Pollinator Pathways project could be implemented at the cemetery. This will be further investigated. The information provided at this meeting by AWT will be sent to the local farmers and landowners.
2. Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) event is scheduled on the 28th November at 7pm in the Church.
3. A correspondence received from Somersetshire Coal Canal Society to raise awareness to the villages along the route of the old canal and their restoration plans and also to highlight the HE2 Policy that protects the Somersetshire Coal Canal.

**9.11.24 Parish Assets**

1. The updated version of the Parish Assets Maintenance, circulated to all Councillors, was NOTED.
2. It was agreed to renovate the bench on the triangle containing the oak tree.
3. B&NES informed the parish council that maintenance of the oak tree at junction Anchor Lane and Backy Lane is the responsibility of B&NES.  The inspection of the tree is to be carried out by BANES inspector and any essential works required to the tree is to be identified during the inspection.
4. Welcome sign – no updates received at this meeting.

10.11.24 Cemetery

1. The Cemetery Plot Plan and ways of identifying the ‘unknown’ and ‘reserved’ plots were discussed.
2. Installation of a water tap – to be discussed at the next meeting.

11.11.24 Community and Communication

a. Welcome Pack: The Welcome Pack was delivered to the family moved to Bridge Farm.

b. It was NOTED that the car -sharing scheme is going well using the existing village Whatsapp group. It was decided that there is no need to create a separate Whatsapp group.

12.11.24 Finance and Administration

a. The updated Financial Regulations were reviewed and APPROVED for adoption.

b. The bank reconciliation as at 31st October 24, including the allocation of the PC funds, circulated to all Councilors before the meeting, was reviewed and APPROVED.

c. The 6 monthly budget progress report for the current financial year was NOTED.

d. It was noted that the VAT claim of £1,043 has been received from HMRC.

c. The following payment schedule was reviewed and AUTHORISED:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Net** | **VAT** | **Total amount** |
| Landmark Chambers inv 1 Nov 2024 (SD fund) | £3,600.00 | £720.00 | £4,320.00 |
| Topsoil and grass seeds for cemetery grounds |  |  | £345.99 |
| Village grounds maintenance  (Chairmans allowance) |  |  | £156.25 |
| IONOS Invoices paid monthly by standing order | £3.00 | £0.60 | £3.60 |
| Staff pay |  |  | Available to Council Members |
| Home office allowance |  |  | £24/mnth |

13.11.24 Any other business/ Items for the next meeting: to set the Budget and the Precept for the financial year 2025/2026.

14.11.24 Next meeting: Thursday 16th January 2025; 6th March 2025

The meeting ended at 20.15

Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_