

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
COOMBE BISSETT AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2016 (unconfirmed).**

Present: Councillors: D Rattue, C Chelu, P Crosthwaite, S Gledhill, A Bird and G Bundy. Mrs D James (Clerk). Mr J Bryan, Mr and Mrs D Simmonds and Mrs L Buckley.

83 Apologies for absence: Cllr. D Hobson and Wiltshire Cllr. J Johnson.

84 Public question time: Mr Bryan stated that he has purchased the old Coombe Hill garage and now plans to develop it in order to expand his Discover Adventure business premises. He intends to improve the site and convert it for office, workshop and garage use. Although a planning application has not yet been submitted, he indicated that the planning department have been initially supportive. Mrs Buckley asked if there had been any response to a letter submitted by the Parish Council requesting a conservation area appraisal management plan. It was stated there had been no reply and assurance was given that this would be followed up.

85 Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes were proposed by S Gledhill, seconded by C Chelu and agreed by all as a correct record.

86 Declarations of interest: D Rattue declared an interest in Pennings Drove drainage and G Bundy declared an interest in Wiltshire housing site allocations development plan. Therefore they will not take part in any Parish Council considerations. There were no additional declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

87 Matters arising:

Solar Park on land at Bake Farm: There has been no response or acknowledgement to two recent letters written to the Managing Director of British Solar Renewables (BSR) requesting the original offer of a community benefit of £1500/MW index linked for the life of the solar park is honoured. The site has now been split into two separate 5 MW projects (commercial and community). Currently, just the commercial part of the solar park is being constructed. BSR report that the commercial project is unable to contribute towards a community benefit. The Parish Council will take up MP John Glen's offer to intervene.

Pennings Drove drainage: Approval from Wiltshire Council for drainage work to be undertaken in Pennings Drove, in order to divert rainwater away from Pennings Drove and Stocks Bridge Lane is still awaited despite reminders. Two Wiltshire Council officers with responsibility for drainage and highways are visiting the parish soon so it is anticipated that the site can be inspected and a decision achieved.

Bus shelter in Coombe Bissett: C Chelu has had no reply from the company that owns the leasehold company, which manages the Fox and Goose site, in order to, request reconsideration of consent for erection of a bus shelter on a small area of the Fox and Goose car park. Alternative methods of communication will be pursued.

Wiltshire housing site allocations development plan: There still has been no notification from Redcliffe Homes regarding a public consultation exercise about the potential development site on the field south of Thorne Close which runs between the A354 and Homington Road. Wiltshire Council has indicated there will be consideration for their site allocation development plan during January and February.

Neighbourhood plan: D Rattue reported that he has no information or heard from anyone willing to lead development of a neighbourhood plan.

No through road sign – bottom of Pennings Drove: It is anticipated that Wiltshire Highways will install two “no through road” signs on either side of the bottom of Pennings Drove in the foreseeable future.

Gate on the Donkey field: The new oak posts and chain have been installed on the Donkey Field in order to discourage parking whilst the field is wet. The size and cost of the oak posts came as a surprise to a minority of the council. Thanks to Robin Maycock, Ron West, Chris Baughan and Des Adeley who voluntarily carried out the work.

Flooding: The Parish Council and Flood Wardens are planning to meet with two Wiltshire Council engineers to discuss drainage and highways issues in the next week. The Environment Agency have advised that they will be hosting a public meeting and presentation in Bishopstone village hall in order to examine ideas for flood defence and management of the Ebble. The date has not yet been published but will be advertised on notice boards and the parish council website when it is known. P Crosthwaite advised that there is sand, as well as sandbags and gel sacks stored in the village pound close to the church for use if required. Mrs Buckley requested that it is highlighted to parishioners who handle contaminated floodwater and debris to take precautions and care in order to avoid the risk of acquiring infection. The Parish Council expressed their appreciation to Mark Carrington and David Parson who have volunteered to assist P Crosthwaite as Coombe Bissett's flood wardens.

The Queen's 90th birthday: There are plans to hold an afternoon tea party on Saturday 11th June at the Village Hall to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. There are also plans to have dancing in the hall during the evening. The Clerk asked for a financial contribution from the Parish Council. All agreed that when plans and costs are fixed a sum would be granted.

88 Strimmer donation from WC Area Board: There has been an offer from Wiltshire Council Southern Area Board to donate an £800 strimmer to the parish as long as there is a contribution towards the mandatory training requirement. Training costs to the Parish Council will be £120 for two people. A Bird proposed and S Gledhill seconded this offer is accepted and all agreed.

89 New audit arrangements for smaller authorities: The Clerk explained that the Parish Council must decide if the council should opt in or out of a new "sector led body" for auditing purposes, which is a replacement for the audit commission which will procure audit services for smaller local authorities such as Coombe Bissett and Homington Parish Council from 2017. The alternative is to appoint an auditor locally. It was proposed by S Gledhill that the Parish Council should opt in and review charges after a year and then reconsider if necessary. C Chelu seconded this and all were in favour.

90 Usage of speed indicator devices: Wiltshire Council has offered parishes speed indicator devices to share with adjacent parishes. Cost implications to the Parish Council may include installation training, as well as maintenance and battery expense. The devices would need to be sited and removed on a regular basis, which is a further concern. Councillors unanimously agreed that the devices should not be adopted and that community speed watch is a preferable method of reminding drivers to slow down.

91 Parking on Recreation Field:

18-01-16: Garden Club (afternoon)
21-01-16: Film night
11-02-16: Phoenix (afternoon)
15-02-16: Garden Club (afternoon)
18-02-16: Film night
10-03-16: Phoenix
17-03-16: Film night
21-03-16: Garden Club

92 Parking on Donkey Field:

No requests

93 Notices on Donkey Field/Beech Tree:

21-01-16: Film night
18-02-16: Film night
17-03-16: Film night

94 Correspondence received: Thanks from Tennis Club for 106 funding for new tennis nets. Thanks from Rev. Jenny Taylor for Harvest Festival donation. Letter from John Glen MP offering his intervention should BSR not honour their pledge. Letter from Victim Support asking for a donation. (National charity based in Devizes.) Email from Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner indicating his proposal to increase council tax with associated public consultation. (Please refer to parish council page on <http://www.coombebissett.com> for opportunity to respond to consultation).

95 Planning:

Planning received:

15/11626/FUL – Land off Homington Road, Coombe Bissett. Proposed construction of a new grain drying and storage building with concrete hard standing area.

15/12211/TCA – Springfield, Shepherds Close, Coombe Bissett. Multi stemmed Lime Tree in corner of garden – fell to ground level. T2 – Lime tree with severe lean over river – fell to ground level. G1 – Two Cypress trees and one Cherry tree (near garage) – fell to ground level.

15/12104/LBC – Brook House, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett. Installation of three conservation style roof lights in modern kitchen extension and kitchen refurbishment.

Planning approved by Wiltshire Council:

15/10967/TCA – 1 Threeways Cottage, Salisbury Road, Coombe Bissett. Lawson Cypress tree – fell. Small unspecified tree – fell.

15/09993/FUL – Southfields, Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett. Erection of agricultural building for the storage of machinery, hay and straw.

15/11810/TCA – The Brines, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett. Yew tree – fell; Conifer tree – fell.

15/09950/FUL – Cawdon, Salisbury Road, Coombe Bissett. Replacement of existing 17m high monopole with proposed 17.5m high monopole, relocation of 2 existing antennas, installation of 1 proposed antenna, replacement of 1 existing cabinet plus minor ancillary apparatus.

96 Reports from representatives:

Police: D Rattue reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire has begun a consultation on a proposal to increase by 1.9% the police part of the council tax for 2016-2017. This would mean an extra cost of £3.12 a year (or 6p per week) on the average band D property. The increase would provide an additional £769000 of much needed local income which will help to protect local community policing.

Coombe Bissett CE Primary School: C Chelu reported that the class numbers remain the same as in September 2015. Of the 100 children on roll, 23 live within the catchment area.

Village Hall: C Chelu reported that a new microphone has been purchased for the radio transmitter used for the hall PA system, which hopefully will reduce incidences of feedback. Two fans have been installed in the village hall roof, which are designed to push down hot air near the roof to lower levels. This hopefully will result in the hall feeling warmer, without any increase in the use of electricity for the heating itself.

Highways and Street Scene: C Chelu reported that Wiltshire Council have been asked to sweep Shutts Lane to remove rotting leaves on which cars could skid. They have assigned a low priority to this matter. Several incidences of fly tipping at the top of Drove Lane have been reported and await removal. There has been some verge overrun along Stratford Tony Road, which Wiltshire Council has agreed, to kerb. The recent road works in Stratford Tony Road, which ruined the pristine surface replaced some time ago, are to accommodate a pipe carrying BT fibre to bring broadband to village further down the valley. Wiltshire Council have stated that volunteers may remove detritus at the top of drain grids to improve local drainage, but many drains will only be cleared once a year. However volunteers should not put themselves at any risk. Key drains that, if blocked, might flood high-speed roads or cause flooding to houses will be vactored on a priority basis. There is more detail on the Parish Council website.

Cemetery: G Bundy reported that cemetery gates have expanded during the wet weather and are now very tightly fitting. K Mould has been consulted and the decision has been made to wait until the gates dry out and then reassess to decide if modification is required. The cemetery hedges have been reduced and cut back.

Homington: S Gledhill reported that there are concerns about potential flooding in the village. He also brought to the attention of the Parish Council the issue of rubbish accumulating in the front garden of a property in Barbers Lane.

97 Finance:

Income:

HMRC – VAT refund £1196.21

Outgoings:

469 S James – reimbursement for dog fouling signs x 6	£26.16
470 SLCC – membership subscription	£77.00
471 Bawden Landscapes – grass cutting November	£125.45
472 Mrs D James – reimbursement for telephone signage	£36.00
473 D Adeley – Donkey Field expenses	£13.50
474 Bawden Landscapes – Cemetery hedge management	£508.56
475 CB&H Village Hall – Annual hall hire	£62.00
476 C Baughan – reimbursement for Donkey Field posts and extras	£238.96
477 Bawden Landscapes – grass cutting December	£125.45
478 Mrs D James – office expenses	£491.08
479 CB&H Cricket Club – field maintenance	£475.00
480 CB&H Village Hall – AED electricity	£35.00

Balance on accounts:

The balance on the reserve account is £12008.15

The balance on the current account is £14994.21

The total of the two accounts is therefore: £27002.36

P Crosthwaite proposed, S Gledhill seconded and everyone agreed that cheques 469 to 480 be paid.

98 Date of next meeting: 8th March 2016 at 7 pm.

99 The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.