

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
COOMBE BISSETT AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2017 (unconfirmed).**

Present: Councillors: D Rattue, D Hobson, P Crosthwaite, C Chelu, S Gledhill, A Bird and G Bundy. Mrs D James (Clerk). Wiltshire Councillor R Clewer. Mrs L Buckley, Ms K Byatt, Miss S Dyer, Mr C May, Mr C Humphreys, Mr D Parson, Mr T Barnes-Taylor and Mr R Maycock.

57 Apologies for absence: Mr and Mrs J Speirs, Mr and Mrs D Simmonds and Mr P Buckley.

58 Public question time: Mr Parson identified the Mill Pond as an iconic landmark in the village. He explained that because it has now become so overgrown there is a lack of water flow that has an impact on exacerbation of potential flooding. There is increasing concern because the water table is 7m higher than last year. Mr Barnes-Taylor reported that he has sought a considerable amount of expert advice. The opinion is that incorrect actions have been taken in the past resulting in urgent action required. He has cleared a large amount of weed and debris recently, but feels the problem has become greater than a homeowner's undertaking. Mr Barnes-Taylor, Mr Parson and Mr Maycock asked for help and support from the Parish Council, to widen the channel and thereby produce free flow of water. D Rattue clarified that the pond is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. D Hobson agreed to speak to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust water team for advice and ideas for grant funding. R Clewer offered to speak to the relevant Wiltshire Council (WC) officer. The Clerk will contact the Environment Agency and bring their attention to the problem. C Chelu will contact WC highways about clearing debris adjacent to the pond area along the A354. Mr Barnes-Taylor will look at costs involved and report back to the Parish Council.

Mrs Buckley asked the following question on behalf of the Coombe Bissett Community Conservation Group: 'Several months have passed since the 18th July public meeting and no further information has been given to the local community with reference to the planning declaration presented on Gerald Bundy's behalf, by his Developer, Nick Yeo of Blue Cedar Homes. Has the Parish Council been given any further information relating to this matter?'

D Rattue replied that the Parish Council had received no further information. He then permitted a direct question by Mrs Buckley to G Bundy requesting information. G Bundy responded: 'Today we exchanged contracts on the option agreement with Blue Cedar Homes.'

59 Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes were proposed by G Bundy, seconded by S Gledhill and agreed by all as a correct record.

60 Declarations of interest: D Rattue declared an interest in Stocks Bridge Lane repair work and G Bundy declared an interest in development in the Bundy field, Wiltshire housing site allocations development plan and neighbourhood 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.

61 Matters arising:

Development in the Bundy Field: Minuted in the second part of public question time.

Wiltshire housing site allocations development plan: A meeting hosted by WC on 30th November, titled 'Help shape Wiltshire's plans to 2036', invites councillors and neighbourhood development plan (NDP) representatives to be briefed on the purpose of the consultation looking at Wiltshire's future development leading up to 2036. Two representatives from the NDP group have kindly offered to attend as well one parish councillor.

Neighbourhood development plan: The NDP group has prepared the application form. The name of the neighbourhood area will be formally known as Coombe Bissett and Homington Parish. It had been proposed and agreed to support an NDP by the Parish Council at the September meeting. The Parish Council Chairman signed the application. Thanks were expressed to Mrs C Cooper, Chair of the NDP group, for her work.

Community benefit fund: There have been no further formal proposals or applications. Please contact a Parish Council member with any ideas or suggestions for an innovative

project with long-term benefits to villagers. £16000 is still available.

Homington Road flooding: A grant application to SSE for a £2000 grant to top up the cost of work to improve the flooding situation adjacent to Shergold Cottages in Homington Road has been refused.

A354 possible drain improvement work: The Clerk recently attended a meeting of the Operational Flood Working Group, in order to reiterate the repeated requests for the important work to be carried out on the Blandford Road. The job consists of enlarging a drain on the Blandford Road and installing a grill cover, so that water can be removed from the road more quickly and will prevent some houses becoming flooded. The response from WC's drainage engineer was that major work has to be prioritised due to budgetary restraints. Wiltshire Councillor Richard Clewer is supporting acceleration of this work, which was originally requested well over a year ago.

Council housing in Coombe Bissett: Building is well under way. The 4 new homes should be completed by early spring 2018. Houses will be allocated during February. Those who wish to apply must register as soon as possible on the Homes4Wiltshire website. People may call 0300 4560104 for advice about registering. Alternatively for further information contact Victoria Smith, the WC commissioning officer on 01249 706556 or victoria.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Stocks Bridge Lane repair work: Work is planned to commence on 15th November.

Grant opportunity for outdoor community equipment: The Parish Council has been awarded £2000 by the Tesco token scheme to pay for adult fitness equipment. Discussion around the popularity of usage of fitness equipment took place. C Chelu will ask for public opinion via the next edition of the Express.

Speeding in Homington Road: Ms Byatt reported that currently Homington Road is not an approved Community Speed Watch area, as the Police have not assessed it, despite assurances this would happen several months ago. The recent Metrocount adjacent to Tottens in Homington Road showed vehicles travelling of speeds up to 56 mph in a 20 mph area. The Clerk will write to the Police Officer concerned, in order to expedite the assessment. A meeting in October with a WC traffic engineer, the Clerk and Ms Byatt resulted in the traffic engineer recommending usage of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) being the only realistic solution along this stretch of Homington Road. Parish Councillors felt that SID's are only effective for a limited time spell.

Grant opportunity from SSE: SSE has rejected the £2000 grant application to help with funding the flood prevention kerb in Homington Road. The reason given is that the grant panel considered this work to be the responsibility of the statutory authorities.

Asset review: Following the asset review, jobs still outstanding but which have been organised are recreation field hedge and cemetery hedge cutting back; also pruning of the Willow tree on the Donkey Field.

Repairs to the play area: Following the recent RoSPA report, it was identified that the laminate deck board at the top of the slide needs attention. RoSPA and others noted that the wooden fence surrounding the play area needs much repair. Parish Councillors had agreed previously that this should be replaced with a low maintenance metal fence. The Clerk and two councillors met with two different contractors for advice and quotes. It was proposed that more information is required from the contractor, particularly for the higher part of the fence that is necessary for protection of the play area against cricket balls.

62 Mobile phone signal improvement: Mr May and Mr Humphreys conveyed the fact that mobile phone signal in Coombe Bissett is variable and the signal in Homington is poor. Mr May said Ofcom, the communications regulator, state signals in the parishes are good. He pointed out that there is an Ofcom app that can be run on most smartphones that measures signal availability or lack of and then reports directly back to Ofcom. This way they can build a picture of what is actually available. Android

users can download the Ofcom mobile research app from Google Play store. Mr Humphreys emphasised they want to bring this problem to the attention of the Parish Council. Discussion resulted in the suggestion that Mr Humphreys and Mr May approach local, suitable landowners with the proposition of achieving installation of mobile repeaters as a community-initiated project.

63 Housing needs survey: In February next year be a housing needs survey for Coombe Bissett and Homington will be taking place. A questionnaire will be delivered to all households. The majority of the questionnaires will be enclosed in copies of the February Express. It's important to the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Development Plan group that parishioner's opinions and needs are known and identified.

64 Dog fouling signs: The decision was made to use existing signs which are in possession of the Parish Council.

65 Puddle outside of Lych Gate: The request for work to resurface outside the Lych Gate at Coombe Bissett, in which there is a large dip where water accumulates creating a deep puddle, has been submitted several times now. The Clerk will contact WC's drainage engineer once again.

66 Trees donated by the Woodland Trust: An offer to apply for saplings donated by the Woodland Trust has been received. D Hobson had made enquiries with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust about possible planting sites. No suggestions have been forthcoming.

67 Request for a Christmas tree on the Donkey Field: The Parish Council consent to any villager who wishes to site a Christmas Tree on the Donkey Field. Discussion with a councillor or the Clerk would be required first.

68 Precept for next year: D Rattue and the Clerk reviewed likely expenditure for 2018-19. They also anticipated capital expenditure for that period. D Rattue considered that the precept should be kept the same as last year at £11000. S Gledhill proposed and D Hobson seconded that this be accepted and all were in favour. Council tax bills may show an increase because of a possible movement in the tax base from last year.

69 Parking on Recreation Field:

05-12-17: Drama club

14-12-17: Phoenix

16-12-17: Wedding

70 Parking on Donkey Field:

Council house builders

16-12-17: Wedding

71 Notices on Donkey Field/Beech Tree:

Film club

Phoenix

Drama club

72 Correspondence received:

Thanks from WWT Chief Executive

73 Planning:

Planning received:

17/09982/TCA – Centre Cottage, Homington Road, Homington. T1 – Liquidambar – Crown reduce and reshape by 1.5m. T2 – Birch – Crown lift to a maximum of 3m. T3 Pear Tree – Fell.

17/10493/TCA – Rosewall, Homington. 1 and 2: Elm trees – reduce to 2m stumps. 3: Beech tree – reduce to 4m. 4: Beech tree – reduce to hedge height. 5 and 6: Beech tree – fell. 7, 8 and 9: Beech tree – reduce to hedge height.

17/10922/TCA – The River House, Shepherds Close, Coombe Bissett. T1 – Copper Beech tree – crown reduce by 1.5m, back to suitable growth points. T2 – Spruce tree – reduce height by a third. T3 – Cypress tree – fell. T4 – Cherry tree – fell.

Planning approved by Wiltshire Council:

17/08675/TCA – Church Farm House, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett. Walnut – remove large limb leaving 2 metre stump. Fell 2 Olum trees. Raise Yew tree up to 3 metres. Greengage - shorten limb. Chestnut tree – remove large limb and 7 – 8 smaller limbs. Laburnum – fell.

17/08683/TCA – The Manor, Barbers Lane, Homington. 3 Sycamores – fell.

17/07475/FUL – Caddens, Lower Road, Homington. Extensions, alterations and construction of replacement garage.

17/08564/FUL – Little Ridge, Salisbury Road, Coombe Bissett. Proposed two storey side extension and alterations.

17/08646/FUL – Penvale, Stratford Tony Road, Coombe Bissett. Revise extension roof from hip with dormer to gable with window.

74 Reports from representatives: G Bundy reported that four separate offences of fly tipping in Shutts Lane and Gypsy Lane have been reported to Wiltshire Council.

75 Finance:

Income:

Cemetery fee	£60.00
Wiltshire Council precept	£5500.00
Allotment rent	£25.00
HMRC – VAT refund	£524.64

Outgoings:

569 Bawden Managed Landscapes – grass cutting September	£127.94
570 RoSPA – play area inspection	£79.80
571 C Chelu – reimbursement for tarpaulin	£10.00
572 Bawden Managed Landscapes – grass cutting October	£127.94
573 Office expenses	£507.72

Balance on accounts:

The balance on the reserve account is £32018.57

The balance on the current account is £17445.03

The total of the two accounts is therefore: £49463.60

S Gledhill proposed, P Crosthwaite seconded and everyone agreed that cheques 569 to 573 be paid.

76 Date of next meeting: 9th January 2018.

77 The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.