

Coombe Bissett Parish Council

Mrs Jay McGowan, Clerk - parishclerkcoombebissett@gmail.com

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting

Coombe Bissett Parish Councillors met for the **Annual Parish Meeting** on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at Coombe Bissett Village Hall starting at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Des Hobson (Chair), Abigail Bird (Vice-Chair), Chris Chelu, Stephen Gledhill.

Also, present: Jay McGowan (Clerk), Cllr Richard Clewer and 3 members of the public.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kim Byatt, Lynnie Reed and Simon Boxall.

Resolved: Attending members accepted the apologies.

2. Minutes of the last meeting.

Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held Thursday 20th May 2021 were approved by Councillors as a true record. Cllr Hobson signed the minutes.

3. Matters arising from those minutes. None.

4. Chairman's annual report – D Hobson.

A new Parish Council was formed in May 2021 following an uncontested election. We welcomed new Councillors Kim Byatt and Lynnie Reed, and later in the year we were joined by Simon Boxall after a selection process. The new Councillors replaced Derrick Rattue, who served as Parish Council Chairman for many years, Gerald Bundy and Pippa Crosthwaite, all of whom stepped down at the end of their terms, to whom we express our grateful thanks.

All Parish Councillors are volunteers: no one is paid for the work they do on behalf of the community. I am grateful to everyone for all the time they freely give.

In November we appointed our new Parish Clerk Jay McGowan. Jay is brilliant – thank you Jay. She replaced Nicola Heron, who was Clerk for a few months – thank you Nicola.

I would like to thank our Wiltshire Councillor Richard Clewer for his support for our villages. Richard continues to attend nearly every Parish Council meeting, as well as now also being Leader of Wiltshire Council. Richard gets things

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done for us when we can't, such as the new railings along the river in Coombe Bissett.

The various activities of the Parish Council are reported in the individual reports, showing the breadth of work we undertake. There is one aspect I particularly want to highlight, which is the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which is led on behalf of the Parish Council by Christine Cooper. We are about four years in so far. Christine has undertaken a colossal amount of work to get the Neighbourhood Plan this far, negotiating all the hurdles put in our way. Next year it goes to referendum, and if it passes, villagers will have much greater control over new development in our parish. Thank you Christine.

Next month we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, which is a remarkable milestone.

Thank you all for everything you do.

5. Annual reports from representatives.

Councillor Chelu:

Village Hall

New LED lighting has been installed in the foyer, Homington Room and the concealed side lighting in the main hall. Replacement of the fire doors on the north side of the hall is imminent as these doors do not reliably close and compromise the security of the building. The exterior woodwork has been painted with preservative, and replacement of the soffits which are deteriorating is planned. The running of the hall depends upon the hard work of a number of volunteers on the management committee, and two paid cleaners, for which we thank them.

Highways & Street Scene

The new railings opposite the Fox and Goose were installed last October and hopefully the remainder will be installed this year. Last November it was reported to the parish council that two cars had smashed wing mirrors at the pinch point on the C12 Homington Road, within Homington. A grant application to CATG was made for road narrows signs and subject to confirmation by Southern Area Board was approved. The Parish Council is informed of occasional road closures and these are published on the village website. Adrian Turnbull has still been moving the speed indicator device around the parish on a regular basis and the data is available on the parish website. We thank him for his continued enthusiasm for the SID and running Community Speed watch. The Donkey Field has been very wet again this winter and it is hoped that the planned low rustic fence can be installed soon.

Snow Warden

The snow experienced this year was again very short lived, a few flakes, i.e. none. The Parish still has ample supplies of salt ready for next winter and more can be requested although we may have to collect it ourselves. Advice

Coombe Bissett Parish Council

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to parishioners is on the website to help them prepare for any period of snowfall.

Planning

During the last year there have been 12 planning applications and a number of tree applications in Coombe Bissett. Since the tree applications are approved by an expert Tree Officer, unless the work is very controversial, no comments will be submitted in future. The development in the chalk pit which resulted in over 50 objections from local residents has yet to be determined. It is now a year since the developers last provided any information regarding this application. Information on how they intend to deal with foul water has not been forthcoming. The application for the Old Vicarage has also yet to be determined and is awaiting various reports, one, again, being how foul water is to be disposed.

Councillor Bird:

Playground and Recreation Field

Thankfully no further restrictions were put on the use of the playpark due to the covid pandemic, so the playpark has remained open for use. The bark surface was increased as advised by the RoSPA inspection. Thanks to Chris and Tina Chelu, Don Morgan and Steve Garrett for achieving this.

Weeds in the bark surfacing are an issue. Hopefully a chav or other volunteer may be able to help with weeding/trimming.

A second piece of adult exercise equipment has been installed. Thanks to Chris Chelu for his tenacity.

The field will be used for the 2022 Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 5th June 2022. There will be a Coombe Bissett v Homington cricket match on Friday 3rd June 2022.

Ian Newman again, keeps the field looking lovely. The 2022 cricket season has begun, and the cricket club is well supported.

Councillor Reed:

21 –22 Flood Warden Report

Not really a lot to report on the flooding situation.

The only cause for concern was a letter I received from Mr Smith at the Fox and Goose with reference to the flooding on the road outside of the pub, Mr Smith did send me photographic evidence which was passed on to Councillor Chelu as he is now in responsible for the proceedings forward.

However new gel sacs have been placed in storage for distribution to residents if required.

Coombe Bissett Parish Council

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Councillor Gledhill:

2021-22 Homington Report

Parish Councillors

Homington Residents Des Hobson, Stephen Gledhill and Simon Boxall have been Parish Councillors throughout the year. Des Hobson has also been Chairman of the Parish Council.

Planning Applications

Four Planning Applications have been considered over the past year. These have involved three residential property extensions, and one tree application. None of the applications were particularly controversial and as a result it was not necessary for the Parish Council to ask our Wiltshire Councillor to 'call in' an application for consideration by the Southern Area Planning Committee. This was a relatively small number of applications, over the past 10 years five to nine has been a more usual figure.

Flooding

The risk from flooding in the village, particularly from run-off following heavy rain has continued to be monitored. The Parish Council has continued to work with Wiltshire Council to ensure minor works to improve drainage are completed. The Wiltshire Council Parish Steward has been effective in the clearance of a number of drainage grips around the village.

Traffic

The Parish Speed Indicator Device (SID) is on rotation deployed on the C12 through the village. In addition, the Parish Community Speed Watch volunteer team has conducted speed checks on the C12. Full details of the data collected by the SID are available on the village website. Analysis of the data suggest that the majority of drivers travel either below or very close to the legal road speed limit. However unsurprisingly a small minority of drivers continue to break the speed limit. The Parish Council is continuing to work with Wiltshire Council (who are the highways authority), to consider other possibly measures to control excess traffic speed.

2021-22 Neighbourhood Plan Progress Report

Work has continued throughout the year on the Neighbourhood Plan. This has been led on behalf of the Parish Council by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group under its Chair Christine Cooper.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a powerful tool to enable the community to influence development in its area. When complete it will become a formal part of planning policy within Wiltshire.

To date all required detailed preparatory studies and analyses have been completed. These include:

Coombe Bissett Parish Council

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- A Housing Needs Assessment to identify the numbers and types of new dwellings required over the next 15 years.
- A Wiltshire Council Housing Survey to establish the need for affordable housing.
- Detailed assessments of possible sites for development.
- A Green Spaces Topic Paper.
- A Transport Topic Paper.
- A Flooding Topic Paper.
- A Design Guide.
- A Community Survey.

With these in place a first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan has been completed. This draft is now the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment, which is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. The draft Plan will then be the subject of a Regulation 14 Consultation. This is a consultation which takes place prior to the draft plan being formally submitted to Wiltshire Council (as the Planning Authority). It provides an opportunity for members of the community and other consultees (e.g. AONB, Environment Agency etc) to comment on the draft Plan. The Regulation 14 Consultation is scheduled to take place later this summer.

After this the draft Plan will be amended as necessary and then submitted to Wiltshire Council who will conduct a further Regulation 16 Consultation on the Plan. The Plan will then be subject to independent examination. Following this the Neighbourhood Plan will be put to a Community Referendum. If it receives majority support, in planning jargon it will be 'Made' and formally become part of regulatory planning policy. It is hoped that this will be achieved in 2023.

6. Open Forum:

a. A Parishioner asked if any further update had been received on The Old Vicarage Planning Consultation.

No further update had been received at the time of the meeting.

b. It has been noticed that the drainage grip outside Foundary Cottage is still blocked. Cllr Chelu has previously contacted G Axtell at Highways regarding this issue. As Grip cutting was late starting this winter, due to the change in grass cutting and along with a few breakdown issues the programme is behind schedule. Mr Axtell will treat it as a priority. *Cllr Chelu will contact Mr Axtell again for an update.*

Fox & Goose flooding, this was first raised in May 2021 when the road was resurfaced. In March 2022 Mr Bollen at Wiltshire Council was trying to come to a resolution with the Major Maintenance team, however The Council as yet have not had a response. *Cllr Chelu will request an update.*

c. A member of the public asked if the white gates along the A354 could be cleaned as they are looking worn.

Cllr Chelu will ask the parish steward to clean these on his next visit to the parish.

d. It has been noticed the sign erected in Homington for the Queen's 25th Jubilee Celebrations is missing; the Council were asked if they knew the

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whereabouts of the sign.

The sign was placed on the Barn at Homington Farm which has recently been demolished. The owner of Homington Farm has the sign and Cllr Gledhill will ask the owner about their future plans for it. The Council welcome any suggestions for a permanent plaque to mark the upcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

e. A Parishioner noticed the increase in aircraft flying over Coombe Bissett which is causing some noise.

Unfortunately, due to wind conditions and 'no fly' restrictions over Boscombe Down and Middle Wallop the route for the aircraft sometimes have to change and may fly over Coombe Bissett and surrounding areas.

f. The Parishioners would like to thank The Parish Council for all their time and hard work they dedicate to the villages.

7. To close the meeting.

The meeting was brought to a close by The Chairman at 6.55pm