

Coombe Bissett Parish Council
Minutes for Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Jay McGowan, Parish Clerk

Minutes of Coombe Bissett Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Coombe Bissett Village Hall on Tuesday 12th March 2024. The meeting started at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Abi Bird (Chair), Simon Boxall (Vice-Chair), Kim Byatt, Michelle King, Stephen Gledhill, Des Hobson

Also present: Jay McGowan (Clerk), plus 4 members of the public.

Public Session

***Coombe Bissett Cricket Club:** The Chairman of Coombe Bissett Cricket Club explained the need for a large storage facility for all the equipment required to maintain the grounds. Various options had been investigated by the Cricket Club Committee, taking into consideration the security, safety and ease of access, they concluded a lean-to built on to the side of the Pavilion would be the best and most secure option for housing the equipment. It would be built in keeping with the existing Pavilion. A quote has been obtained for the build which is approx. £4,000 plus VAT. The Cricket Club would like the Council to consider a grant towards the building costs.

*It was agreed by all Cllrs to bring item 130.23 forward so the Chairman could answer any questions Councillors had.

*Cllr Bird declared an interest in this item and abstained from the voting process. Cllr Boxall presided over the discussions and voting process.

A Parishioner asked the following:

- a) Do the Parish Council receive any feedback from the Environment Agency regarding the flow meters in the Ebble. *Cllr Hobson confirmed the Parish Council do not receive any feedback from the EA.*
- b) The Mill Pond, do the Parish Council have any advice for the owners of the pond when they try to keep it clear of the silt etc from the Salisbury Road and Drove Lane. Could Wiltshire Council be contacted to help the owners? *The Parish Council have no advice to offer the Mill Pond owners. Wiltshire Council have been contacted several times by the Parish Council regarding this but maintain they have no responsibility for this.*
- c) Coronation Trees; were they donated? *No, the trees were paid for by the Parish Council. As the first tree did not survive the conditions in the Donkey Field, a weeping willow which can grow in the wet conditions, was purchased and planted.*

Deputy Flood Warden. The Deputy Flood Warden requested the Parish Council to contact a Wiltshire Council drainage engineer to visit the Parish and walk round the villages to assess the poor drainage system currently in place. Would they be able to design/draw a plan for a permanent solution to the road flooding caused by the inefficiency of the current drains. While clearing of the drains is helping it is a short term and costly solution. The roads and properties continue to suffer damage every time the road floods. *The Parish Council will contact Cllr Clewer and the Wiltshire Council Drainage Team to request an engineer visit. Both the Flood Wardens and the Parish Council would like to stress the importance to residents to report any flooding issues directly on the My Wilts App.*

Coombe Bissett Parish Council
Minutes for Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Jay McGowan, Parish Clerk

Agenda

124.23 To receive and consider acceptance of apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr Reed. **Resolved:** Cllrs considered and accepted Cllr Reed's apologies. Both Cllr Clewer and PC Murphy sent their apologies as were unable to attend the meeting.

125.23 Vacancies in Parish Council Office: None.

126.23 Declaration of Interest: Councillors to disclose their interests in matters to be discussed and to decide requests for dispensation. Cllr Bird declared an interest in item 130.23. Cllr Boxall would lead this item.

127.23 To consider any urgent matters raised in the public session, and any other urgent matters or items from Councillors. (For discussion only, no decisions can be taken). None

128.23 To agree any items on the agenda that are to be dealt with following the exclusions of the press & public. None.

129.23 Minutes. To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held 9th January 2024.

Amendment to item 116.23 c) To approve the Schedule of Payment: On further investigation, the migration to Gen 2 plan would incur an extra cost of £23.99 pa therefore the total cost to the Parish Council would be £41.99 pa. As the forwarder option was not necessary it was agreed not to migrate to the updated plan and keep with our original plan minus the forwarders. This would keep the cost to £21.59.

Resolved: Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting. Cllr Bird signed the Minutes.

***130.23 Coombe Bissett Cricket Club.** A request for a grant towards a new storage facility for the mechanical equipment. Cllrs reviewed and considered the request. **Resolved:** Two options were proposed and considered; Cllr Hobson proposed the following:

- a) A grant of 50% towards cost would be given subject to the Cricket Club obtaining any necessary permissions including any planning application and building control consent required.
- b) The Cricket Club would be responsible for maintaining and any associated cost for the upkeep of the building.
- c) If the Parish Council could pay for the build (as land is owned by the Council) and reclaim the VAT with the Cricket Club contributing to 50% of the NET costs.
- d) The Vice Chairman and Clerk will review the Deeds.

Cllr Gledhill seconded this motion.

As the Cricket Club had built up a small reserve, Cllr Byatt proposed the Parish Council would give a grant for any shortfall of funds required for the build.

A vote was taken, and a majority vote with 4 votes favouring a grant of 50% of the cost.

Resolved: A grant of 50% of the cost for the build will be given subject to the above stipulations. It was agreed the funds will be given from the Parish Council uncommitted funds reserves.

Coombe Bissett Parish Council
Minutes for Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Jay McGowan, Parish Clerk

131.23 Septic Tank Upgrades. Wiltshire Council are offering full grants to homeowners within the Avon catchment area (this includes the Ebbles) to upgrade their tanks. Further information will be published on Wessex Rivers Trust. **Resolved:** As this would greatly benefit many residents, it was agreed when further information became available residents would be informed.

132.23 Pennings Drove Cemetery.

- a) The gates are scheduled to be repaired later in the year when the weather conditions improve.
- b) Cemetery Hedge. Cllr Boxall met with the neighbouring property owner and Hurdcott Landscapes. An amicable solution was agreed, and new roses have been planted. Hurdcott Landscapes apologised to both the property owner and the Council for the error. *No further action required.*

133.23 Review of Parish Council Assets. To review the Council assets for financial year 2023-24. **Resolved:** Cllrs reviewed and agreed the assets held by the Council.

134.23 Financial Policy. To review and adopt the Financial Policy for financial year 2024-2025. **Resolved:** Cllrs reviewed the Policy and agreed the amendments. As an extra precaution Cllr Hobson will also receive notification of any payments from the Parish Council bank accounts.

135.23 CHAVS Volunteers. To be deferred until spring.

136.23 Clerk's Report/Items carried forward from previous meeting:

- a) **Playpark.** Some minor repairs still need to be completed, these will be done as and when conditions allow.
- b) **Coronation Tree.** A new willow tree has been planted on the Donkey Field to mark the King's Coronation. *No further action.*
- c) **Parish Steward Visits:**
Thursday 7th March 2024
Monday 8th April 2024 – *a worksheet will be submitted by the Clerk.*
No dates scheduled for May.
The Parish Council would like to thank the Parish Steward for filling the potholes which could be given the wet conditions.
The Parish Council would like to encourage all residents to report any potholes directly on the My Wilts App.

137.23 Highways.

- a) **Fox & Goose.** The drainage work has now been carried out.
The Parish Council would like to thank Wiltshire Council for carrying out the repairs to this area of the A354.
- b) **Discretionary Gully Service.** Locations of gullies to be jetted have been submitted to Wiltshire Council. The gullies have now been jetted which alleviated the problem temporarily, however due to the runoff of silt these have now become blocked again.
The Parish Council would like to thank Nic Artiss and Chales May for their continued efforts in keeping these drains clear.
- c) **30mph Speed Signs.** It has been noted many of the signs need to be cleaned and repaired, a report has been submitted to Wiltshire Council. *Nothing further to report.*
- d) **Homington Road.** To note, Homington Road from the A354 junction to 20mph speed limit is on the Wiltshire Council Major Maintenance list of works for Financial Year 2024-25.

Coombe Bissett Parish Council
Minutes for Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
 Jay McGowan, Parish Clerk

e) **A354 Blandford Road.** When heavy rain falls silt is running off the Donkey Field and will eventually block the drains/gullies. **Resolved:** This has been added to the Parish Steward's list for clearing. A report will be submitted to Highways and Drainage Teams.

138.23 Flooding. See the Deputy Flood Warden report in the Public Session.

139.23 Planning.

a) **To consider any new planning applications received.** None.

b) **To consider any new planning applications received between publication of agenda and meeting.** None.

c) **To confirm any planning application responses determined by email for applications received since last meeting:** (Comments can be viewed on the Wiltshire Council Planning Portal).

PL/2024/00092: Land Adjacent Ebble Cottage, Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett. *Objection.*

PL/2024/00603 & PL/2024/00548: Box Cottage, Lower Road, Homington, SP5 4NG. *No objection.*

PL/2024/00863: Land South of Homington Road, SP5 4NG. *No comment submitted.*

d) **To note any planning application decisions made by Wiltshire Council.**

PL/2023/07449: Coombe Down Farm, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LJ. *Approved with conditions.*

140.23 Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Gledhill has now taken on the task of rewriting the new draft plan taking into account last year's consultations. This should be complete in the next few weeks. The draft Plan will then be subject to a further Habitats Regulations Assessment. Simultaneously the NP Consultant is drafting the Basic Conditions Statement and Consultation Statement to accompany the Plan. When these are complete the NP and supporting documentation will be ready to formally submit to Wiltshire Council. This should happen in the early summer. Wiltshire Council will then conduct a further consultation on the Plan.

The Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Stephen Gledhill and Christine Cooper for their time, dedication and tenacity to keep momentum going and pushing the plan forward.

141.23 Finance.

a) To note bank accounts.

b) To note the Grass Maintenance Contract with Hurdcott Landscapes will increase to £1,943 + VAT from 1st April 2024.

c) Grant to Coombe Bissett Tennis Club. **Resolved:** Following the grant awarded to the Tennis Club for the work required to tarmac the car park (09.01.24 item 107.23) it was agreed the funds would be from the Parish Council's uncommitted funds.

d) To approve Schedule of Payments.

Resolved: All payments approved.

Date	Payee	Particulars	Amount
25.02.24	CB Cricket Club	Grass Cutting 2022/2023	£525.00
25.02.24	CB Cricket Club	Ground Maint. (Playarea)	£100.00
12.03.24	HMRC Shipley	Clerk's Expenses	£26.40
12.03.24	I Newman	Play Park work reimbursement	£52.50
Total			£703.90

Coombe Bissett Parish Council
Minutes for Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Jay McGowan, Parish Clerk

142.23 Parking Requests. Resolved: All request approved
See Minutes Published on the Parish Council website for the full list.

143.23 Forthcoming Meetings.

- LHFIG: 8th May 2024 – TBN
- Southern Wiltshire Area Board Health & Wellbeing Group: 11th May – TEAMS
- Southern Wiltshire Area Board: 23rd May - TBN

144.23 Correspondence Received. (Circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting)

- Briefing Notes: 24.01 – 24.04
- Message from Cllr Richard Clewer, Wiltshire Council Leader - Tourism
- Police and Crime Commissioner's Force Update.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies Event: 12th March 2024
- The Wiltshire Classic Event 2024: 16th March 2024.
- Invitation to Southern Wiltshire Area Board Volunteer Event: 29th April 2024.
- WALC February Newsletter
- Low Carbon Team, a public event will be held on Wednesday 20th March 2024. The Team will be doing a short presentation and then will answer any questions from residents. *Cllr Bird will attend this event.*

145.23 Items to be carried forward to the next Parish Council Meeting.

- CHAV volunteer event.

146.23 Date of next meeting.

14th May 2024 – Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting

147.23 To close the meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Cllr Bird closed the meeting at 8.30pm