

## Minutes of Coombe Bissett Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Adopted at Coombe Bissett Parish Council Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Present:** Councillors D. Hobson. A. Bird. C. Chelu. S. Boxall. J. McGowan (Clerk)  
A. Hewlett (Temp Clerk) Members of the public Mr. G. Bundy, Mrs J. White.

**Apologies:** R. Clewer (Wiltshire Council) Cllr. S. Gledhill. Cllr L. Reed. Cllr. K Byatt.

**Public Question Time:** Mrs J White raised the concerns of a number of parishioners in Homington regarding cars speeding through the Village, particularly where the road narrows at the East End of the village towards Odstock. Several accidents and 'near misses' had been witnessed, with upsetting consequences. Some 9 years ago Homington had an active team of Community Speed Watch volunteers, and this had helped enormously, however cars tended to speed again when the volunteers were off duty. Cllr. A. Bird agreed that speeding throughout the villages was a problem and the police had also made comments that traffic slowed when they were in the villages, speeding again when they left. Mrs White suggested that flashing lights and chicanes should be considered. Cllr Chelu said this would be a matter for Wiltshire Council to determine, as it is the Highways authority and street lighting would almost certainly need to be installed before this could be done, something that Cllr Boxall said would probably not appeal to all residents and the AONB Dark Skies area. Cllr Boxall will make enquiries as to whether a new team of Community Speed Watch volunteers can be found. Cllr Chelu will ask Wiltshire Council if they will install 'narrow road' signs.

**Minutes of last meeting:** Proposed by Cllr. Boxall as correct and seconded by Cllr. Chelu, all agreed.

**Declarations of interest:** None

**Matters arising:**

**Neighbourhood Development Plan.** Report Cllr. Gledhill.

Wiltshire Council has now formally decided that a Strategic Environmental Assessment will be required. Given the AONB Conservation Areas and possible impact on the River Avon Special Area of Conservation – this is no real surprise. What is a surprise is the length of time it is probably going to take to complete the SEA. We had initially been told a few weeks but following the process to apply for and get a grant, tasking AECOM to complete the Assessment, then consult stakeholders etc; the best estimate for completing it is Spring 2022.

One other issue to be aware of: the current draft of the Neighbourhood Plan looks to meet a housing need of 13-15 homes out to 2036. Wiltshire Council is also working on a new Core Plan which for the first time will allocate housing targets to villages designated as "Large Villages" like Coombe Bissett. WC's draft Plan gives Coombe Bissett an allocation of 25 new properties between 2016 and 2036 of which 6 have already been completed. Wiltshire Council has told us that they expect our Neighbourhood Plan to be adjusted to meet this increased requirement. It is probably best to wait until the SEA is completed, and may well introduce several new factors, before considering how this relatively modest increase in the housing requirement should be met.

**Donkey Field Fence.** Cllr. Reed had reported that she was in contact with the fencing contractor and as yet no construction has started. To be included on the Agenda for January,

**SID/Community speed watch** – No further reports

**Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:** Cllr Bird; A number of parishioners had come forward to say they would help on the day, however there had only been a limited response to anyone prepared to join a committee. In particular a Chairperson, Secretary and a member responsible for Catering would be needed, also those willing to take on various other responsibilities. Cllr Bird will organise a public meeting before Christmas, if possible.

**Stocksbridge Lane Repairs:** Cllr. Hobson: W.C. Highways department will need to be involved to assess the condition of the Lane. Later this month a representative from W.C. is meeting with various parish councillors and interested parties to finalise the positioning of the Bollards for the Bridleways to deter fly tipping and this will present the opportunity for this assessment to happen. The Clerk will arrange.

**7<sup>th</sup> Councillor Responsibilities:** Cllr Boxall agreed to take on responsibilities for the Cemetery and also to become the third member of the Homington Planning sub-committee.

**Defibrillator Awareness Training:** Temp Clerk reported 35 people had expressed an interest in attending the Awareness Training session by S.W. Ambulance Service and a date has been set for 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Details/Reminder will be sent out at the beginning of December.

**Parish Clerk.** The Chairman Cllr Hobson welcomed Mrs Jay McGowan who has been appointed as Parish Clerk with immediate effect and thanked Ann Hewlett for being temporary Parish Clerk until a permanent replacement was found.

**Budget and Precept 2022/2023:** In the absence of a permanent Parish Clerk Cllr Gledhill had taken on the responsibility for reviewing and proposing the Budget and Precept for 2022/23 and had circulated his report to the Councillors. This had been based on

- Operating costs, covering such things as salaries, service contract costs, insurance, professional services and inspections etc.
- Asset Maintenance. Every year money is spent on asset maintenance, i.e., Playpark and general maintenance of other Parish facilities and it is sensible for the Parish Council to budget for these.
- Capital/Project costs: These being the discretionary projects that may be conducted each year. They would include such things as highway works, footpath improvements, new equipment (exercise equipment, defibrillators etc) and the Neighbourhood Development Plan. These are often paid for by a combination of PC money, Grants and Wiltshire Council.
- Planned Income: The PC's only regular source of substantial income is the Precept.
- The Parish Council also occasionally receives additional funds. Examples include CIL Section 106 Funding, ( Solar Farm etc., ) Grants where applicable and Area Board Grants.
- The precept has been set at £11,000.00 since 2012 and as operating costs have slowly risen over the last few years and have now overtaken the precept, it is recommended that the Precept is increased to £12,000.00.

An increase in the parish council annual Precept to £12,000 was proposed by Cllr. Chelu, seconded by Cllr Bird and supported by all councillors.

*Adopted 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022, amended to:*

"The adoption of the FY2022-23 Parish Council Budget including an increase in the annual Precept to £12,000 was proposed by Cllr Chelu, seconded by Cllr Bird and unanimously agreed".

**Footpath No 7:** Cllr Chelu had inspected the culvert at Footpath 7 on Lower Road in Homington and found it to contain debris and vegetation and has spoken to Mr G. Axtell at W.C. who will arrange for it to be cleaned. A new ditch from the culvert and repairs to the footpath adjacent had been paid for by the Parish Council and a Path Improvement Grant approximately 5 years ago and residents had agreed to keep it clear through regular maintenance by removing mud accumulating at the outfall. This has not been done. When the pipe is jetted it will clearly be more successful if the

accumulation of silt at the outfall is cleared beforehand. Cllr Boxall will talk to residents to see if volunteers will do this to reduce flooding in the area.

**Finger Post Homington:** Cllr Chelu has recently inspected the wooden sign post on the triangle in Homington and it is rotten. W.C. will now only replace wooden signs with metal ones. The two wooden sign posts in Homington are among the last in the County and Cllr Boxall agreed to replace the wood. Parish Council will refund cost of materials.

**Leg Press:** Cllr Chelu – An installation date for the Leg Press has been agreed for 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Community Resilience (Power Outage):** Cllr. Chelu had recently attended an online event dealing with National Power Outages. The Parish Councillors agreed that Cllr Chelu should produce a pamphlet/leaflet giving advice regarding this and it be published on the Village Website. It was also agreed that Cllr Chelu would look at the advice already on the Website, regarding Winter/ Snow /Flooding preparations and update as necessary.

**Correspondence:** Correspondence had been received from Mr Andy Downer regarding a decision on the proposed Development at Churchill Place. Cllr Chelu had been in touch with W.C. and was informed that a decision was imminent.

**Planning received:**

Application No: PL/2021/08992 -Tree work in conservation area  
Proposal T1 – reduce Weeping Willow by 4 metres retain willow shape  
At: Water Lane Cottage, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett SP5 4LR

Application No: PL?2021/08364 – full planning permission  
Application No: PL/2021/09533 – full planning permission  
Proposal: Replacement Garage Doors with single door. Demolition of low wall around oil tank and replace with log store. Recreation of single storey ext to N.E. corner of house to create office.  
At: Luther's, Shutts Lane, Coombe Bissett, SP5 4LU

Application No: PL/2021/08228 – Household application  
Proposal: Erect single garage, garden store. Air source heat pump. Replace existing outbuilding. Alterations to access and widening drive.  
At Marazan Barbers Lane, Homington, Salisbury, SP5 4NL

Amendment to PL/2021/08228 Erection of detached single garage, garden store outbuildings, air source heat pump and replace existing outbuildings. Alterations to the access and widening drive

**Planning approved:**

Application No PL/2021/0856 – tree work in conservation area  
Proposal: T3 Leylandii – removal of lower limbs close to trunk and pruning  
At: St. Michael and All Angels Church, Coombe Bissett SP5 4LH

**Planning withdrawn**

Application No: PL/2021/07325 – household application  
Proposal: To erect 6 ft fence panels on top of existing wall on garden boundary  
At Ebble Edge, Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett SP5 4LH

**Representatives Report:** Cllr Bird wished to place on record thanks to all those who had helped to clear fallen trees during the recent storm. Within minutes of a notice on the Community Facebook page, Heather Royle, Dave Royle and Craig Stewart had taken action to remove the tree across the main Blandford Road and cleared the road within 30 minutes, thus avoiding major disruption. Jim Webb had responded similarly to a tree causing problems at the Old Chapel and others to trees causing problems at Pigeon Hill, Homington. Simply an amazing response without fuss or drama.

**Finance:** Cllr Boxall had been in touch with NatWest Bank regarding security of on-line accounts for small organisations (parish councils/groups) requiring 2 signatures, that would back up the system already in place by the Parish Council. He had been advised that a Pilot Scheme was in operation and all Councillors agreed this should be implemented as soon as practically possible.

Bank Accounts as at 9. 11. 21  
Current Account: £13471.96  
Reserve Account: £32144.13

Payments between 06.09.21 – 09.11.21

Current a/c	
29 09 21 Bawdens Grass	£ 133.42
03 10 21 Office Exp September	£ 220.00
03 10 21 Office Exp September	£ 275.00
07 10 21 Caloo – Leg Press	£2982.00
13 10 21 Office Exp sundries	£ 54.96
18 10 21 ROSPA Playground inspection	£ 82.20
18 10 21 WALC 2 x PC Courses	£ 72.00
31 10 21 Radnor Estates	£ 10.00

Income received between 06.09.21 – 09.11.21

28 09 21 W.C.C. Precept	£5500.00
07 10 21 W.C.C. Grant Leg Press	£1242.00
04 10 21 Spire Memorials	£ 60.00
03 11 21 HMRC VAT	£1074.76
03 11 21 J Webb	£ 25.00

Reserve a/c  
Interest Sept 26 p  
Interest October 26p

The Parish Councillors noted the previously agreed monthly expenditure

Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.