

MINUTES of the COMBE ST. NICHOLAS PARISH COUNCIL Meeting
Held Virtually via Zoom on Monday 24th August 2020,

Due to CORONAVIRUS ALL PHYSICAL COUNCIL MEETINGS CANCELLED AS GATHERINGS TOO CONTAGIOUS. Views given and obtained via Zoom to enable Public to take part as well as Parish Councillors

PARISH COUNCILLORS Mr. John Gilbert - Chairman
Miss Sue Pargeter, Mrs. Di Hine, Rev. Deborah Perreau
Messrs. Ian Croucher, Dr. Colin Ryall, Tony Sauer, Ian Stonex, Ian Whitehead.

Also, Jenny Kenton (District Councillor) Martin Wale (District Councillor)
Anne Hunt – Clerk,

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Rev. Deborah Perreau and Mrs. Di Hine re Minute 26/2020 planning application for Grange House, Combe St. Nicholas, App.20/2158 (personal)

23/2020 Report from District Councillors – Jenny Kenton and Martin Wale

Report from Jenny Kenton Circulated via email. Martin Wale stated there is a big debate taking place regarding the proposed new Unitary Authority. District Councils more in favour of renovating the whole system with 2 Unitary Authorities – Mendip and S. Somerset combined and Taunton, West Somerset and Sedgemoor combined. Some planning Officers have left so there may be delays in planning matters.

24/2020 MINUTES

Minutes of the Zoom meeting held on 24th July were approved by show of hands, Minutes to be signed at a later date when allowable.

25/2020 VACANCY FOR COUNCILLORS BY CO-OPTION

2 residents have come forward for consideration. Both applicants were voted on to the Parish Council with effect from 28th September. Clerk will supply Mr. Ed Cockburn and Mr. Tony Glasper with various information articles plus Register of Interest form and Acceptance of Office form.

26/2020 PLANNING

•App.20/02158 Grange House, Stantway. Erection of detached garage. The application was supported.

27/2020 THE LAWNS PLAY AREA

The Annual Inspection report has been received and circulated. Most items reported are Low Risk, although the wooden surround of the safer surfacing is gradually disintegrating. Clerk to contact various contractors – also to include renewing the wood surround of the flower bed on The Green. Discussion also held about the need for repairing the self-closing gate. As most of the equipment will last for a few years yet, it was decided to form a small group to discuss the possibility of adding some new equipment. District Council also to be contacted for advice.

28/2020 LIME TREE ON THE GREEN

Clerk will arrange for the bottom branches to be trimmed back as they are growing too low. Martin Wale left the meeting at 8.15pm. Councillor Ian Stonex left the meeting at 8.20pm

29/2020 HIGHWAYS

Traffic Regulation Order now in force, re 20mph, 30mph and 40mph throughout the Parish. New signs will be erected shortly where necessary.

28/2020 NEW WEBSITE

The new website is now working well. Grateful thanks to Councillor Ian Croucher for all his work, as well as other helpers.

29/2020 COMBE WOOD REC.FIELD/SCHOOL FIELD

An entertainments afternoon has been arranged for the residents (Covid-19 safe distancing measures to be adhered to, etc) on the 5th Sept. Part of the Take-Art scheme which travels around the County) Free but donations welcome. Contact details will be taken of everyone who attends, for Covid-19 reasons.

30/2020 VILLAGE HALL RE-OPENING

Many new rules and regulations have had to be followed to ensure the Hall has been deep cleaned and all equipment is cleaned. Any Group/person using the hall will have to follow these rules before using and when finished. Hand sanitisers and cleaning equipment will be supplied for their use. Face masks will also have to be worn and a limit of 30 people. So far, many groups have decided to wait until after Christmas before arranging to meet there. A grant of £10,000 was received from the District Council to help with costs at this time but extra financial help may be needed in future. Thanks, extended to Councillors/Village Hall members Sue Pargeter and Ian Croucher for all this extra work.

31/2020 UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE

All the District Councils are working on their proposals – possibly to become 2 authorities (East and West Somerset) as opposed to the County proposal of 1 authority.

32/2020 FINANCE

a) The request for a 50% grant towards cost of a new laptop for the Clerk will probably not be granted as balance held by P.C. is more than 1 year's costs. It was unanimously resolved to go ahead to purchase the laptop at a cost of £700.00

b) The following payments were approved

Mrs. Hunt	Expenses/tel. costs/repay petrol costs for Covid-19 prescriptions. vol/repay costs of clearing brambles from top of the Lawns site	£83.95
	Play Inspections Co. Ltd., (The Lawns and Underway Meade	£132.00
	Data Protection renewal	£40.00
	Somerset Assoc. of Local Councils (sub)	£368.26

33/2020 GENERAL MATTERS

a) Discussion re concern about slurry still unresolved. Environment Agency to be contacted again

b) All weather walking/cycle path around School Field discussed, and suggestions made.

Meeting ended at 9.30

Next meeting 28th September 2020.