

**MINUTES of the COMBE ST. NICHOLAS PARISH COUNCIL Meeting
Held Virtually via Zoom on Monday 22nd March 2021**

**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. Ed. Cockburn, Ian Croucher, Dr. Colin Ryall, Ian Stonex & Ian Whitehead.

Also, Martin Wale and Jenny Kenton (District Councillors), Anne Hunt – Clerk, and 3 members of the public. Councillor Tony Gasper appeared on line for a minute but then disconnected.

Apologies – Amanda Broom (County Councillor)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Ed Cockburn re Minute 85/2020-21 Frys Cottage.

82/2020-21 Report from District Councillors – Jenny Kenton and Martin Wale

SSDC is now able to provide Specialist information re **Phosphates**, which has been holding up planning decisions. and a phosphate calculator is being used. The future of the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil and the large grant received will be discussed shortly. Martin is now a School Governor at Combe School.
E. Scooters now available to rent in Chard - £1 deposit + 15p.per minute. – driving licence required.

83/2020-21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd February 2021 were approved as a true record after the addition of `and Chardleigh Green` to Item 1 of the Presentation re Broadband.

84/2020-21 GREEN DRAGON

No further meetings of this group held at this time. More details awaited re the Govt's grant for Public Houses during the Pandemic. The first 50/50 draw was held and the winner received £485 (50% of the donations that month) This scheme will continue each month.

85/2020-21 PLANNING

- App.20/03725 Land at Frys Cottage, Cuttifords Door. Erection of a new dwelling house. 8 Councillors support the application, 1 abstained, and 1 declared a personal and prejudicial interest. Neighbours – No objections received.
- App. 20/03380 Land OS2326 Whiteway. Erection of a timber constructed mono pitch Hay Barn to store hay and some haymaking equipment to service the land. Site meeting held in the morning (spaced) and following a long discussion A vote by show of hands was held. 2 in favour, 3 against, 5 abstained. It was considered the barn would be more acceptable if it was nearer the family bungalow in Clayhanger Lane. Also, it was rather large for the amount of hay that would be produced from these fields.
- App.20/02890/S73 Land at Three Corners. Work has now commenced on new entrance. A further amendment had been received by the Planning Dept. but this was not sent to our Parish Council due to new procedures. The new amendment has been approved, without the large basement shown in the previous amendment. Cont.

85/2020-21 PLANNING Cont'd

App. 20.02890/S73 cont'd Roof amendment was also approved, although the materials to be used were objected to at the November meeting. It was resolved that a letter be sent by our Chairman to Kirsty Larkins, SSDC, Director of Strategy and Commissioning, as it was considered that PC comments were ignored, and also querying various new procedures now in place at the Planning Dept.

- Councillor Ian Croucher attended a Zoom meeting, hosted by S.A.L.C. re Planning Procedures, etc. Cost £25.00

- A link has been put on the Combe St. Nicholas website for each planning application in future to enable Councillors to check for any neighbours' comments before each meeting.

86/2020-21 THE LAWNS PLAY AREA

The timber around the safer surfacing is rotting in places. As this is just various sections local contractor to be contacted, Councillor Ed Cockburn also volunteered to attend if necessary.

New self-closing spring for the pedestrian gate will be fitted shortly.

87/2020-21 Environment

Verges – To help the environment it has been suggested that some are left for wildflowers etc, although they must be managed for safety, visibility depending on location. Most of the verges in this Parish are the strips in front of residents' properties which they trim, except for Underway Meade and Sunday School Wood. Mention in next Cloverleaf magazine?

The triangle at the top of Stoopers Hill gets rather overgrown at times – B. Powell & Sons to be asked to trim when necessary, in conjunction with the grass cutting on The Lawns.

Plant-Life is a website dealing with verges, etc. and details will be circulated to Councillors for information.

88/2020 FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – VILLAGE HALL

Information received from Community Council and Acre that meetings could be held in the Village Hall from the 17th May, as the Covid-19 vaccination scheme now progressing well and figures of infection rates are much lower. Only 50% capacity would be allowed, and equipment wiped before and after the meeting, everyone is 2 metres apart, and facemasks are worn. District Council meetings will continue via Zoom. Review again at next April Parish Council meeting.

Wi-fi will be installed in the Village Hall on 1/4/2021.

89/2020-21 FINANCE

The following payments were approved –

Mrs. A. Hunt (postage expenses and broadband costs)	£27.72
S.A.L.C. (Planning Training Session)	£25.00

90/2020 GENERAL MATTERS

- a) Damage to verges by large vehicles/tractors causing problems. Also, horses drinking from the river in Court Mill Lane are causing damage to the riverbank, which could cause flooding. Clerk to put a post on the Community Facebook page. Bakers Lane off of the Wadeford Bends are also being used by horse-riders.
- b) Direction sign to Northay from the `Pretty Oak Main` is broken. Clerk to contact Highways.
- c) Meeting ended at 08.49pm