

MINUTES of the COMBE ST. NICHOLAS PARISH COUNCIL Meeting
Held in the Village Hall on Monday 26th July 2021 at 7.30pm

PARISH COUNCILLORS Mr John Gilbert – Chairman
Miss Sue Pargeter, Mrs.Di Hine, Rev. Deborah Perreau (Zoom)
Messrs. Ed Cockburn, Ian Croucher, Dr. Colin Ryall, Tony Sauer, Ian Stonex, Ian Whitehead

Also, Jenny Kenton and Martin Wale (District Councillors) Anne Hunt – Clerk, and Mrs. Helen Smith, Service Manager, Flood and Water Management, SCC. (via Zoom)ended Also 25 members of the public in the Hall, and 7 on Zoom.

Apologies – Amanda Broom (County Councillor) but report sent.

All members of the public completed the Register of Attendance

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Mr. J. Gilbert re Planning App. 21/01592 (Prejudicial) and Planning App. 21 02045 (Personal)

23/2021 RECENT FLOODING EVENT IN PARISH

On the 28th June 2021 an intense downfall of rain culminated in extreme flooding to property and damage to roads, etc. Mrs. Helen Smith, Service Manager, SCC Flood and Water Management, attended the matter via Zoom but unfortunately, could not be heard by anyone. After many tries a transcript of the `Computer Chat` between her and Councillor Perreau is attached to these minutes. The meeting was opened up to the residents and the report of all the comments made is attached to these minutes. It was resolved to obtain a price for clearing stream.

24/2021 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Jenny Kenton (District Co.) – The `One Somerset` scheme for Local Government re-organisation in Somerset has been picked by Govt. to go forward Elections for new Councillors will take place next May for one year. The Somerset Waste Services are working hard to keep up with the collections as lack of drivers and staff are causing delays. No green waste bins will be collected for 6 weeks. The Council still does not have a 5-year land supply

Martin Wale (District Co.) – Due to current flooding, SSDC are continuing to offer hessian bags suitable for use as sandbags and another order for more has been made. A Community Emergency Committee is suggested and a location to store some bags for any future need. The arrangements for the new Unitary Authority will take some time, and Parish Councils will have the chance to take on more, or join up with other Parish Councils for provide services. Local community groups may be starting next year. It is very disappointing news about the lack of 5-year housing stock which could mean developers could put in more plans.

25/2021 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th June 2021 were approved as a true record and signed.

26/2021

STREET LIGHTS IN UNDERWAY

The Street lighting team at SCC have arranged to fit a less powerful bulb and different shield which gives a subdued and protected light.

27/2021

PLANNING

- App 21/01592 Ham Hill Farm, Ham Lane, Erection of general-purpose agricultural building. No objections Councillor John Gilbert declared a prejudicial interest and took no part. Councillor Tony Sauer took the meeting for this item and the following planning application
- App. 21/02045 The Stables, Raisey Lane, Ham. Change of use and conversion of an existing rural building for use as a permanent tied agricultural worker dwelling following a 3-year temporary approval. Numbers of Pig breeding sows and egg production both increased. No objections
- App.21/00598 Pudleigh Mill Fish Farm, Pudleigh. Proposed demolition of existing bungalow and erection of new 3-bedroomed bungalow with car port and associated external alterations. No objections
- App. 21/02112 Land south of Wadeford House, Higher Wadeford Lane. Erection of general-purpose agricultural barn. No objections.
- App.21/02219 Land at Foxdon Hill, Wadeford. Change of use of agricultural land to allow use as residential garden. No objections but not unanimous (3 against, 1 abstained)

28/2021

THE LAWNS

The new goal post has been erected and appears to be well used. Thanks to Councillor and Mrs. Croucher. More investigations are being made re the cost of a zip-wire and shelter for teenagers. It was resolved to put a small questionnaire in school when they return in September to gauge what equipment is preferred and what can be purchased within our cost limit – next Agenda.

29/2021

RIGHTS OF WAY QUERY

A query was raised by Donyatt Parish Paths Liaison Officer – Horse riders in their Parish have been challenged when riding up public footpath CH14/21 Chilworthy Avenue. Apparently in 2006 legislation was brought in that tarmacked public paths would become a Restricted Byway and therefore open to cyclists and horse riders. This Parish was unaware of this new legislation. SCC are still in the process of upgrading all these paths. Donyatt PPLO on behalf of the Parish Council have asked if our Parish Council would agree to a joint letter being sent to SCC to ask them to prioritise this path. Parish Councillors did not agree with this action, at this current time.

30/2021

FINANCE

- a) The Internal Audit now completed. No problems.

The following payments were approved.

Mrs. A. Hunt (postage/broadband costs)	£32.55
Mr. I. Croucher (repay costs of goalpost)	£101.90
Mr. M. Powe (Internal Audit costs)	£31.80
S.A.L.C. (sub for 2021)	£375.36

31/2021

GENERAL MATTERS –

NOTES TAKEN DURING DISCUSSION RE FLOODING ISSUES **Minute 23/2021**

28th June 2021 from 5.30 pm – 7.30pm approx., 25 residents + 7 on Zoom attended.

DH – Court Mill Cottage. A trickle, then flood, then tidal. Stream in garden normally 6` below the wall but water came over the wall by 1`. 5` in garden and smashed everything. In 2008 half the cottage flooded by 1-2` - through air bricks and out through front door. This time by midnight finally down to 1` Fire Brigade pumped and still some in am. Stream and drain overflowing – stream now silted up

Torrent of water that came down the road and the top of the garden – very frightening. Stream overflowed which it had never done before. 2 pumps in the garden. Fire Brigade had 80 calls but, on the 2nd, call they came quickly. Was it forecast? What can we do to prevent this in the future? Flood prevention for the future.

SCC have set up Emergency Flood Risk Committee which is a combination of all the various authorities. Mrs. Helen Smith is the Service Manager and they are now in the process of gathering all the information under one organization, including the Somerset Rivers Authority.

SF – Last Saturday (24/7) it rained hard again causing flooding again. Private experts to make a plan for the next few years. Funding is required for this. People should be able to help with this, we need to get together.

ML – When any investigation is done (we were also flooded) we need to set up a separate conversation 28/6/21 was a very significant event.

2 sluice gates on the footpath between Court Mill Lane and Pudleigh were open but water was going straight over the top of them

CL – Riparian rights of the landowner of the water that comes on to your land. Being a Leat/stream, which makes it uncertain but still landowners' responsibility. Need to invest in clearing culvert, front and behind would help. High amount of money clear whole system. Clay seals the bed from leaking out

Dredging the river/stream not a sustainable solution could cause damage. - others thought dredging should be done.

SL Scratton – water turned left through I.H. ponds and flooded all fields into the Mill Pond, over the top into the stream. 2 natural springs start in 2 fields.

Mill Leat Residents could get together to sort something out. – others to get together to clear a few drains.

Arrange for a Hydrologist to come here. - MW there may be grants to look at getting one. He could help with that. You could dredge, should not be an issue

2-prong approach needed - help ourselves and approach from the main authorities.

JP – The Haymaker – the amount of water that was coming down Rackstile from the top of the hill too. Flooding into the front.

KW – children were terrified. Expert needed to tell us what we can do in the short term. 3 manhole covers lifted and take the stones out.

Cont.--

Pudleigh – 9/10s of all the roads around are silted up At Iltone they are regularly cleaned but not here.

JB – New England from Cuttifords Door direction - huge amount of flint, etc. coming down the road. It is a private lane to N. England. Highways put a drain, without permission, in the upper side of the road (+ ramp?) Now that Mount Hindrance/M & M developers have permission for construction of 295 homes on the other side of the road, the flooding problem will get worse from development run off. Drains are not cleared. Huge pile of flint smashed ramp which was placed there. 2 elderly residents need deliveries of food

Nimmer – flooded from the road. County? Put a larger pipe to by-pass before bottom of Nimmer?

Nimmer – water that was coming from Pudleigh and also down the road from the Chard Road Flooded across the field by sewerage system and then down towards the cottages near the ford which then caused flowing

Flood alleviation scheme put in some time ago which did not cope with the drainage. Track washed away.

Nimmer Ford blocked, bridge closed - being mended now, assessing what the problems are.

Highways should be sorting this out.

Independent Expert needed.

– Highways – ditches being cleaned. Catchment areas too slow for the water around – letting the whole community down.

MW – SSDC responsible to give out sandbags, suggest PC set up some sort of emergency committee for store of sandbags. SCC responsible for highways and overall pulling together of all Agencies. It was set up in 2012 when the Levels flooded. “He who helps himself helps everyone else” Highways – very frustrated with them.

JK – Tatworth equally angry.

This time flooding was much than 2008

JG – should see what we can do ourselves – smaller tasks but most get help for bigger things.

HS – we will publish a report. Time frame on their report

SP – Community help for bad events – we could open the Village Hall for help should it happen

HS – now a time frame re Flood Management report – complex area.

TS Each individual can complete Flood Line page on web.