

Combe Florey Parish Council

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 28th January 2025 7:00 pm At Combe Florey Village Hall	Written by: Gemma Coombes, Parish Clerk
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Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Councillor's Present

Cllr Robin Cleverly (Chairman)
 Cllr Jacquey Newton (Vice Chair)
 Cllr Simon Hawes (RFO)
 Cllr John Passingham
 Cllr Adriana Truby

In attendance

Parishioners x 1
 Cllr Mike Rigby

- 2025/1) Welcome by chairman**
 The Vice Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, in the Chairman's absence.
- 2025/2) Apologies for absence**
 Cllr Robin Cleverly was delayed in joining the meeting; he arrived at 19:42
 Cllr Simon Hawes joined at 20:00.
- 2025/3) Declarations of Interest**
 Nothing declared.
- 2025/4) Approval of last meetings minutes**
 Approval of minutes for Parish Council Meeting held in 26th November 2024 & signing of minutes from 01st October 2024.
 The minutes have been circulated to all councillors and were presented for signing at this meeting.
 All in favour to adopt the minutes.
- 2025/5) Public participation**
 Please see 25/11 for the matter brought up by the parishioner.
- 2025/6) Matters Arising / Matters brought forward from other meetings**
1. Enhanced highway maintenance scheme
 This is the scheme being piloted by Somerset Council which allows Parish Councils to purchase various things such as drain clearing or hedge cutting. The policy has various rates of pay depending on hours needed and kind of service, and this charge would be what Somerset Council would charge for us to undertake these things using their contractors, this may be cheaper for us to take on things ourselves rather than through Somerset Council.
 The Parish Council are considering taking on hedge trimming as this is not being done on a regular basis.
 Cllr Newton will investigate if CIL money can be used for this and contact the people listed on the letter to see what the rules are.
 There would be a tendering process for any work the Parish Council choose to undertake.
- 2025/7) Somerset Council report (Cllr Rigby/ Cllr Sully)**
 Cllr Rigby is present and give an update on Somerset Council.
 Budget is currently in talks, 75% of the budget is being spent on care and this is meaning there is most of the money are spent on care not on other public issues. This means a large void in money, and they have asked for government assistance to set a budget for the forthcoming year. The adult social services need to be taken into the NHS so this is no longer the responsibility of Somerset Council.
 Planning was not in a good state but there has been an improvement put in and in the next 4 months there should be a better way forward.
 Nexus is now moving forward, and this should be 1000 jobs in town.

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Signed: **[Chairman]**

A lot of trees came down in the storms and there were not enough crews to work simultaneously, so people pitched together to get thing cleared.

Chris Briant the telecoms minister was spoken to by Cllr Rigby about BDUK was supposed to build superfast broadband to the UK, the contractors have pulled out (Airband). There will be a voucher scheme going. Airband got so far with this but abandoned part way through. Gigabit programme will be rolled out from BDUK directly via BT Openreach. Infostructure sharing needs to happen rather than having lots of poles put up and then not using them. The mobile phone signal was also covered.

2025/8) Policing Report

No Police in attendance.

2025/9) Planning

1. Current planning applications

No new applications

2. Other planning matters

Nothing

2025/10) Finance

1. Announcement of resignation of Counsellor Simon Hawes with effect from the end of this meeting

The current RFO (Cllr Hawes) has resigned from the end of this meeting.

2. Appointment process for a new Counsellor and replacement RFO

Neil Truby has agreed to stand for the RFO role subject to successfully applying through normal Council casual vacancy process.

3. Appointment of new internal auditor

The appointment of a new internal auditor is becoming a pressing issue, there are some people in the village to ask and there could be other people to approach outside the parish.

4. Setting Parish precept

The precept has to be in by end of January. We currently have £18,000 in the bank and based on this Cllr Hawes proposed to keep the precept at £4000 for this year. Seconded by Cllr Truby. All in agreement.

5. Account balances

- I. Current account - £18,000 this is before the current payments are taken out. This includes the CIL money.

6. CIL funding

To be carried forward and discussed at a later date.

7. Bank Reconciliation and Cash Days Books

Payment schedule was circulated and signed by chairman, as was the Bank Reconciliation, daybook and cashbook.

8. Remittances

- I. None

9. Invoices for payment

Cllr Hawes read out the invoices for payment. The below are items that were known at the time of the agenda.

- a. Parish Clerk wages and expenses (December 2024 – January 2025 inclusive) £272.38 (minus amount payable to HMRC for PAYE)

Proposed by Cllr Truby Seconded by Cllr Cleverly All in favour

- b. HMRC Payment

Proposed by Cllr Truby Seconded by Cllr Cleverly All in favour

- c. Combe Florey Village Hall invoice for 2024 bookings - £96.00

Proposed by Cllr Truby Seconded by Cllr Cleverly All in favour

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Signed: [Chairman]

d.Mark Perry – Village Lengthsman - £1,056
Proposed by Cllr Truby Seconded by Cllr Cleverly All in favour

10. Any other finance business

The Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Hawes for all his time on the Parish Council and his services rendered.

2025/11) Highways and Footpaths

1. Potential Deer crossing at Honeyball lane

Parishioner Chris James in attendance has legal licences for deer culling and holds shot gun and firearms licenses; he is happy to offer his services. He has trained gun dogs with a lot of years' experience. All laws would be complied with in relation to shooting and shooting near footpaths.

At 9.02pm last week there were shots heard and there were parts of deer left the following morning; this would suggest poaching.

The Parishioner is proposing to speak with the landowners to seek permissions to cull some deer, he would like the Parish Council to aid with contact and seek permission.

2. Parish hedge cutting

Hedge cutting used to be done twice a year, it is now being done once a year and is now being done poorly. Somerset Council was asking for things that the local Council can take on and this could be a possibility for the Parish Council to take on.

Somerset Council are responsible for keeping the highways clear and this includes hedge cutting and tree clearing.

2025/12) Village Maintenance / Garden

1. Village Garden – Update

Karen and Ashley have done a long session in the garden and have made it look totally different, they will now be back in March when spring starts. The Squirrels will do their yearly planting.

2025/13) LCN update on last meeting

Last one was held via Zoom, no one was in attendance from Combe Florey but in the mins there was nothing relevant to us.

2025/14) Village Hall - Status report

Fund raising has been taking place and the fire exit is now fully functioning.

2025/15) Topics for future meetings

Co-opting of new Councillor.

Clerks pay.

Annual parish meeting guest speakers – possibility of inviting Mike Rigby.

2025/16) Correspondence / General updates

Nothing raised.

2025/17) NEXT MEETING:

1. Parish Council Meeting 25th March 2025 @ Combe Florey Village Hall. Time 7.00 pm

Meeting closed at 20.31

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Signed: [Chairman]