

TIMBERSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Timberscombe Village Hall, on Monday 25th November 2019 at 7.30pm

19.102 Attendance: Parish Cllrs P. Pilkington – Chairman (PP), S Campbell (SC), C. Collins(CC), J. Stitt(JS), S. Takle(ST) & Clerk C Hornsby, District Councillor S Pugsley(SP), County Councillor F Nicholson(FN). Members of the Public: 3

Before the meeting started a member of the public spoke about the Good Neighbour Scheme which is being created to ensure anyone who needs assistance (for example: dog walking, befriending, having meals delivered) is not isolated. There are already 10 volunteers keen to work with the project but they need funding to get started. They need 4 DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificates at £13 each (Community Council for Somerset will pay for 6) and they need insurance at a cost of £155.15. The council thought this was an excellent idea for the village.

19.103 Apologies for non-Attendance S. Searle,

19.104 Declarations of Interest - To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct – Due to being members of ENPA, both ST and PP will not vote on any planning issues.

19.105 Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting on 28/10/19 -These were previously circulated. There was some discussion about the finale sentence on point 19.95 and then they were proposed by PP and 2nd by ST and all approved. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

19.106 Matters arising from the Minutes of 28/10/19 - Christmas Tree on Brewers Green. It was Proposed by PP and 2nd by CC and all agreed that the member of the parish who wished to put up the Christmas tree must do so at their own risk and any repercussions from the event will not be the responsibility of the Timberscombe Parish Council. SC to inform the organiser of this. The event for dressing the tree will take place on Sunday 1st Dec at 3.30pm and all looked forward to a successful event.

19.107 Report by the District Councillor – SP reported that due to the December General Election a number of key issues will be held over till after the result. The new Chief Executive for SW&T is creating a new structure within the District Council. At the recent Exmoor Panel meeting, highways issues were answered by FN who took the questions in the absence of Highways. The main issue was the Exford to Simonsbath road which is part of the main highway across the middle of Exmoor. The Fingerpost restoration project funding by HLF is now at an end however they have enough money to keep the training up to date for the volunteers and to maintain general upkeep of the signs. SP stated that if anyone sees a damaged finger post and can put it in to their car, please take it to Exmoor House, where Caremoor for Exmoor will have the funds to repair it. Consultative Forum did not take place due to unexpected snowfall; the meeting is postponed till 17th Dec where there will be a talk about TB in deer. The ENPA meeting discussed the Rural Worker and Succession Farm Worker Dwellings Guidance which is still to be adopted once a few issues have been finalised. SP is recommending a review period once it is adopted, to ensure that any changes required can be made quickly.

19.108 Report by the County Councillor – FN reported that foster careers are always needed so do please let her know if anyone is interested in finding out more. The issue of Highways closing major roads on Exmoor was raised and this is now going to be taken seriously by Highways after the Exford to Simonsbath closure.

19.109 Highways – None

SP and FN then left the meeting

19.110 Bridle paths – ST reported that certain 'bridleways' are on the list of parish maintenance work will be looked at by the ENPA.

NB: ST is the highway's warden for Timberscombe parish which includes the bridleways, footpaths, roads, byways etc. It also includes implementation of work to maintain the routes described above. The work order is logged by ST (or another Parish highways warden or even an individual) through the Somerset County Council's computer system using their county map interface. For ENPA the list of work is submitted to the ENPA and then they add it to their work order and send a team to address the problems such as over grown hedging and poor path surfaces.

19.111 Finance report

(i) bank reconciliation Reserve A/c £2,073.31; Current a/c £10,056.12 so total is £ 12,129.43

(ii) Budget the clerk presented the Cllrs with information showing what they have spent in the past, and they discussed possible future costs.

(iii) Precept: after the budget was discussed it was agreed to raise the 2020/21 Precept by 10% from £7710.00 to £8484.00 as it had not been increased for a few years. The chairman and clerk signed the paperwork.

(iv) Clerk hourly rate: It was proposed by PP and 2nd by SC that the new hourly rate for the clerk be as the recommend guidelines from NALC suggest. The clerk will be paid £10.57 per hour with contracted hours of 4.5 per week. All other expenses that the previous clerk received will remain as before. All agreed and the clerk accepted the offer.

19.112 Salt bins: (i) After some discussion it was proposed by PP and 2nd by JS to purchase a small grit bin for the church. All agreed and Clerk will organise for it to be delivered to PP who will install it.

(ii) It was raised that the small salt bags are no longer available from the SCC and so PP said it will be something that the parish council will need to purchase as and when it is required. Storing of the salt is an issue so it will have to be purchased in small quantities. There are a few bags still left from the previous winter.

19.113 Planning Applications and Decision - 6/34/19/113 – West Harwood Farm, Timberscombe

Proposed 15m monopole mast and associated equipment together with the creation of a new access track. It was agreed by all who voted to support this planning application as this was necessary for the area for emergency services and also improve the communication network. ST and PP did not vote as they are ENPA members.

19.114 Lengthsman – PP will meet with the Parish Lengthsman on the 5th Dec to discuss the following jobs: Check all drains are clear as some are blocked in the village

19.115 Village Maintenance Annual hedge trimming – it was agreed by all that the hedge did not requiring cutting at present, this will be left till next year.

19.116 Park area This was postponed until the JAPF meeting which followed the PC meeting

19.117 Climate Change - CC reported that several parish councils had signed up to the work shop and that others may just arrive. Help was requested for the setting up and serving of teas and coffees at the start. A donations pot will be by the biscuits for the speaker. The event is on Tuesday 26th November 7.30pm at Timberscombe Village Hall

9.118 Actions and Reports not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

(i) Parking in front of Defibrillator unit and dog bin – it was agreed that access was available to both items as they were not totally blocked – no further action required

(ii) Request by St Petrock's to take over Church noticeboard – PP proposed and JS 2nd that the council should sell the notice board to the Church as it was no longer used by the PC now that they have a new one on the pub wall. It was stated that this PC asset would cost the parish council to maintain as it was in a sorry state and as the church were happy to take this on it would improve the look in the village. All Cllrs voted in favour and £10 was the agreed sum. Clerk to organise an invoice.

(iii) Car parking possibilities in the village – a village survey will be created in the new year by the Cllrs and within this there will be questions on the climate change issue and also car parking.

19.119 Correspondence and emails - The clerk read out several items of correspondence and all agreed that they wished to receive the emails from SALC and NALC. The Exmoor society emailed

about the parish council joining for £20 and this will be on the Agenda in January 2020. A letter was in the correspondence about the Good Neighbour Scheme that had been spoken about at the start of the evening and so the PC decided as it was very urgent to act on the decision there and then. It was proposed by ST and 2nd by CC that the council give a gift donation of £250 to the scheme which would help to pay for the rest of the DBS paperwork and also their insurance. All agreed so that the project can get started. The project organisers will email the clerk the relevant information so that the money can be transferred.

19.120 Report from representatives of other groups:

(i) Exmoor Panel – covered by SP – Clerk will post the minutes and reports from this meeting on the website or ensure there is a link

(ii) Consultative & Parish Forum – This was cancelled due to the unexpected snow fall on the day of the meeting – the new date is 17th Dec

19.121 Items for next meeting agenda - Climate Change (including workshop report, signing up to the agreement, any other matters concerning the Climate Change issue) The water trough damage, Exmoor Society membership, Village Survey,

19.122 Date of next Meeting - TPC Monday 27th January 2020 7.30pm at Timberscombe Village Hall

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm

Signed.....Date.....