

## TIMBERSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Timberscombe Village Hall – 7.30pm

**Public Floor:** A member of the public reported the that the litter bin near the Defibrillator keeps blowing away and needs to be secured. He also raised the issue of low growing branches of five trees in a triangle of grass near Bembury bank that are making mowing of that area difficult. The Chair said the Parish Council would look in to both issues.

**20.24 Attendance** Parish Cllrs: P.Pilkington – Chair (PP) S.Searle (SS) J.Parsons (JP) C.Collins (CC) J.Stitt (JS) District Cllr S.Pugsley (SP), County Cllr F.Nicholson (FN), Clerk C.Hornsby  
Public: One

**20.25 Apologies for non-Attendance** Cllrs S.Takle (ST) and S.Campbell (SC)

**20.26 Declarations of Interest** - To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

**Points taken out of order for the County Councillor and District Councillor in case they needed to leave.**

**20.31 Highways** SS had a proposal for a campaign for a pedestrian crossing across the A396. FN stated that she will be able to put forward two small improvement schemes and would be willing to consider the proposal of one for Timberscombe. However, she stated that the PC must find out what they would prefer (a) a Zebra Crossing or (b) a 20 mile and hour speed limit during school times. The council will enquire as to what the community would prefer and report back to FN. FN also reported the following: (i) Highways were making progress with regards to limiting road closures that in the past have caused major disruption on Exmoor. (ii) The SCC website for reporting road defects is a quicker way of getting the work done than by email. Cllrs and public can use this and are strongly advised to do so. It has some limitations at present but SCC are working to improve those. (iii) There will be more helpful diversion signage. (iv) BT are replacing poles across the area and so there may be odd days of road disruptions but not weeks. (v) Clerks were advised to sign up to One. Network which lists road disruptions nationally – Timberscombe clerk reported that she had already done this.

**20.30 Report by the County Councillor** (i) SCC has a budget that they will be able to give to parishes who have Climate Change initiatives. The parish will need to make a bid for what they want to do and SCC will consider it. It is not a given that the parish will get the money. (ii) The Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March Exmoor Area Panel Meeting (7pm at Wheddon Cross) is important for Cllrs to attend as it will be detailing the options for possible changes to the current system of local government

**20.29 Report by the District Councillor** (i) SP also stressed the importance of the 12<sup>th</sup> March Panel Meeting. (ii) SP raised the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March (10am Exmoor House) will be discussing the Glover Review about ENPA. (iv) The ENPA Rural Worker and Succession Farm Work dwellings planning document has been adopted however it might be reviewed in 12 months to see if all is going to plan and if any changes are required.

**20.27 Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting on 27/01/20** These were proposed by SS and 2<sup>nd</sup> by CC as a true and correct record and all agreed. The Chair then signed the minutes.

**20.28 Matters arising from the Minutes of 27/01/20** 20.11 (iv) Laptop security – clerk still checking.

**20.32 Bridle paths** -ST None

**20.33 Finance report**

(i) bank reconciliation – Reserve a/c £2075.40 ; Current a/c £8796.14 ; Total £ 11,071.54

(ii) Invoices presented and approved

**(1) West Somerset Free Press for an advert for grass cutting £73.00 + VAT**

**(2) Withypool & Hawkrigde Parish Council shared training cost £25.00**

(iii) Idverdi quote for new dog bin was presented at £365.40 + Vat and the PC decided it was too expensive and to leave for now. The area will be monitored to see if a need is required. This might also go in to the Village survey as a question about need for more bins.

(iv) PP will bring details of reimbursement for salt to March meeting

(v) See 20.40 Correspondence and emails for two further payments –

**Donations to CLOWNS £50.00 and St Petrock's Church £300.00**

**20.34 Planning Applications and Decision**

**6/34/20/101 Shed behind Thornes Barn, Bickham Manor, Timberscombe, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 7UA**  
*Proposed installation of 199kW biomass boiler in agricultural building. Converting part of building to store chip as fuel for boiler. Boiler to be used to provide heat for Manor and cottages. Retrospective. All agreed that the planning should be Approved. Clerk to email ENPA*

**6/34/20/102 Combe House, Jubilee Terrace, Timberscombe, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 7TU Proposed replacement of windows and doors with double glazed units.**

The Chair made it clear that this was for a member of the PC (who was absent at the meeting) and so the council were reminded that all comments had to be impartial. Two members abstained from voting and the remaining three stated that the most important thing was to get new windows in to the building as they are needed. The council felt they were in a difficult position as the request for UPVC windows is not in keeping with the period of the property even though other buildings near it have UPVC windows. The three remaining Cllrs agreed that they would prefer wooden windows however they would also like it to be noted that other buildings nearby do have UPVC windows. It was raised by one councillor that the cost of UPVC windows is not always cheaper than wooden ones. The Timberscombe Parish Council would like ENPA to be aware that the building houses the post office which is vital for the community of Timberscombe. Clerk to email the ENPA.

**20.35 Lengthsman** – The church noticeboard will be looked at when the weather dries out. PP stated that there are blocked drains in Church Street and that maybe the PC should pay him extra to come out for a couple of hours to clear the drains. It was noted that perhaps these could be logged on the SCC Website and maybe they will do it. PP to notify on the Website and see if Highways will clear it. If not the lengthsman will be asked to come and do them.

**20.36 Village Maintenance** – Cllrs to report on any work required within the village. (i) Decision on the water trough damage – There had been a very good response to the need for information on the Trough. The Chair discovered that as the TPC paid for some repairs many years ago it now makes it their responsibility. Three quotes to be sourced by the Clerk and voted on at next meeting.

**20.37 Play area** (i) Swing basket update- see JAPF meeting after PC Meeting (ii) pricing repairs to gate & fencing posts in park update – JS stated that he had a second quote of approx. £400 and was meeting with another person this week for a third. (iii) Weekly play area inspections report – JS – See JAPF Meeting following PC meeting

**20.38 Climate Change** CC asked PP to explain what ‘Signing up to the Climate Emergency Declaration (CED) meant. PP stated that it does not sign you up to anything specific however it is stating a Motion of Intent. It means that any future decision or policies that the PC undertake would need to be considered with a climate and environmental aspect. It is a statement to residents of the parish that the PC take the climate emergency seriously and are looking at its impact on the parish. CC stated that the CED links in with everything that the PC do, so maybe all the grass cutting might be revised so that some areas are left for wild flowers and not cut so often.

**20.39 Village Survey** Further thoughts of the plans for a village survey. JS and CC to look at doing a simple survey to get the work started. To include aspects of the Climate and Environmental concerns, parking in the village, plastic usage and recycling. There was a suggestion of doing a Village Showcase where all aspects of the village, ie, clubs, groups, organisations, can be on display for the village to see and then the Village Survey and CED can be a part of this too.

**20.40 Correspondence and emails** – (i) St Margaret’s News Letter (ii) Royal Voluntary Service (iii) CLOWNS Grant – PP proposed a donation of £50 as it was a worthy cause for the area and JS seconded. All agreed, and Clerk to arrange donation. (iv) The St Petrock’s Church requested a donation for the upkeep of the churchyard. This is annual donation. PP proposed the donation of £300 and JS seconded, all agreed so Clerk to arrange donation.

**20.41 Report from representatives of other groups:** (i) Exmoor Panel see 20.30 (ii) Consultative & Parish Forum see 20.29 (iii) Affordable Housing Group - PP reported that plots had been identified and one was in Timberscombe. There would be an Open Consultation Day for members of the public to find out what it is all about. TBC

**20.42 Items for next meeting agenda** - (i) PP brought to the attention the Poor Lands Charity which used to be run by the PC but had become its own group. Now the group members are reducing in numbers it was felt that the PC should take this back on. PP asked the Clerk to look in to the legality of it and report at next meeting. (ii) Dog Bin review.

**20.43 Date of next Meeting** - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Timberscombe Village Hall 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.15pm

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