

TIMBERSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday 27th July 2020 Via Zoom at 7.33pm

Present: TPC Cllrs: P. Pilkington (PP), J. Stitt (JS), S. Takle (ST), C. Collins, (CC), District Cllr: S. Pugsley (SP), County Cllr: F Nicholson, Clerk: C Hornsby,

Members of the Public: 2

20/85 Questions from the public. None

20/86 Apologies of Absence Cllr S Campbell

20/87 Declarations of notifiable interests: None

20/88 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 01/06/2020 These were Proposed by JS and 2nd by CC as a true and correct record and all agreed. The Chair then signed the minutes and will pass to the Clerk.

20/89 Matters arising from the minutes of 01/06/2020 - None

20/90 Report by the District Councillor and County Councillor

20/90 Report by the District Councillor and County Councillor (i) FN said that work to respond to Covid-19 continues in conjunction with the DC and parishes have been updated through newsletters which the Cllrs receive. (ii) Schools will be back in the Autumn term but the main issue is ensuring year group bubbles can stay together on bus journeys, this is still being worked out. (iii) Highways are now largely back to working pre CV19. (iv) Unitary Authority: The decision will rest with the Secretary of State however there are some possible outcomes. A split authority or one authority. Whatever happens the local rural voice must still be heard. It must ensure local control which is best suited to the remotest parts of Somerset; Exmoor, Mendips etc as well as the urban areas. The proposal from the County Council has a number of community networks and these would be committees of the unitary council and would shape its policies for each area in the light of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment of the area. These committees would include the local members of the unitary council and parish council representatives plus possibly other local organisations that join together to make sure what is important locally is dealt with and these groups can respond to local area needs instead of a one size fits all. The Timberscombe Parish Councillors raised their concerns and wanted it noted that they were not at all happy with the possible outcomes as they fear the rural communities' needs will be less heard as it becomes a more urban centric authority. **FN noted this.** SP added that the present arrangement of Authorities is not working however how it will turn out is still unknown. If local people get local powers then they must also have the money to go with it and this funding must be guaranteed and not removed a few years down the road. SP reported that the (v) DC grants were now coming to an end but he was chasing the last few who might be eligible. (vi) BT phone boxes were being threatened with removal by BT and he urged the PC to report to SW&TDC those Phone boxes near their parish which they feel are need to be kept. Clerk to email DC about this. (vii) Glover Review: This is still an issue concerning the future of National Parks and how control will be taken away from local people and made more National committee. This is very concerning for Exmoor and SP urged the PC to make their voices heard with reference to keeping local people involved in the running of Exmoor National Park.

20/91 Highways One way System proposal: FN told the councillors that they must look at all the traffic calming measures they would like to see in place in the village, get responses from the residents on their views and gather any evidence and then present to FN who will then take this to Highways. These include: One-way system; zebra crossing; double yellow lines; 20-mile speed limit. CC and JS to look in to this.

20/92 Bridle paths ST reported that there were many areas that needed work on but due to CV 19 this had all come to a halt. A works order list is being created.

20/93 Finance report including (i) Finance actions using Business Continuity Motion – Defib pads needed urgent replacement and this was paid in beginning of July. £80.00 (ii) bank reconciliation – Current a/c £14,886.98; Reserve a/c £2,079.54; Total £16,966.52 (iii) Invoices to be paid: Dan Passmore - Grass Cutting £210.00; SALC membership fees – £115.51; Clerk Pay & Expenses £670.35 (to be paid on 5th Aug) For May, Jun, Jul 2020; Internal audit gift voucher reimbursement; To clerk £30.00 (for Mole Valley Farmers Gift Vouchers). (iv) RFO stated that the VAT was in the process of claiming. (v) RFO also asked all Cllrs who were registered with Unity Bank to authorise payments, to make sure they have logged in and set up their email. Clerk will send any one the Bank phone number if they need a new login to be sent to them

20/94 Planning Applications and Decision None at time of Agenda publication

20/95 Parish Lengthsman (PLM) PP reported that the PLM had made a start on the bank path and

will continue this work. They have been looking at leaving certain flowers for pollinating insects. It was also noted that the road signs may need strimming around. There are also other areas in the village that have been raised by a member of the public and these will also be looked at over the coming months. Next scheduled days: 10th Sept, 10th Dec, 4th Jan

20/96 Village Maintenance –The clerk reported that ENPA will be carrying out works to trees at the hillfort in order to protect the historic features and to improve public access to the site. They will be felling a few small birch and oak trees. They don't yet have a date – it won't be until after the nesting season finishes at the end of August. Over the next five years they are planning to remove much of the shrubby regeneration and bracken at the site and hopefully improve accessibility and views of the site from the public footpath. CC was concerned that this area is rich in wildlife and felt the Park needed to be informed and so Clerk asked CC for details and these will be passed on to ENPA.

20/97 Climate Change PP proposed that the Timberscombe Parish Council declare a Climate and Environment Emergency and CC 2nd. All agreed and PP and Clerk will look in to having this organised by the September meeting. It was also suggested by CC to have an ecology survey done and CC will look in to finding out costs and will organise this.

20/98 Village Survey working group - JS is creating the survey and will include the traffic calming proposals mentioned in *20/91 Highways* and also green spaces. He suggested a village walk to identify key areas and will be advertising on the website and newsletter for local people to become involved.

20/99 Website Accessibility the Parish Council must make sure that their website can be accessed by people with disabilities. This means that the people who visit the website with the following impairments can still access all the relevant areas: impaired vision; motor difficulties; cognitive impairments; learning disabilities; deaf and hearing impaired. Many will have software on their own computers to help them but often the website they look at cannot be viewed using these tools. All public websites must now comply with WCAG2.1 standard by the deadline of 23rd Sept 2020 when there must be a statement on the website to say we comply. The Clerk asked Mrs L Webb who runs the village website to look in to this and she has worked very hard on making sure the PC part of the village website is compatible. The clerk also explained to Mrs Webb that any costs that need to be covered will be done so by the parish council as they must abide by the law. This included any time that she worked on making the PC website usable for all. All cllrs were happy to pay Mrs Webb who will invoice the council for her eight hours of work. The PC website now abides by the law.

20/100 Correspondence to include (i) Clerk read out the following from the Treasurer of the Parish Church. *Please could you pass on to the council a thank you from St Petrock's Church for the yearly graveyard payment that we received recently. This payment is restricted for grass cutting in the graveyard.* (ii) Clerk asked the cllrs if they were still happy to receive all the emails that she forwards to them, all were happy.

20/101 Report from representatives of other groups: (i) Exmoor Panel (ii) Consultative & Parish Forum Neither of these groups have had meetings since CV19 struck however, SP reported that there may be a Zoom meeting in September for the Exmoor Panel.

20/102 COVID 19 update in the parish PP reported that the parish had fared well during CV19 and the Good Neighbour Scheme had really helped. PP will be looking in to the possibility that Meals on Wheels (which had stopped during CV 19 lockdown) will not be continuing for the Magna housing.

20/103 Chairman's notices. PP reported that the Defibrillator had been deployed but was not used however the Defib pads needed replacing.

20/104 Items for next meeting agenda nothing extra

20/105 Date of next Meeting - Monday 28th September 2020

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.05pm

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