

TIMBERSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th November 2024 at Timberscombe Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present Councillors: k. Attwater (KA, Chair) S. Campbell (SC), I Ware (IW), L. Davies (LD), C. Gibbard (CG) , J. Daniel (JD) , H. Moore (HM) (HM joined the Council after item 24/151e), L. Webb (LW)- Clerk and two members of the public.

Item	Minutes	Action
	<p>Questions/Comments from the public.</p> <p>a) Helen Moore presented several ideas to improve the look of the existing bin on The Green.</p> <p>b) Colin McDonald (CM) spoke to the Council about the housing needs in the village. Concern was expressed that “local” people were not getting local housing. CM explained that this was because only newly built houses were able to have a local person restriction. This only accounted for 12% of the houses on Exmoor.</p> <p>Councillors expressed concern that there were too many empty houses in the village and that “affordable” homes were not affordable to local people on Exmoor wages. CM explained that “affordable” simply meant less than the current market price for the property, not that local people could afford them! CM asked for Council help in providing new homes. The Council requested a copy of the places that it was envisaged that new homes could be built, so that it could be discussed further. CM to send to KA.</p>	
24/148	Apologies for Absence County Cllrs F. Nicholson (FN) and S. Pugsey (SP) .	
24/149	Declarations of Notifiable Interests. None	
24/150	Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 28 th October 2024. Proposed by SC and seconded by IW. Accepted as a true record and signed by KA.	
24/151	<p>Matters Arising.</p> <p>(a) The Tree House design for the bin was voted for by a majority of the Council. HM to purchase the necessary items at a cost of around £40. She would look to complete the work in January.</p> <p>The Clerk explained to Councillors that the article in the Free Press about the bin was not submitted by her and any “quotes” from her were , in fact, simply lifted by the journalist from Council meetings minutes.</p> <p>(b) Daffodil bulbs have been planted, except in the Play Area. IW to complete this area. Thanks to Mr Harris for his assistance with the planting.</p> <p>(c) Quotes are being gathered for the repair of the bus shelter. The Clerk has checked with ENP that the Council would be permitted to erect a few layers of bricks at the base to reduce water damage. Clerk to check with owner of the land to see if this would be acceptable and meet again with builders. The Council unanimously agreed that some layers of bricks would be a good idea.</p> <p>(d) Work has now started on Slade Cottage and there is even more rubbish but the builders should remove the offending rubbish at the end of their work.</p> <p>(e) There had been one show of interest in the remaining vacancy. HM was proposed by LD and seconded by JD. It was resolved to co-opt HM to the Council. Paperwork to be completed.</p> <p>(f) CG asked for a progress report on the leak in Great house Street. The work has been sent to the contractors, Kier, but Highways has warned the Council that the was a large backlog of work. LW to chase. A new salt bag has been placed in the water flow to help reduce the chance of freezing water.</p> <p>(g) The clerk reported problems with getting SID training. None of the companies named by Highways had the necessary course at the moment. Others would cost over £1300 each person. IW suggested LANTRA. LW to continue to search.</p>	<p>HM</p> <p>IW</p> <p>LW</p> <p>LW/HM</p> <p>LW</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (h) The larger potholes in Bemberry Bank have been filled but smaller holes have not been filled and it seemed likely that a further report would need to be submitted, in the not too distant future. (i) The tree root at Duddings has been marked out for future work and a warning sign placed nearby by Highways. (j) The dangerous hole in the footpath alongside the football pitch has been filled by ENP. (k) The Council unanimously agreed to extend the old Play Area lease and it was not felt necessary to involve a solicitor, at this time. (l) The boundary changes survey has been completed by the Clerk, stating that it was important that the village stayed as part of Exmoor and was not merged with Minehead. 	LW
24/152	Report by Somerset Councillors No Councillors present	
24/153	<p>Highways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) SC reported that a disabled villager had been knocked over in his buggy by a speeding car outside the pub. Unfortunately, the resident was unable to identify the car or driver. The incident has been reported to the Police. The Council have previously been told, by Highways, to take down the "20 is plenty" signs, as they were not legal. Road Traffic spacing regulations do not permit the Council to place a SID at that entrance to the village. (b) LD reported excessive debris in Knowle Lane was blocking drains. LW to send "Report a problem on the road" link to LD so she could pinpoint the problems on the report map. (c) Concern was expressed by SC over a low drain by Duddings. This has previously been reported to Highways but they felt that no work was required. 	LW/LD
24/154	Bridlepaths and Footpaths No new concerns reported.	
24/155	<p>Finance Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Bank Reconciliation. The Council currently has a total £20,075.78 in the accounts. b) It was resolved to pay the invoice for £45 for hire of Timberscombe Village Hall and for the Clerks pay, including a back dated national pay rise. In total amounting to £619.32 to the Clerk and £145.60 to HMCR. A pre-approved invoice of £170 has been paid since the last meeting for the final grass cut of the season. c) It was resolved to pay a donation of £315 to Minehead Citizens Advice Bureau to help with its support of Timberscombe residents. Over the last 6 months this support had benefited Timberscombe residents by over £15,000. d) A grant of £3000 has been secured by Timberscombe Good Neighbours and would be paid into the Council's account. This would be ring fence for the project which aims to put residents in contact with micro providers, CAB and TGN support. More details of the project to follow in the new year. 	<p>LW</p> <p>LW</p> <p>LW</p> <p>LW</p>
24/156	Planning Applications and Decisions. It was agreed that no further response was needed to the Middle Burrow planning appeal.	
24/157	<p>Village Maintenance. Concerns were expressed about the amount of leaves on the road and the lack of general road sweeping. The Highways department have been unable to view the road sweeping contract as it is deemed "confidential". LW to try to find out further information.</p> <p>Tasks still outstanding from previous meetings.</p>	LW

24/158	Village Environment Items An unknown resident continues to leave packets of cat litter around the village. Villagers are asked to report anybody seen leaving cat litter bags on the ground to the Clerk. Cat litter can be placed in a normal rubbish bin.	
24/159	Correspondence. No further items	
24/160	Report from other Representatives. KA and JD have met with our MP, Rachel Gilmore. JD has typed notes on the meeting and will circulate them to Councillors.	
24/161	Chair's Notices. None	
24/162	Items for next agenda. None	

Meeting finished at 9.15 pm.

Date of next meeting Monday 27th January 2024.