

**COFFINSWELL PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 09 MAY 2018 – ST BARTHOLOMEW’S CHURCH, COFFINSWELL**

Present: Cllrs Wills (Chairman), Berry, Harrington, Hermsen and Winchester  
 Cllr Dewhirst (DCC)  
 Cllr Haines (TDC)

Also present: Rachel Avery (Clerk), 24 members of the Public

No	Subject	Comments
1	The Chairman will open the Meeting and receive apologies.	Cllr Wills opened the meeting at 19.30. There were no apologies.
2	Approval to consider, amend as agreed by the Council and approve the minutes of the following minutes: 19 May 2017	It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes.
3	To receive annual reports: Chair	<p>Cllr Wills reported that there had been a few planning applications this year, the largest being the redevelopment of Milber Down Abattoir which has been objected to by the Parish Council and is yet to be considered by TDC. He stated that most planning applications had been minor and hardly any had been objected to.</p> <p>Issues raised by parishioners have included the work at Connybeare Lane and footpath 2.</p> <p>A new defibrillator has been sited opposite The Linhay, which has been purchased with a grant from County Cllr Dewhirst. Thanks were extended to him for this.</p> <p>A new website is now up and running and the clerk is due to create a new Facebook page.</p> <p>Thanks were extended to Gwynn Hermsen for her work in creating a new footpath leaflet, which has been distributed to all households in the village free of charge.</p> <p>Thanks were extended to Nick Orchard for taking over strimming work and tidying.</p> <p>The litter pickers continue to do a lot of hard work, which is much appreciated.</p> <p>The Parish Council has applied to TDC’s Rural Aid fund for a grant, with the view to install a new flag pole in the churchyard due to concerns over the safety of the tower.</p> <p>Cllr Dewhirst report forms part of the minutes.</p> <p>Cllr Haines reported that the Council Tax has been increased by £5 on a Band D property after several years of no increase.</p> <p>The rental space in Forde House will provide a significant income to the District Council, allowing for a saving of £500000.</p> <p>He is active with regards to planning applications and enforcement matters.</p> <p>There is currently a consultation being undertaken on the Local Plan. The Plan was adopted in 2014, and whilst the status of Coffinswell is proposed to stay the same, some of the larger settlements such as Kingskerswell may see changes. The consultation runs from 21 May – 16 July and information can be viewed online, paper copies can be viewed at Forde House and exhibitions will also take place.</p> <p>He remains leader of the Independents at TDC. He is Chair of Overview and Scrutiny and sits on the Licensing and Appeals committee as a</p>

		<p>substitute. He sits on the newly formed Appointments and Remuneration committee.</p> <p>Wider than TDC, he is the national Lead Peer for Independent Councillors and undertakes interesting work across the country. This includes taking part in peer challenges in other authorities, mostly dealing with corporate and planning issues. These challenges are organised by the Advisory Service for Local Authority dealing with difficulties on decision making.</p> <p>It was NOTED that there were no police in attendance. It is hoped that the village can reignite the NHW scheme and this will be investigated further.</p> <p>The clerk reported that the Parish Council bank accounts opened at £2998.94. At the end of the financial year, the closing balance was £3184.05.</p> <p>The 2018/19 precept has been set at £3910 from 2018/19, increased by £540 on the previous year. There has been a decrease in the council tax support grant provided by TDC through Government.</p> <p>The Parish Council has continued its grant of £450 to the PCC for the maintenance of the churchyard.</p>
4	Telephone Kiosk.	The clerk had been in contact by BT, who are due to paint the kiosk between April to October.
5	Final distribution of Coffinswell and Dacombe Events Committee funds.	<p>It was reported that further to much consultation, the CDEC funds had been distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £1000.00 to the Church Fabric Fund, to be used to help maintain the church for community use (rather than used to pay for, say, an item relating to worship).</li> <li>• £700.00 distributed equally to 4 charities nominated in the responses: Rowcroft Hospice, HITS Food Bank, Leonard Stocks Centre, Hannahs.</li> </ul> <p>The total distribution totalled £1700.00.</p>
6	New Footpath leaflet.	<p>As previously mentioned, the footpath leaflet has been distributed free of charge to households.</p> <p>Further copies will be available in the church and pub for a £1 donation.</p>
7	Public Session.	<p>Concerns were expressed regarding potholes in Blackenway Lane and Dacombe Hill. It was NOTED that these had already been reported but could be done so again by going to the DCC website.</p> <p>County Cllr Dewhirst reported that a safety defect (pothole) must be 400mm diameter x 400mm deep and have a sharp edge.</p> <p>DCC receive 700 pothole complaints a day at the moment, and don't have the capacity to repair them within the legal time.</p> <p>Cllr Harrington expressed appreciation to Cllr Hermsen for cutting the footpaths last year. He had read an article in The Times last week stating that there are 140000 miles of footpath in England, with 3700miles not passable. All footpaths in the village are in good condition. Thanks were also extended to Cllr Wills for flailing hedges which are not his responsibility!</p> <p>Gordon Bower provided an update on Revd John Leonard. A letter from the PCC has been sent to Coffinswell and Dacombe residents. Revd Leonard will officially retire on 30 June, after requests for extensions were not approved by the Bishop.</p> <p>A celebration will be held in Coffinswell on 9 June, with his final service at Kingskerswell taking place on 29 June.</p>

	<p>The most likely date for a new priest will be Easter or summer 2019, but there are two retired priests who have volunteered to help whilst the vacancy exists.</p> <p>In the meantime, the parish office is the point of contact or any churchwarden will be willing to help.</p> <p>Gwynn Hermsen explained that CDEC equipment will be held until September as it is being kept in various places. It was NOTED that Kingskerswell may be interested in some of the equipment.</p> <p>A resident thanked the District and County Councillors for work they undertake; the village is very lucky to have such excellent representatives.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 20.13, with light refreshments being served afterwards.</p>
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