



Coffinswell Parish Council

Serving the Communities of
Coffinswell & Dacombe

The Cirl Bunting is the UK's rarest farmland bird. The entire breeding population is found between Exeter and Plymouth.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COFFINSWELL PARISH COUNCIL TUESDAY 16TH MARCH 2021 AT 7:15PM VIA ZOOM

Present: Cllr A Parkes (Chairman), Cllr A Brent (Vice-Chairman), Cllr S Avery, Cllr V Flower, Cllr N Orchard

In attendance: Cllr A Dewhirst (DCC), Cllr M Haines, Mrs J Thompson – Clerk
One member of the public

1. The Chairman to open the meeting and receive apologies.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:17pm. There were no apologies.

2. To declare any interests arising at this meeting.

None

The Council adjourned for the following items:

3. Reports:

3.1 County Councillors report: Cllr A Dewhirst gave a brief outline of his report, which is available to view on the parish council website.

3.2 District Councillors report: The council tax at TDC went up by £5 per Band D property, as was expected. Cllr M Haines has chaired and attended a number of meetings, including the local plan working group, which is looking at site options. This will be published in May 2021 and then out for consultation.

3.3 Police report: Nothing specific to report – Police alerts and information are being forwarded as and when received.

3.4 NHW report: Nothing specific to report - Police and Neighbourhood Watch alerts are being forwarded as and when received.

The Council will convene to conduct the following business:

4. Approval to consider, amend as agreed by the Council and approve the minutes of the following meeting:

It was proposed by Cllr A Brent, seconded by Cllr S Avery, and agreed by all to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th February 2021, as a true and accurate record.

5. Finance

5.1 It was proposed by Cllr N Orchard, seconded by Cllr S Avery, and agreed by all to approve the accounts for payment.

5.2 It was proposed by Cllr S Avery, seconded by Cllr V Flower, and agreed by all to approve the monthly bank reconciliation.

6. Funding and Grants

None

7. Footpaths and Highways

7.1 A complaint has been received from a resident who was forced off the road by a twelve-wheeler lorry delivering grain to a local barn.

The parish council were also concerned about possible damage caused by these lorries to the roads and the drains running underneath: it was suggested that a survey should be carried out and signs be installed stating that the area was not suitable for heavy vehicles. After consulting with DCC Highways, Cllr A Dewhirst reported that the HATOC committee had previously decided not to put up these type of road signs anymore; and reassured all that the roads were suitable to withstand all traffic.

Cllr S Avery to speak to the resident and explain the reply from highways and that occasional agricultural traffic is to be expected.

Cllr A Brent gave thanks to John Churchwood for clearing a dead tree overhanging at footpath 1.

Cllr S Avery gave thanks to Cllr A Dewhirst for getting the road crews back out to look at the gullies in Dacombe.

Cllr A Dewhirst gave thanks to Sally Spokes for maintaining the gully by her property.

8. To note any correspondence received

To include any other items that do not relate to planning or enforcement plus any other standing orders that have been omitted on this agenda that should otherwise be included: None.

9. Parish Matters

9.1 Further to the recent problems with the parish council website, it was proposed by Cllr S Avery, seconded by Cllr A Brent, and agreed by all to approach the previously agreed new website provider, migrate the current information, obtain a new domain name and provisionally pay a £120 yearly service charge (increasing this to £240 if needed).

Cllr A Parkes lost internet connection here for approx. 5 minutes.

9.2 The Clerk informed all about the legislation permitting councils to meet remotely that will come to an end on 6th May 2021. As it currently stands, all council meetings held on, or after the 7th May 2021, must therefore, return to a face-to-face format. It was agreed to defer making arrangements for the Annual Parish Council Meeting (11th May) until the next meeting.

9.3 It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting (20th April) as an online meeting.

The Council adjourned for the following items:

10. Planning and Enforcement Public Question Time:

A period of 5 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding planning applications and/or enforcement issues that affect Coffinswell and Dacombe Parish Council.

A resident from Norman's, Dacombe questioned the parish council's comments regarding planning application 20/02129/FUL – Land East of Norman's, Dacombe – Change of use of field to equine and erection of stable block with store. After in-depth discussion regarding the site address, stable location, proposed parking spaces, access concerns and confusion over services, all matters were clarified.

It was initially suggested that a personal invitation be sent to those applicants whose planning were being discussed, but after discussion, it was agreed that this was not practical.

The parish council were notified about a small tree coming down along Footpath 2, which will be removed.

The Council convened to conduct the following business:

11. Planning Applications:

To comment on the following application:

21/00499/CAN – Old Timbers, Coffinswell

Fell three pine trees and height reduce two trees by 2m.

It was proposed by Cllr A Parkes, seconded by Cllr S Avery, and agreed by all to reiterate the personal comments already submitted by Cllr A Brent and be guided by TDC's Tree Officer decision.

Those comments are:

The applicant states that the trees are non-native and that they are unattractive, neither of these reasons are grounds to remove a tree.

The applicant states that ivy is doing considerable damage to trees yet there is no evidence of this in the pictures submitted. Ivy is a brilliant habitat for native insects and having it on a tree is not grounds for removal.

The applicant states that the trees are unhealthy but does not indicate how.

Conifers of such size and stature have clearly been present for a considerable amount of time (possibly planted at the same time the Victorian buildings here were built) and their removal would be detrimental to the character of that part of the village.

12. Enforcement Issues

12.1 TDC are still investigating whether planning permission is required for Bales Farm.

Cllr A Brent reported that significant clearance had taken place on the Stokeinteignhead side of Ridge Road; there was no change on the Coffinswell side of the road. Clerk to chase TDC for an update.

The Council adjourned for the following item:

13. General Public Question Time:

10 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment on the work of Coffinswell and Dacombe Parish Council or on matters arising that affect the Council.

The Council convened to conduct the following business:

The member of the public present thanked the parish council for all that they do.

The residents of Bramble House have kindly donated a blind spot mirror to the parish council for anywhere that needs it, but please note that it can only be installed on private land.

14. To agree the proposed date of the next meeting:

Annual Parish Meeting - Tuesday 20th April 2021

The meeting ended at 9:14pm

Signed:
Chairman of Coffinswell Parish Council

Dated