



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 COFFINSWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 19th MARCH 2024 7PM AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Present: Cllr N Orchard (Chair), Cllr S Avery (Vice Chair), Cllr C Bell, Cllr A Brent
In attendance: Devon County Councillor A Dewhirst
Mr. G Bower – Church Warden of St Bartholomew's Church
Mr. T Rumball
Mrs L Moorse – Parish Clerk
Two members of the public joined at 7.27pm

1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.01 pm.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Spokes and Cllr M Atkinson.

2. To declare any interests arising at this meeting.

None

The Chairman stated that he had invited Gordon Bower, the Church Warden to give a talk concerning the change of status of St. Bartholomew's Church and asked all assembled if they would be willing to receive this presentation before proceeding further with the Agenda items for the Meeting.

All present were in agreement.

Agenda Item 9.2 To discuss Parochial Reorganisation Notice for Coffinswell and Kingskerswell

Gordon Bower commenced by giving background information regarding the implications of the change of status for the Church by the Diocese of Exeter. He explained that "*due process*" will be conducted by the Church of England and the Church Commissioners which can take an inordinately length of time and the procedures that must be followed concerning the required notice periods and other matters that have to be adhered to. He stated that it may well be later in 2024 or early 2025 before any decisions are reached. He then explained the reasons for the "Chapel-of-Ease" being offered to Coffinswell in view of its proximity to the other churches and further talked about the considerable length of service by Michele Berry and himself as Church Wardens. It was noted that that St. Bartholomew's will still retain a Secretary/Treasurer and two Church Wardens, and two organists are being shared with two other local Churches. The latter of which will be shortly reviewed. Baptisms and funeral services can still be held, with internment in the churchyard. The Church will also be given a licence to allow weddings. He went onto talk about the attendance numbers and the monthly and quarterly contributions through the Parish Giving Scheme. He did point out that the "Chapel-of-Ease" can be reversed should the Church's circumstances improve.

The Chair thanked Gordon Bower for his presentation, and he expressed that the Parish Council are naturally concerned how this affects the Parish as a whole; the Church is the centre of the village and an exceptionally fine historic building and naturally hope to avoid its closure.

Gordon Bower left the Meeting and the Parish Council returned to the Agenda at 7.20pm

3. Reports:

3.1 County Councillors' report. (Read by Cllr Dewhirst and is available to view on the website.)

3.2 District Councillors' report (Not in attendance).

3.3 Police Advocate and Neighbourhood Watch reports and updates.

Nothing to report for this meeting. The Chair stated that these reports are somewhat duplicated via the Police and Neighbourhood Watch and if all in agreement then Mrs Sheenagh Orchard will continue to maintain the information and issue accordingly. There were no objections by the Councillors present.

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

It was agreed by all to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 16th January 2024.

5. Finance

The Chair confirmed that he had viewed the online Bank Account with the Parish Clerk before the meeting commenced.

5.1 It was agreed by all to approve the payments schedule.

5.2 It was agreed by all to approve the bank reconciliations for January and February 2024.

5.3 The budget update for the period 1st April 2023 to 29th February 2024 was presented with no matters arising.

6. Funding & Grants:

To receive any updates on funding and grants.

The Chair advised that TDC had declared their 2024-2025 Parish Council Funding, and it was confirmed that the Parish Council's Precept request has been fully approved by the TDC for the sum of £6,624.00, an increase of 6% on the previous year.

7. Footpaths & Highways:

To receive any updates on any footpath or highways issues.

The Chair reported that due to the continued rainfall the issues of the roads are still the same but not as bad as previously concerning the volume of water flowing. The issues concerning Dacombe Cross were discussed, and the blockages of gulleys and Cllr Avery confirmed he keeps a close eye on the gulleys around Dacombe.

The Chair stated that there appears to be more potholes because of the bad weather and mud and reminded everyone that potholes do need to be reported on the website. Cllr Avery and the Chair also reminded everyone that the Parish's Road Warden, Matt Redmond, could assist with the filling of these. DCC Alistair Dewhirst confirmed that if he holds the Certificate for working on the highway, Devon County Council will in fact supply the materials for the work involved. Cllr Avery confirmed that the number of small deep potholes had increased during the last 3 weeks, and it would be certainly of a great assistance if this could be carried out by the Parish's Road Warden instead of awaiting a Contractor.

Discussion followed then concerning those who would benefit from such a training course, and the Chair undertook to liaise with Matt Redmond on this aspect.

DCC Dewhirst said he would be happy to assist towards the training with a small grant. He was thanked by the Parish Councillors for his offer of assistance on this matter.

The Chair further reported that there were water flow problems regarding the Open Reach manhole, but this was an ongoing problem.

Regarding the Footpaths, the Chairman confirmed that the hedge trimmer had now been repaired under warranty and he advised that Tim Rumball and himself have been working on the overgrown hedge on Churchways which has been completely cleared for easy walking. All the footpaths seem to be fairly clear, and a few volunteers have helped to clear the triangle opposite "The Linny" which had needed clearance of the mud, etc. when the weather had been extremely bad. He reported that the bench had been repaired and the ground had been attended to planting bulbs and grass seeds. He also reported that Footpath 1 will be attended to later this year.

Cllr Avery advised that after reporting a recent fallen tree across the road, Devon Highways attended to the matter very quickly.

8. To note any correspondence received

None.

9. Parish Matters:

9.1 To agree the Annual Parish Meeting format.

The Chairman advised that the Annual Parish Meeting format would predominantly be the same as last year in that the Council Chair will give a report on the year and then open the floor for general questions or comments. Following the meeting there will be refreshments provided and an opportunity for informal conversation. Cllr Dewhirst apologised but he would be unable to attend on this occasion.

9.2 To discuss Parochial Reorganisation Notice for Coffinswell and Kingskerswell (*previously discussed earlier in Meeting*)

9.3 To approve the updated Parish Strategic and Action Plan.

The Chair advised that Cllr Parkes produced the first version of this Plan. He then explained the reasoning for splitting this Plan into two documents which have also been reviewed: Statement of the Parish Strategic Plan, and the second being the Parish's Action Plan (in excel format) for the period 2024-2027, which will be updated on a regular basis. It was proposed that there should also be a Working Party to review the activities listed to ensure they are pertinent to the Parish, with others being naturally added. After discussion concerning the Plan, Cllr Avery proposed and was seconded by Cllr Brent, together with full agreement from the remaining Councillors that this should be adopted.

10. Planning & Enforcement Public Question Time:

A period of 10 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 Parish Council.

11. Planning:

11.1 To discuss the following planning applications:

23/01492/FUL – Land at Junction of Pitland Lane and Footland Lane, Dacombe Agricultural Building

The Chair explained that the Parish Council had supported the planning application in September 2023, and had invited the owner Mr B Stacey to explain the reasoning behind the revised plan concerning changes to the roof elevation. The Chair then invited Mr Stacey to give the reasons behind the changes for a slightly larger building.

Mr Stacey explained that with the higher pitched roof (originally 2.53 metres to 3.4 metres) they would then have a slightly wider structure to include more storage of hay bales and livestock, coupled with the reasoning that they would also be able collect more rainwater for their uses as there are no mains water supply. Further discussion concerning the change in size of the

building, but Cllr Avery explained the reasoning for the design to provide such a roof pitch over the wider structure regarding the building overall.

It was noted that the building had already been constructed. It was agreed that the visual impact would be minimal. The Chair asked the Councillors to vote, and it was agreed by all present to support the application.

The Chair thanked the gentlemen for their attendance and their explanations and they duly left the meeting.

24/00306/CAN – The Old Rectory, (Road past Old Rectory) Coffinswell

T1 Horse chestnut – repollard back to suitable growth point.

T2 Holm oak – pollard

T3-T4 Lime trees – remove growth and dead wood throughout trees.

T5 Horse chestnut – Large Limb with die back – remove limb completely.

G1 Ash Trees at stage 3-4 die back and fell to ground level: replant with Sycamore/Holly

The Chair explained that there had been some confusion concerning this application and went onto describe the various applications dates; withdrawals, and then subsequently that the tree work had already been carried out. He reported that the owners had been advised by more than one tree surgeon that planning permission was not required although the trees and property in question are within a conservation area. He went on to further explain the misunderstandings concerning the state of the trees, and that as a result of reporting the matter to the TDC await the outcome of their investigations and visit to the property.

11.2 To note the following planning decisions:

24/00250/CAN – Woodpecker Cottage Road Past Old Rectory Coffinswell Devon TQ12 4SN

T1- Ash- Framework pollard the whole tree.

T2- Leylandii x 2- Reduce both by approximately one third.

T3- Ash- Re-Pollard back to previous pollard points

No objections.

12. Enforcement Issues:

12.1 To receive any updates on outstanding enforcement issues.

Cllr Bell reported that she has seen a construction of a wooden awning structure next to a caravan in a field next to Downaway Lane in Dacombe. The Chair stated he would investigate the matter and asked for "What3Words" location.

13. General Public Question Time:

No further questions from the public.

14. To note the date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 16th April 2024 – Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting ended at 8:21pm

Signed:
Chairman of Coffinswell Parish Council

Dated: