



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 16th JANUARY 2024 7PM AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Present: Cllr N Orchard (Chair), Cllr S Avery (Vice Chair), Cllr C Bell, Cllr A Brent
Cllr M Atkinson and Cllr S Spokes

In attendance: Mrs L Moorse – Parish Clerk

- 1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.01 pm.**
Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr J Taylor.
- 2. To declare any interests arising at this meeting.**
None
- 3. Reports:**
 - 3.1** County Councillor's report. (*Not present but subsequently arrived at 7.28 pm giving apologies for delay*)
 - 3.2** District Councillor's report. (*Subsequently received after the Meeting and circulated to the Parish Councillors*)
 - 3.3 Police Advocate and Neighbourhood Watch reports and updates.**
No updates to report.
- 4. Approval to consider, amend as agreed by the Council and approve the minutes of the following meeting:**
It was proposed by Cllr Avery and seconded by Cllr Bell and agreed by all to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 21st November 2023.
- 5. Finance**
 - 5.1** It was agreed by all to approve the payments schedule.
 - 5.2** It was agreed by all to approve the bank reconciliation for the months of November and December 2023.
 - 5.3** The budget update for period 1st April 2023 to 31st December 2023, was presented with no matters arising.
 - 5.4** The Chair's report, budget, and precept for 2024-2025 was reported to the Council. It was proposed by Cllr Avery seconded by Cllr Brent and agreed by all to request a precept of £6524.00.
- 6. Funding & Grants:**
None

7. Footpaths & Highway

To receive any updates on footpaths and highways issues.

The Chair reported that because of the prolonged heavy rain prior to Christmas resulting in water, mud and general debris on the roads and lanes in Coffinswell and Dacombe, the Parish had hopefully now sufficient and adequate provision of sandbags thereby fairly well defending properties against any further internal flooding.

It has been reported that the road sweepers have visited the area on a couple of occasions within Coffinswell only, which was understood to have been arranged by a parishioner.

Further discussion followed concerning the state of the roads and lanes as there is still a great deal of running surface water but not running into the drains. One issue being the water running across the road at Dacombe Cross. Other areas were discussed including the issue of water and mud collecting on the corner of Willowpark Lane, Churchways next to the Round House; Connybeare Lane; and especially the mud around the triangle opposite The Linny.

The Chair reported that there are problems with the continuous flow of water out of the "Open Reach" and Southwest Water manholes. After discussion and investigation by "Open Reach" the problem has now been registered with both D.C.C. and Southwest Water and await a visit and response from them.

Cllr Avery advised that he has been clearing some of the gullies and the Cllrs also reported that there are many other areas they are aware of and trying to keep the water flowing as appropriate. Cllr Avery also stated that the gully below Norman's seems to be now fully functional.

The Chair and Councillors gave great thanks to those parishioners who have been moving the mud and debris from the roads and lanes by machinery: as in some cases hand working with shovels was far inadequate.

*** County Councillor A Dewhirst arrived at 7.28pm ***

Concern was expressed about the speed of some traffic through Dacombe and Coffinswell in view of the surface conditions of the roads and lanes. Cllr Avery stated that he had recently visited a Parish who had erected "20 is plenty" notices on the verges and it was considered by all present that this was a very good idea. It was agreed that Cllr Avery would further investigate the provision of such signs. Cllr Dewhirst confirmed that he would also contribute towards the costs of the signs.

Cllr Atkinson pointed out that the road on the corner of Willow Park is starting to break up, and indeed the water seems to be running underneath the support structure and washing the stones away.

Cllr Avery undertook to report the issues of the roads in question with Cllr Dewhirst copied on the correspondence.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the owners of Hillside Cottage for clearing the bank, stream, ditch, and stone wall between their property and that of Swallows Hatch.

Discussion then followed concerning the bank collapsing near the pathway which is part of the Old Rectory's property, and it is understood that the owners are aware of the responsibility from a public safety point of view.

The Chair and Councillors then discussed the idea of promoting a Volunteer Working Party whereby parishioners place their names on a list and help when called upon. It was considered a particularly good suggestion and the Chair confirmed he would issue a note accordingly.

County Councillor's Report:

The Chair then invited Cllr Dewhirst to give his report, which he duly did, and this is available on the website.

- 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 be otherwise included.)
None

9. Parish Matters:

9.1 The Chair advised that the First Aid courses held in November and December 2023 were very well received and attended – with a total of 20 attendees. He advised that the general feedback was that the Courses were very useful, and many felt a lot more confident about helping with first response to medical emergencies. He also thanked Andrea from First Aid Exeter who presented the very helpful and interesting Courses within the time allowed.

9.2 To receive any further updates on parish matters.
None

10. Planning:

The Chair advised that although the Agenda showed no new planning applications to discuss at this Parish Council Meeting, an application had been lodged that morning for a small extension at Adam Cottage and naturally too late to be included on this meeting's Agenda. He stated that as the target date for response on this application is 11th March 2024. As the next PC Meeting is to be held on the 19th of March 2024, it was agreed that the Councillors would review the details and respond accordingly by email. If further in-depth information was needed then an Extraordinary PC Meeting would be arranged.

10.1 To review and note the following planning application decision notice:

Part Approval and Part Refusal

22/01841/FUL – Manor House, Coffinswell

Non-material amendment (to add solar panel and heat pump and alter door) to planning permission 22/01841/FUL for conversion of existing barn to an annexe to the main dwelling.

The Chair also advised that the owners of Periwinkle Cottage had been advised today that their request to replace their front door has been granted with conditions.

- 11. Correspondence received by the Parish Clerk**
None

- 12. Enforcement Issues:**
To receive any updates on outstanding enforcement issues.
None

- 13. Public Question Time**
No public in attendance.

- 14. Date of the next meeting:**
Tuesday 19th March 2024.

The meeting ended at 8:08 pm

Signed:
Chairman of Coffinswell Parish Council

Dated: