

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Comeytrove Parish Council Held at
The Comeytrove Community Hall on
Monday 23rd May 2022, following the Annual Parish meeting (7.30pm)**

Present: Cllr Brian Larcombe - Chairman
Cllr Alan Paul Cllr Jill Paul
Cllr Jenny Robinson

Also Present: Eight members of the public, County Cllr D. Johnson, District Cllr J Hunt and District Cllr H. Farbahi and Helen McGladdery

Meeting starts 9.00pm

213. Apologies for absence and reasons given

Cllr Simon Nicholls – was called away to work emergency before the meeting commenced

Cllr Anthony Sutcliffe – Did not attend

Cllr Keith Woodmason – Did not attend

214. An opportunity for residents to share their views on the following proposal put forward and agreed by Somerset West & Taunton Council: *Comeytrove Parish Council be abolished, and the entire area of Comeytrove Parish be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Town Council.*

The Chairman outlined the proposal above which has been agreed by SW&T Council. He advised that a second stage of consultation was imminent, and this meeting was an opportunity for the Parish Council to hear the views of residents, before submitting The Parish Council response.

The meeting took the format of open discussions between residents, Parish, District and County Councillors.

Concerns raised:

- Would Parish representation be at same level if Comeytrove was within the Town Council rather than a stand alone Parish Council?
- Would the parish precept be higher if the parish was in the Town Council, therefore enforcing a larger charge on residents?
- Or would the Parish Council precept need to be raised if the Parish Council remained, therefore leading to a larger charge to residents?
- Would local identity be lost?
- What impact would this have on public services?
- Which authority is better to deliver devolved services?
- Lack of resident's awareness of this consultation

Cllr Hunt said that he has been advised by SCC that residents would not be receiving a large precept increase if they were absorbed within the Town Council

Suggestions:

- Could the Town Council be formed just for unparished area and surrounding areas added later. – Councillors explained that both options need to be considered at the same time due to the Community Governance Review process.
- A leaflet drop from SW&T to residents explaining the proposal and the benefits to the Parish if it was absorbed within the new Town Council. – District Councillors advised this will be happening in the coming weeks.
- That District Councillors engage with residents to listen to their views on this matter

Action:

- Add consultation information link to Website, Local Facebook page, noticeboards and add an article to the Galmington and Comeytrowe newsletter
- To ask for more information from SW&T around costs/benefits to residents if they are absorbed within the Town Council

Cllr Hunt advised that as a member of the working party on this matter and that if residents made it clear to him that they do not want to be part of the Town Council, he would make the views of the residents clear to SW&T.

**Meeting finished 10.20pm
Brian Larcombe – Chairman**