

**Minutes of the meeting of Comeytrove Parish Council Held at
The Walker Room, Comeytrove Community Hall on
Monday 4th July 2022 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Brian Larcombe – Chairman
Cllr Alan Paul Cllr Jill Paul – arrived at 9.25pm
Cllr Jenny Robinson Cllr Anthony Sutcliffe
Cllr Keith Woodmason – left the meeting at 9.00pm

Also Present: District Cllr J. Hunt, District and Somerset Cllr H. Farbahi
Representatives from SW&T Derek Perry, Mike Rigby, Sarah Wakefield, and 2
members of the public

Public Forum

One resident raised a request to clear the footpath between Comeytrove Lane and
Jefferies way.

Meeting starts 7.35pm

229. Co-option of new Members to fill vacancies

The Chairman advised that an enquiry had been received for one of the
vacancies

Action: The Clerk will proceed with the application and meet with the
applicant to explain the role and prepare to co-opt in September

230.To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons given

Somerset Cllr D. Johnson – Medical reasons
Cllr Simon Nicholls – Did not attend
Helen McGladdery, Clerk and RFO – Medical reasons

231.Declaration of Interest not already recorded

None recorded

232.To Agree Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6th June 2022

Resolved: Following a proposal from Cllr Larcombe and seconded by Cllr
Sutcliffe and a unanimous vote, Members agreed that the minutes of the
meeting were agreed as a true and accurate representation and were
signed by the Chairman.

Action: The Clerk to add to the Website

233.Planning:

To agree responses to Planning applications received:

52/22/0011 - Erection of a single storey extension to the side and rear of 3
Bradford Close, Taunton

Resolved: SUPPORT

52/22/0012 - Enlargement of windows to the front elevation (lower cills) of
The Shepherds Rest, Galmington Road, Taunton

Resolved: SUPPORT

Action: The Clerk to submit the responses

Orchard Grove Update

Nothing further updates to report

234.Financial Matters:

Detail of Receipts and Payments since previous meeting

Receipts:

McGrath – Penny’s Field hire (May 2022) £115.00

Payments:

Monthly:

Mobile Phone - June £7.65
Parsons - May £328.56
HMRC - June £299.85
SCC Pensions - June £285.87

he Clerks Salary was paid in this period

Quarterly:

Comeytrove hall hire (Mar/April/May) £90.00
H McGladdery – Clerk Allowance (Apr/May/June) £78.00

Half yearly:

Jill Larcombe - Internal Audit £45.00

Annual/One-off:

GCSL - Projector £2,144.60
SPFA membership £15.00
H McGladdery Expenses (stamps) £13.04

235.Clerks Report which will include all matters arising from previous minutes and items of interest

The Clerk’s report was distributed to Members

236.To agree a response to Community Governance Review and proposed Taunton Town Council stage two consultation including the proposal from SW&T that: Comeytrove Parish Council be abolished, and the entire area of Comeytrove Parish be included within the boundary of the proposed new Taunton Town Council.

Cllr Derek Perry and Cllr Mike Rigby – representatives from SW&T were in attendance and gave a verbal update on the consultation and offered a chance for Members to ask questions. The Chairman asked the representatives to outline the benefits to Comeytrove residents to them becoming part of the Taunton Town Council. Cllr Perry and Rigby advised the logic behind Comeytrove being included within the proposal of the new Town Council is because it is effectively a continuation of Taunton, it isn’t an historic village and Comeytrove is sandwiched in between the urban extension of Orchard Grove and Taunton Town Centre, therefore it was recommended by SW&T to include Comeytrove in the new Town Council so Orchard Grove could be included.

DURING THE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS AGENDA ITEM:

9.00PM KEITH WOODMASON LEFT THE MEETING

9.25PM JILL PAUL ARRIVED AT THE MEETING

The Following Pros and Cons were discussed:

Pros

- Residents would become part of "Taunton" rather than the parish of Comeytrowe
- Better voice for residents to link to the Unitary Council if part of the Town Council rather than a parish

Cons:

- Comeytrowe Parish council has a very successful track record since its creation 35 years ago; a local shopping centre and vibrant community centre has been created, a new local church has been built which is extremely active and well-attended, the local school has a good reputation and is oversubscribed; the open spaces are very well maintained and the general upkeep is a credit, so much so that Comeytrowe is regarded as a very desirable place to live (as reflected by estate agents, property values and quick sales). - It is not by any means a failing parish - quite the opposite...Therefore any lessening of this focussed level of local service by being absorbed into a larger area competing for attention and practical management, is not in the parish residents' interest and represents a detrimental impact upon them.
- If the Parish remains costs (precept) to residents may increase if additional services are taken on
- If the Parish is abolished because there is currently uncertainty over what income generating assets will be obtained by the new Town Council, the costs of the running of the Town Council and town Centre services will be passed on to residents, and in turn could result in a large raise in Council tax charges to Comeytrowe residents if they are absorbed into the new Town Council, rather than remain as a parish
- There will only be two elected Members on the Town Council representing Comeytrowe
- Concerns were raised that if the parish was absorbed within the new town council, would Comeytrowe residents receive the same level of service from the town council for upkeep of parks etc within the parish. The SW&T representatives could not give any guarantees until the new council is set up
- The Town Council would not be capped in the amount it could raise its precept, therefore again residents could receive a larger Council Tax charge each year.

Resolved:

Following a proposal from Cllr Larcombe and seconded by Cllr Sutcliffe and a vote of 3 for, 1 against and 1 abstention, (the vote was recorded, Cllr Larcombe, Cllr Sutcliffe and Cllr Robinson vote for, Cllr Alan Paul voted against, and Cllr Jill Paul abstained) with a majority vote the following resolution was carried:

The Parish Council are not convinced of the reasons given or the case being made for the proposal, although the Parish Council understands the strategic benefit to Taunton, the Parish Council remains to be convinced that there is a creditable benefit to the residents of Comeytrowe.

Action: The Clerk to submit the response to SW&T Council and Galmington and Comeytrove News

237.Suggested items from Councillors for inclusion in next meeting

- Co-option
- Members contact details availability to the public

238.Date of next meeting: Monday 5th September 2022 at 7.30pm – The Walker Room, Comeytrove Community Hall

Meeting closed 10.30pm

Cllr B Larcombe – Chairman