

# COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 - Approved

## Present

Elena Softley– Chairman  
 Michael Green – Vice Chairman  
 Simon Oliver  
 Rachel Whitehead  
 Anne-Marie Ferrett  
 Alan Revell  
 Cllr Hudspeth  
 Cllr Bishop  
 Julia Sharpe - Clerk

Members of the Public – One

No.	Item	Minutes	Action
136/15	Apologies	None	
137/15	Questions from the Public	Andrew Hobson attended the meeting in his capacity as Chairman of Combe Community Hub. Andrew referred to his previously circulate letter and outlined the current situation with regard to the setting up a legal structure to enable the purchase of the Methodist Chapel with a view to providing the pre-school and after school club with a permanent home and additional community facilities at a later stage. He said that the Chapel had been valued and surveyed and that an estimated total cost of £200,000 may be required to cover the purchase and immediate repair costs. He said that it is hoped that funding will come 50% from donations and 50% from loans and grants. To date approximately £50,000 had been pledged in donations and he asked the Parish Council to consider pledging an amount of around £4,000 – this being a similar amount to play park grant, together with a letter of support from the Parish Council.	
138/15	Register of Interests	Elena Softley (Chairman) – Methodist Chapel	
139/15	Methodist Chapel Update	See 137 above	
140/15	Minutes of the last meetings	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th November were read and signed as correct.	
141/15	Clerks report and progress on actions	<p><b>Footbridge at Weir Cottage</b> – a temporary replacement bridge has been installed. Clerk to write to OCC and Cllr Matthew to thank them for their prompt action.</p> <p><b>Parking at the school</b> – PCSOs will continue to monitor and advise accordingly.</p> <p><b>Horns Lane Trees</b> – Blenheim have undertaken remedial work to reduce the problem.</p> <p><b>Insurance implications for village tidy day</b> - a detailed risk assessment will be required but the current insurance will cover volunteers.</p> <p><b>New Audit Regime</b> - January Agenda item</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>JS</p>
142/15	Report from County Councillor	<p>Cllr Hudspeth reported on the comprehensive spending review and its impact of a fall by 24% in real terms over the next four years to OCC.</p> <p><b>Devolution</b>– Cllr Hudspeth said that he will be presenting the Oxfordshire devolution proposal to the Secretary of State Greg</p>	

		<p>Clark along with the District councils, LEP and Health colleagues in early December. This is an opportunity for Oxfordshire to have devolved powers to provide the infrastructure required to deliver the 86,000 jobs and 100,000 homes to 2030. The proposal also includes the integration of Health and Social care. The aim is to reduce duplication and improve efficiency however the key aim is to provide a better Health care system for all of Oxfordshire's 670,000 residents.</p> <p><b>Preparations for winter weather</b> - OCC is fully prepared for winter with a full fleet of 31 gritting vehicles. Daily updates on whether roads will be gritted will be posted on the winter pages of the OCC's website <a href="http://winter.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms">http://winter.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms</a>.</p> <p><b>Provisional GCSE Data</b> - The Department for Education has published provisional GCSE results for 2015. Key Headlines for Oxfordshire schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 59.1% of pupils achieved five or more A*-C grades, including English and Maths</li> <li>• 73.1% made the expected level of progress in English</li> <li>• 70.5% made the expected level of progress in Maths</li> </ul> <p>Across the country performance was down slightly on 2014 levels but Oxfordshire remains above average. (NB the data will not be finalised until early 2016 and may change.)</p>											
143/15	Report from District Councillor	<p>Cllr Bishop reported that Council had received a report on the Digitalisation of Management Systems, which in liaison with Gloucestershire CC will provide an open and transparent system available to the public dealing with housing allocation policy and making a saving of £30,000.</p> <p>It is hoped that a preliminary findings report on the WODC Local Plan will be published before Christmas.</p> <p>Cllr Bishop apologised for an error listing Cherwell as a participating Council in the 2020 Vision Project and clarified that the Council's participating are WODC, Cheltenham Borough, Forest of Dean DC and Cotswold DC.</p> <p>Discussions with regard to Green Waste Disposal are ongoing and it is possible that the current arrangements will continue until the current contract is due for renewal in October 2017.</p>											
144/15	Planning Applications	<p><b>Applications –</b> 15/03985/HHD - The Last Post, Park Road – Construction of brick chimney stack for wood burner flue – no objection, concern about potential smoke problem for neighbours – it was noted that this is not a planning issue.</p> <p><b>Decisions – None</b></p>											
145/15	To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received	<p><b>Payments</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>P. Merry – post &amp; playpark</td> <td>£235</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J. Sharpe – Wages</td> <td>£196</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PCC – Annual Donation</td> <td>£300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizens Advice Bureau</td> <td>£40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CPRE Annual Membership</td> <td>£36</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Received –</b> Playpark Donation                      £50</p>	P. Merry – post & playpark	£235	J. Sharpe – Wages	£196	PCC – Annual Donation	£300	Citizens Advice Bureau	£40	CPRE Annual Membership	£36	<b>VAT</b>
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146/15	Play Park Update	<p>Simon Oliver reported that raking the bark was outstanding.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Ferrett reported that the soil under the roundabout needed building up – Clerk to request Paul Merry to investigate. Anne-Marie Ferrett again reported on the amount of dog mess found within the play park area – it was agreed that Ann-Marie Ferrett would look at the options of fencing in the areas of concern and report back to the next meeting. The</p>	<p>SO</p> <p>JS</p> <p>AMF</p> <p>SO</p>										

		Clerk reported that the rubbish bin is missing – Simon Oliver to investigate.	
147/15	Annual Review of Clerk's Salary	It was agreed to defer this until the National agreement had been published.	
148/15	To consider 2016/17 Budget and set the Precept	<p>Following discussion it was proposed to increase the amount required for insurance to £650, grass cutting to £2,500 and leave the remaining amounts the same or with minor adjustment taking the estimated budget for 2016/17 to £13,455. The Chairman proposed accepting the budget figures, Michael Green seconded the proposal and vote was taken, all were in agreement and a resolution passed.</p> <p>Following discussion Simon Oliver proposed a 2% increase on the 2015/16 precept making precept request for 2016/17 £12,720 which will make the precept for a Band D property £39.16. Alan Revell seconded the proposal. A vote was taken, all were in agreement and a resolution was passed.</p>	
149/15	To agree a donation to Combe Community Hub (Methodist Chapel)	<p>The Chairman left the meeting for this item.</p> <p>Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council support the project. Michael Green proposed pledging a minimum of £4,000. Rachel Whitehead seconded the proposal, a vote was taken, all were in agreement and a resolution passed.</p> <p>The Chairman returned to the meeting</p>	
150/15	Report from Transport Meeting	Deferred to the January meeting. Rachel Whitehead to circulate papers from meeting.	RW/JS
151/15	To nominate a reader for the Carol Service	Alan Revell offered to read on behalf of the Parish Council	AR
152/15	Urgent Correspondence	<p>Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire – Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations – January meeting</p> <p>Richard Adams – posts in Square Firs – January meeting</p>	JS
153/15	A.O.B.	Alan Revell reported that as a result of attending the New Councillor training course he was aware of the need for a Grievance Procedure. It was agreed that the Clerk would produce a draft procedure for consideration at the next meeting.	JS
153/15	Next Meeting	The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 in the Reading Room, Combe	