

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th January 2016 - Unapproved

Present

Elena Softley– Chairman
 Michael Green – Vice Chairman
 Rachel Whitehead
 Anne-Marie Ferrett
 Alan Revell
 Cllr Bishop
 Julia Sharpe - Clerk
 Members of the Public – None

No.	Item	Minutes	Action
154/15	Apologies	Simon Oliver, Cllr Hudspeth	
155/15	Questions from the Public	Flooding in Chatterpie Lane caused by gulley pots blocked with sediment – Clerk to report to OCC. Flooding under the railway bridge – Clerk to report to OCC	JS
156/15	Register of Interests	None	
157/15	Minutes of the last meetings	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13 th December 2015 were read and signed as correct.	
158/15	Clerks report and progress on actions	NALC Disciplinary and Grievance Arrangements circulated – Clerk to update for final agreement at next meeting.	JS
159/15	Report from County Councillor	<p>The Chairman highlighted the following points from the County Councillor's monthly report:</p> <p><u>Local Government Settlement -</u> Oxfordshire County Council has joined other County Councils in the UK in saying that grant funding levels from central Government are much worse than had been feared. The Council had been preparing for up to £50m of savings from 2016 to 2020 on top of the £292m it is already in the process of making from 2010 to 2018. However on the basis of figures provided by central Government on 17th December the County Council will have to make saving in the region of £70m over the next four years. The Cabinet recommendations will be published 18th January for decision 26th January.</p> <p><u>New Oxfordshire Libraries app -</u> You can now access Oxfordshire Libraries from your phone or tablet. You can manage your account, search the catalogue and renew and reserve books. Bar code scanning is available on devices with a front-facing auto-focus camera. Search for 'Oxfordshire Libraries' at the App Store or Google Play.</p> <p><u>County's youngsters improve in core subjects -</u> Oxfordshire's eleven-year-olds have surged ahead in reading, writing and maths tests, according to the latest figures. The proportion of the county's pupils reaching Level 4+ in all three core subjects at Key Stage Two increased to 81 per cent in 2015 – up from 79 per cent last year. It means the county has moved above the national average (80 per cent) on this measure.</p>	
160/15	Report from District Councillor	Cllr Bishop reported that an application to develop land to the east of Hanborough Bowling Club has circumvented the usual route through the planning committee and has been submitted directly to the Appeals Inspector. Whilst this approach is	

		<p>unusual, it is quite legal, although somewhat risky. The Uplands Planning Committee debated the application fully, and, had it been submitted normally, would have refused permission. We await the Inspector's decision with interest. A medium sized development has received approval for an area of land at Little Lees in Charlbury, in spite of some objections that the social housing was separated from the open market units.</p> <p>West Oxfordshire's emerging Local Plan attracted various objections from the Inspectorate based on insufficient numbers of planned dwellings for each year to 2031. The Inspector suggested that 525 was too few and looked towards a figure approaching 650 per annum. Some considerable weight was placed on Oxford City's needs for affordable houses convenient to the city. Suggestions that optimum sites could be found in South Oxfordshire was made in conjunction with the notion that in the Kidlington area various sites suggested themselves particularly towards Yarnton and Begbroke and sites adjacent to the new Parklands railway station. All these potential amendments to the plan would require a full repeat of the consultation process.</p> <p>Two Syrian families are now settled in Witney and appear to be well content with their new and safe environment.</p> <p>The District Council objected strongly to the OCC plans for cuts to the children's services in the County. A resolution to accept, reluctantly, one of the three options presented by OCC was accompanied by a strongly worded letter indicating the Council's disapproval of all the options.</p>																												
161/15	Planning Applications	<p>Applications - Nil</p> <p>Decisions –</p> <p>Edgecombe House, West End – single storey side porch – approved</p> <p>The Last Post, Park Road – brick chimney stack - approved</p>																												
162/15	To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received and Approve the Quarterly Audit	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Payments</th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">VAT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Combe Reading Room (Room Hire)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£85</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Viking (Ink cartridges/laminating pouches)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£104.36</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£17.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J. Sharpe (Wages)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£196</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC (PAYE)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£391.20</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bank Charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>P. Merry (Telephone box & bus shelter cleaning - 8/7/15)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£40</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Received</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WODC (Grass Cutting Overpayment)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,489.64</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The accounts for 1st October – 31st December were circulated. Michael Green proposed that they be accepted and Anne-Marie Ferrett seconded the proposal. All were in agreement and a Resolution was passed.</p>	Payments	VAT		Combe Reading Room (Room Hire)	£85		Viking (Ink cartridges/laminating pouches)	£104.36	£17.39	J. Sharpe (Wages)	£196		HMRC (PAYE)	£391.20		Bank Charges	£1		P. Merry (Telephone box & bus shelter cleaning - 8/7/15)	£40		Received			WODC (Grass Cutting Overpayment)	£1,489.64		
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163/15	Play Park Update	<p>Anne-Marie Ferrett reported on the difficulty of fencing in the play park area. It was agreed to investigate anti-dog fouling alternatives, to display additional posters around the play park area and to write to people who knowingly allow their dogs to mess in public places. Clerk to draft letter and poster for</p>																												

		agreement at next meeting. Repair to ground under the mini roundabout deferred until the spring.	JS
164/15	Methodist Chapel Update	On behalf of the Combe Community Hub Committee the Chairman reported that an open day on Saturday 16 th January has been organised as a big push to obtain additional donations and to encourage people to experience the space, voice their opinions and ask questions. Following the open day the CCH committee will decide whether or not bid for the Chapel by the end of January (closing date 4 th February).	
165/15	To agree 2017 Audit Procedures	Authorities with a turnover of less than £25,000 will be exempt from having to submit an annual financial return from 2017 but will require an appointed auditor to deal with questions from the electors. Parishes can chose to either have an auditor appointed or to procure their own. The matter was discussed after which Michael Green proposed and Rachel Whitehead seconded the proposal to opt in to having an auditor appointed by the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd. All were in agreement and a Resolution was passed.	
166/15	To agree response to Oxfordshire Together	Village services affected by the Oxfordshire Together initiative include: vegetation cut back and notices, weed control, maintenance of public rights of way and street furniture cleaning. It was agreed to join in with WODC and UK's biggest clean-up weekend on 4 th – 6 th March. Clerk to register interest with WODC and the National Clean for the Queen campaign. It was agreed to include details in the Courier article and discuss at the next meeting.	JS
167/15	Replacement of posts in Square Firs	Defer to February meeting	JS
168/15	Donation to Volunteer Link Up	Clerk to circulate Annual Report and defer decision to February meeting.	JS
169/15	Queen's 90 th Birthday Celebrations	A letter from the Lord-Lieutenant encouraging Parishes to join in with the Queen's 90 th birthday celebrations by holding events over the week-end of 11 th – 12 th June was discussed. It was agreed to put an article in the Courier asking for volunteers to organise an event and to discuss again at the February meeting.	JS
170/15	Urgent Correspondence	CAB – Thankyou letter PCC – Thankyou letter	
171/15	A.O.B.	Rachel Whitehead reported that she would be attending a meeting between OCC, Parishes and Commercial bus operators to scope out route options.	RW
172/15	Next Meeting	The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 10 th February at 7.30 in the Reading Room, Combe	