

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th July 2015 - Approved

Present

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

| No. | Item | Minutes | Action |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Alan Revell to the Parish Council. | | |
| 54/15 | Apologies | Cllr Hudspeth | |
| 55/15 | Questions from the Public | None | |
| 56/15 | Register of Interests | None | |
| 57/15 | Minutes of the last meetings | Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10 th June were read and signed as correct. | |
| 58/15 | Clerks report and progress on actions | <p>Water in Horns lane – Work has started – Geoff Miles is liaising between the contractors and interested parties.</p> <p>Posts around the green – scheduled to be installed on Friday.</p> <p>Methodist Chapel – meeting on 15th July to discuss developments. Clerk to e-mail previous correspondence to all PC's. Result of application to register as an Asset of Community Value outstanding.</p> <p>Verge opposite Navron House – further e-mail to builder to repair bank.</p> <p>Salt Bags for 2015/16 – agreed to order free bag.</p> <p>Bee swarming incidents – circulate details of known village beekeepers and local organisations to PC's and list organisations on web-site.</p> <p>Roles & Responsibilities Course – Anne-Marie Ferrett booked to attend course on 29 July. Details of September course to Alan Revell.</p> <p>Emergency Plan updates –updates agreed, clerk to circulate to all interested parties</p> <p>OCC – Application to add two footpaths – details in Red Bag for discussion at August meeting</p> <p>Broadband Cabinet – Clerk to contact BT regarding repair</p> | <p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> |
| 59/15 | Report from County Councillor | <p>The County Councillor's July report was circulated.</p> <p>Since 2010, Oxfordshire County Council has saved £204 million, with a further £88 million of savings to be made by 2018. A report to Cabinet on 26th May stated that there could be another £50 - £60 million of saving to be found.</p> <p>Joanna Simons will be stepping down as Chief Executive in September.</p> <p>The £424,185m 2014/15 budget was underspent by £0.196m.</p> <p>There has been investment in Highways with a capital expenditure for 2014/15 year of £43.1m. Major projects completed include Kennington Interchange, Witney Ducklington/Station Lane Junction, Oxford London Road,</p> | |

| | | <p>A4130 Bix dual carriageway and A420 Shrivenham Bypass. With an £14.8m spent on highways structural maintenance programmes.</p> <p>The Local Transport Plan for 2015/31 and the Business Case for delivering the A40 bus lane scheme and developing the long-term A40 strategy, will be considered at the July Cabinet meeting</p> <p>Consultation is taking place regarding Supported Transport Services which includes proposals for service changes to subsidised bus services and Dial-a-Ride. The consultation closes on 14th September.</p> <p>Meeting with partners regarding the Early Intervention service and Children's Centres will take place through the summer; currently the budget is approximately £16m. As part of the service and resource planning process for the period 2014/15-2017/18, savings of £6 million were identified for the Early Intervention Service, to be achieved through integration with Children's Social Care.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 60/15 | Report from District Councillor | <p>Cllr Richard Bishop reported that the Local Plan Monitoring Report has indicated a decline in house building in recent years. However, this is not as a result of the WODC Planning Committees decisions as, whilst they have continued to grant planning requests, for a variety of reasons not all were built out. Permission has been granted to extend sand and gravel extraction in the Lower Windrush Valley at Gill Mill.</p> <p>The Charity Farm development in Stonesfield has finally received full planning permission. Empire Homes hope to apply for 12 new houses at Farley Lane in the near future.</p> <p>A proposal for the erection of photo-voltaic panels on land West of the Fawler Road was considered. This being a Charlbury Community proposal, which would be nigh on invisible from Fawler Road and from the Cornbury Estate, it attracted wide approval. Other proposals included a new Premier Inn for Chippie on the old ambulance site and a small development on land North of the Ditchley Road, Charlbury.</p> <p>The joint working arrangements between the Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Cheltenham Borough and West Oxfordshire District Councils are proving very successful with several millions of pounds saved. Overall, West Oxfordshire's operational budget was underspent by nearly £1M – approximately 8.5% of the total.</p> <p>The District Council has continued its policy of making grants available to its parish/town councils. Stage 2 of the grant protocol is still open for requests made before 15 September 2015.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 61/15 | Planning Applications | <p>Applications – 18 Stonesfield Road – Erection of extension to form self-contained ancillary accommodation - objection on the grounds that the extension of the building line will impact on the surroundings</p> <p>Decisions – Barn at Foxhole Farm, Stonesfield Road – Approved Sutterton, Horns Lane - Approved</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 62/15 | To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received | <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Payments</th> <th></th> <th>VAT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HMRC (quarterly payment)</td> <td>£391.20</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Sharpe – Clerks Wages</td> <td>£196</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WODC – Grass Cutting</td> <td>£523.03</td> <td>£87.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trees & Gardens</td> <td>£303.18</td> <td>£50.53</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Payments | | VAT | HMRC (quarterly payment) | £391.20 | | J Sharpe – Clerks Wages | £196 | | WODC – Grass Cutting | £523.03 | £87.32 | Trees & Gardens | £303.18 | £50.53 | |
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| | | <p>(Tree planting) J H Higgins £75 (play park landscaping) BDO (External Auditor) £120 £20 Bank Charges £1 Received Nil Simon Oliver proposed and Anne-Marie Ferrett seconded the motion to approve the April – June accounts. The annual return was presented to the Council and it was noted that there were no matters that came to the attention of the auditors which required a separate additional issues report. The report was approved and accepted by the full Council.</p> | |
| 63/15 | Play Park Update | <p>The damaged posts have been re-engraved and replaced. Following an incident on the zip-wire Anne-Marie Ferrett questioned the need for additional safety features – it was agreed to look at the issue following the RoSPA inspection. Michael Green agreed to water the trees. It was agreed to ask Paul Merry to strim the grass around the new trees. Simon Oliver agreed to look at issues with the gate locking and the spring.</p> | <p>MG JS SO</p> |
| 64/15 | To discuss proposed changes to subsidised buses | <p>Rachel Whitehead reported from the public meeting that she attended on proposed changes to the subsidised bus service. It was agreed to circulate the details and discuss the Council's response at the September meeting.</p> | <p>JS</p> |
| 65/15 | Urgent correspondence | <p>Wendy Foster's farewell tea – Thursday 9th July – Anne-Marie Ferret and Alan Revell to attend CPRE – AGM Saturday 18th July @2.30pm – no one able to attend War memorials trust – donation request – Red Bag</p> | |
| 66/15 | Next Meeting | <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 12th August at 7.30 in the Reading Room, Combe followed by the village walk.</p> | |