

**Minutes of the Combe Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2019
approved**

Present:

Council Members: - Elena Softley (Chairman), Alan Revell (Vice Chairman), Michael Green, Deborah Phillips, Denise Cripps, John Hunt, Ian Hudspeth (County Council), Richard Bishop (District Council) Julia Sharpe (Clerk)

Rachel Joannou (School), Jo Willis-Bund (VH&RG), Celia Adamson (Combe Charities), Bill Oddy (Bonfire and Fireworks) and 5 members of the public.

No	Item	Report
1/19	Apologies	Rev Turner, Andrew Hobson, Roger Pursell and Sally Pursell
2/19	2018 Report	The 2018 report was circulated
3/19	Parish Council Report	<p>Elena Softley presented the following report:</p> <p>Elections Thank you to everyone who voted in the Parish Council election - Combe Parish Council hasn't had a full election for quite a few years! Combe had the highest turnout of all contested town councils and the only other Parish Council to hold an election (Ramsden) – at almost 50%. So well done Combe, especially, to the three non-councillors who stood for election: Gareth Hitchcox, Denise Cripps and John Hunt. And many congratulations to the two who were elected and who have now joined the Parish Council: Denise and John. We all look forward to working with you. Congratulations as well as to Michael Green, Alan Revell, and Deborah Phillips on their re-election. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two retiring councillors: Rachel Whitehead and Simon Oliver, who between them served Combe for over 16 years. We have very much appreciated all their hard work and commitment to the Council.</p> <p>Speedwatch and Village Design Statement The Parish Council has launched two important initiatives– Speedwatch and the Village Design Statement, Alan and Deborah will speak on these next so I won't cover them now except to say that for both we rely on villagers to become involved and work with the Parish Council for the benefit of the whole village.</p> <p>Planning I'd like to say a few words about planning, as a Parish Council we have limited impact on what gets approved or not by West Oxfordshire District Council. Of course, we can object to a planning application but only on strictly limited grounds, and we do object when we feel a planning application is out of character for Combe, however, that does not mean that it will be refused. This is one reason why the Village Design Statement is so important– Deborah will say more about this but I wanted to highlight how vital we think it will be for the future of the village.</p> <p>Annual Combe Spring Clean Thank you to all the villagers who took part in the annual Combe spring clean and collected rubbish from the paths, verges, and green spaces. It was great to see those who've helped the last three years, as well as new faces and all the children who helped and made posters for the event.</p> <p>Precept I am sure you were all pleased to see in your Council Tax statement that the parish precept has not increased for this year. The Parish Council is committed to spending the precept wisely and prudently.</p> <p>Parish Clerk Lastly, on behalf of the whole Council, I'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to our hard-working, conscientious and dedicated Parish Clerk, Julia Sharpe. Combe is exceptionally lucky to have you, Julia.</p>
4/19	Speed Watch Report	<p>Alan Revell presented the following report:</p> <p>Traffic has been a concern in Combe for a number of years. In a survey of in 2003, speeding was identified as a concern.</p>

		<p>And in 2017, a 7-day traffic survey found that on average more than 330 times a day vehicle were recorded at more than the 30mph speed limit along Akeman Street, on Stonesfield Road and on Robin Hill.</p> <p>And on 64 occasions per day on average speeds of more than 36mph were recorded.</p> <p>In terms of traffic volumes, 1445 vehicles were recorded travelling on Akeman Street. With the amount of house-building in surrounding villages, that number is almost certainly significantly higher today.</p> <p>Partly in response to this information, in April last year your Parish Council authorised the purchase of a speed monitoring 'gun' and Combe's Speed Watch campaign began.</p> <p>The presence of Speed Watch volunteers on the streets did appear to have a positive short-term impact on drivers, who typically slowed down on approach. But driver behaviour did not appear to have changed in the longer-term. Vehicles were regularly recorded at speeds above the 30mph limit, and sometimes as high as 40mph</p> <p>The campaign was suspended last autumn, when darker mornings and evenings made the capture of information about cars and drivers too difficult.</p> <p>Another burst of Speedwatch activity will take place next week - and, by the way, it is not too late to volunteer to take part - ahead of further discussion by the Parish Council about next steps.</p> <p>My own view is that we need to consider other measures to reduce the speed of traffic through the village. In other villages, measures taken include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lower speed limits • physical traffic-calming and • the use of mobile electronic signs displaying the speed of approaching traffic <p>Again, at the request of the Parish Council I have evaluated some of the electronic sign-boards with a view, potentially, to purchasing one or more of these.</p>
5/19	Village Design Statement Report	<p>Deborah Phillips presented the following report:</p> <p>We're currently experiencing a period of rapid housing growth and development in West Oxfordshire, and this looks likely to continue. As a result, the parish council decided to look at ways that could help us to preserve and enhance the village and its surrounding area. After consulting with the local (WODC) planning department, it was decided that the best course of action was for us to write a VDS for Combe.</p> <p>In a nutshell, a Village Design Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is written and researched by local communities; • focuses on describing the distinctive visual character of the village, from landscape and environment to buildings; • aims to pull together the opinions and priorities of local residents to draw up a series of design principles that reflect the distinctive characteristics of Combe. <p>Once approved by West Oxfordshire District Council, the VDS will become a statutory planning document that supplements the Local Plan for West Oxfordshire. This means it will inform the course of any future development.</p> <p>Progress</p> <p>The VDS was launched at a well-attended meeting (36 participants) in April, and the proposal was well received. 16 people volunteered to help with the project at the time, and others have also approached us with offers of help (from the supply of maps to professional photographs). The steering group now therefore feel confident that they have the backing of local residents for this project.</p> <p>The discussion at the meeting raised two key questions in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of wide consultation, so that all residents in the village feel that their voice can be heard; • the thorny question of reconciling differing opinions and values. <p>The steering group take these challenges seriously and will seek to address them as we proceed.</p> <p>Next steps</p> <p>Our crucial next step is to embark upon the consultation process. This will take place over the summer and involve residents of all ages, local organisations, farmers, landowners, the school etc. We've already been in touch with Blenheim.</p>

		<p>We will be using lots of different approaches to gauge people's opinions, including: a village survey, workshops, chatting to people in ways that they feel comfortable with, and a walk round the parish boundary (led by Jonathan Ford).</p> <p>In conclusion, we have a lot of hard work ahead, but it's also an exciting community venture for Combe. I should particularly like to thank all those who have volunteered for the Steering Group (Elena Softley, Alan Revell, Julia Sharpe, Margaret Moore, Jen Hurst and Paul Coffey), as well as the many others who have already come forward to offer their time.</p>
6/19	County Councillor's Report	<p>Cllr Hudspeth presented the following report:</p> <p>COUNTY COUNCIL TO INVEST IN SCHOOLS, TRANSPORT AND STREETLIGHTING</p> <p>Capital funding is for large one-off projects such as highway repairs or building work to assist the council meet its obligations, such as creating extra school places – as opposed to the normal revenue budget which covers funding for the costs of day-to-day services. Most of the funding for capital programme is made up of government funding and developer contributions, which cannot be used for any other purpose. The capital programme includes a £41m street-lighting improvement programme with traditional lanterns being replaced with more energy efficient LED lighting, saving money in the long-run. This is part of the commitment for the County Council to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.</p> <p>The Budget contains major investment of over £1billion over the next ten years. Nearly £20m will be invested to increase the provision of school places for children with special needs in the county, including rebuilding Northfield School in Oxford with more pupil places. However, there is funding pressure on services that are demand led such as social care for vulnerable children and adults which continue to grow and continued financial prudence is required to meet those demands. Pressure for day-to-day council services continues as the council increases funding to support of Oxfordshire's most vulnerable children and adults. To make sure the growing number of children at risk of abuse and neglect are protected, the children's social care budget has increased annually. It was £46m in 2011 and is forecast to be £95m in 2022/23 – more than doubling in ten years. The council's budget for adult social care will increase by £5m in 2019/20, with further annual increases reaching nearly £6m by 2022/23.</p> <p>COMMUNITIES TO BE OFFERED HELP WITH YOUTH SERVICES</p> <p>Youth Provision across Oxfordshire was given a £1 million boost by the Conservative Independent Alliance at the budget-setting meeting on February 12th. It was disappointing that both the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups voted against this proposal, which could have had cross-party support. Young people and their families in Oxfordshire will now benefit from improved community-run youth services. Youth groups will be invited to bid in to a £1m fund over two years, with encouragement to find match-funding from their local communities.</p> <p>The Councillor Priority fund of £15,000 for each councillor for local projects will continue in 2019/20 please contact me if you know of any schemes that could benefit.</p> <p>INVESTMENT IN REPAIRING OXFORDSHIRE'S ROADS CONTINUES</p> <p>OCC will be spending an extra £13m on capital funding on road maintenance in the coming financial year. This is on top of its existing £18.5m programme of work and follows last year's additional £12m boost which saw more than 37 extra miles of road being resurfaced through a range of methods including surface dressing and micro-asphalting – both of which make road surfaces waterproof and extend their life. This year's additional money will be spent across Oxfordshire on resurfacing, drainage, bridge repairs and footways. One of the major projects confirmed for later this year will see the A40 from Thornhill to Headington Roundabout (inbound) resurfaced, benefitting thousands of road users every day. Transport schemes across the county will improve journeys for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users</p> <p>Housing Infrastructure Fund</p> <p>You may have seen that in the Spring statement the Chancellor announced that Oxfordshire County Council has been successful with the Housing Infrastructure</p>

Fund (HIF) bid for Didcot. This will bring an additional £218 million of infrastructure to the area to deliver the homes.

A40 BID FOR £102 MILLION

The good news is that the Government were clear that if you were successful with the first bid then it would greatly improve the chances of a second bid, we have just submitted a 2nd HIF which is for the A40 Smart corridor for £102 million.

If successful, the A40 bid will deliver:

- Extension of the A40 dual carriageway from Witney to the proposed Eynsham park and ride, including improving cycling facilities along the route.
- Extension of A40 westbound bus lane from west of Duke's Cut canal and railway bridges to the proposed Eynsham park and ride.
- A40 Capacity and Connectivity Improvements at Duke's Cut Canal and Railway Bridges - Provision of eastbound bus route over the A40 Duke's Cut canal and railway bridges on the approach to Wolvercote including improved cycle facilities over the bridges and a link joining the A40 cycle route to National Cycle Network route 5 along the Oxford Canal.

Oxfordshire County Council's original proposals included the B4044 Community Path, which we took the difficult decision of removing as part of this package, due to the specific criteria for HIFs. Oxfordshire County Council remains committed to this scheme and will seek alternative funding. Please read our statement [here](#).

Making the A40 fit for purpose

The overall scheme aims at creating substantial benefits for existing and future users the A40. This main artery is a single carriageway road and – on the section between Witney and Oxford – up to 32,000 vehicles currently use it each day. Congestion causes daily problems for road users and has been described by business leaders as one of the biggest barriers to economic growth and prosperity in West Oxfordshire. All modes of transport are impacted by congestion, which encourages traffic to seek other routes. Bus services are suffering from increasing journey times and are unable to reliably run to timetable. Demand for travel and transport will only increase over time.

The proposals seek to increase A40 highway capacity for all users of the route between Witney and Eynsham, while providing a high-quality, congestion-free public transport alternative for travel between Eynsham and Oxford. Interchange would be made possible at Eynsham Park & Ride, part of the A40 Science Transit 2 Scheme. The improvement to the A40 should reduce traffic 'rat running' along the A4095 and then onto the A44 which should reduce the congestion. The other major benefit is that whilst we rebuild these major roads then it will reduce the requirement for maintenance once built meaning that our limited maintenance funds can be used elsewhere across the county.

These additional funds are on top of the £215 million Growth Deal fund and the additional £120 million cabinet approved last year. If the HIF 2 bid for the A40 is successful, then it'll mean that the investment in Oxfordshire's infrastructure will be over £650 million which is a major boost for our economy.

KEEPING THE ROADS CLEAR DURING THE WINTER

Winter is the time when our gritting crews are on standby to get out on Oxfordshire's roads to spread salt and deal with potential icy conditions. Whilst we are all asleep the drivers go out in the worst of conditions to ensure the roads are usable in the mornings. Since October 2018 the crews have been out on Oxfordshire's roads 39 times, covering a total of 47016 miles – that's just under twice round the Earth – using more than 7,400 tonnes of salt. Each gritting run takes the team on a combined run equivalent to driving from London to Iceland. During each gritting run we salt approximately 1,200 miles which is the equivalent of travelling from London to Iceland, this being approximately 43 % of Oxfordshire's network. The last day of the season this year is 5 April, although if the weather takes an unseasonal turn the crews will still turn out.

The Oxfordshire winter team numbers 28 including drivers and support staff working out of depots at Drayton and Deddington and a smaller satellite depot at Woodcote. At the end of March, the drivers and support team stand down until October having spent the winter months, as well as a bit of Autumn and Spring, doing their day job while keeping an eye on the weather forecasts so that they can swing into action.

		<p>JOINT WORKING</p> <p>The council has agreed a partnership agreement with Cherwell District Council which started with a shared Chief Executive and other senior posts. As the partnership develops there will be more opportunities for joint appointments, already there is a senior manager for both Adult Social care & Housing. The regulatory services in Cherwell have all come under Trading Standards, legal services have joined up. This new way of working is not just about saving money which it will do but it's about providing a better service for residents.</p> <p>The planned redesign of the council around the changing needs of residents and communities will maintain or improve services, with investment in digital technology enabling us to save money in the process – OCC is now reviewing the digital technology needed to make the council run more effectively and efficiently, including improving customer service by making it easier to access services online. The council has identified savings of £50m from changing the way services are delivered and has already started implementing these changes, including improving online 'self-service' HR and finance systems used by staff. The County Council is financially in a good place however we await the spending review that should give us longer term planning over the next 4 years we are expecting this to be in the summer/autumn.</p> <p>WOODSTOCK LIBRARY</p> <p>During a routine inspection of Woodstock Library, it was deemed to be unsafe and immediately closed. There was a follow up inspection by a professional structural engineer after which it was concluded that demolition was the best course of action. The first aim of the County Council was the safety of staff and users then to find a temporary solution to maintain a library facility in Woodstock. The library has temporarily relocated to the museum site in Fletcher's House, whilst there may not be such a large selection of books on this site the facility; is open longer, has access to research rooms with computer terminals, has WIFI and a café. Currently all options for a permanent solution are being considered to maintain a library facility within Woodstock although it must be remembered that the County Council does not have capital funds to rebuild a standalone facility on the current site so there will have to be some form of shared location. The County Council will work with Woodstock TC and residents before a final decision is taken.</p>
7/19	District Council Report	<p>Cllr Bishop presented the following report:</p> <p>It's been another interesting 12 months, with some satisfactory achievements and some controversy.</p> <p>Of course, the main event in Stonesfield has been the Appeal against the Refusal by the Cala developers. The lengthy proceedings in April served to give the two sides the opportunity to influence the Government Inspector. From my perspective, and I did not manage to attend all the sessions, was that the Cala representatives had scant regard for the truth of their statements. I am sure that residents of both our villages will be surprised and alarmed to be told that 'Stonesfield is a dying village!' The speakers for the village were accurate and forceful in their arguments. Sustainable Stonesfield can be proud of the huge part it played in this appeal hearing.</p> <p>In other aspects of village life, it comes as no surprise that District is still in conflict with Thames Water. Their infrastructure is inadequate for the existing houses quite apart from the prospect of future building.</p> <p>Potholes and the general repair of our roads is still causing problems in spite of the County Highways Department doing its best to keep our roads safe.</p> <p>Once again, Combe has escaped the worst of the building boom. This is a blessing that we hope will continue. Blenheim estates is planning, and executing, some ambitious schemes for parts of its holdings. The buildings so far completed are of a high quality and Blenheim's 'affordable' scheme is welcomed as being better than that offered by Government.</p> <p>Finally, it would be very remiss of me to omit to mention of my very good friend and colleague, Charles Cottrell-Dormer. Charles has served the people of West Oxfordshire as a District Councillor for the past forty-eight years. He has given exemplary service in many capacities not least as Chairman of the Uplands Planning Committee. Unexpectedly, he lost his seat on 2nd May. He will be greatly</p>

		<p>missed by his colleagues of all parties, particularly his often acerbic comments on the many exaggerated claims of prospective developers.</p> <p>For nearly 50 years Charles has represented residents of the whole Stonesfield and Tackley Ward. His colleagues were saddened by his departure – another casualty of the mishandled Brexit chaos, perhaps. Having worked closely with him for the last five years I will miss his wisdom and wry humour.</p> <p>But things move on, and I will make our new Councillor welcome in the Ward and will work with her to represent the concerns and wishes of our residents.</p> <p>As ever I shall do my best to help any and all of our electors over the next year.</p>
8/19	Combe School Report	<p>Rachel Joannou presented the following report:</p> <p>There are currently 109 children on role. The children are split across 4 classes (Year R/1, Year 1/2, Year 3/4, Year 5/6).</p> <p>The staffing is as follows:</p> <p>Headteacher (0.6)- R Joannou - Responsible for: Strategic Direction, Monitoring, Curriculum, Staff, Timetables, Teaching and Learning, CPD, Calendar of Events, Attendance and Punctuality, Website, Behaviour, DSL, Induction, Assessment, FOCS, Computing, History, Geography, PSHE/SRE, British Values</p> <p>Deputy Headteacher- S Legge - Responsible for: Cover, Risk Assessments and Offsite Visits, Pupil Voice, Year 1/2 Class Teacher, Outdoor Learning and Forest School, PE (inc. Extra Curricular, Healthy Schools), Science, Rotas, Students, NQT mentor, Pupil Premium, EAL, Corinthian Partnership link</p> <p>Teacher- V Gehin - SENCO, English (Inc. Phonics, Spelling, Library & Handwriting), Languages, Year R/1 Class Teacher, School Council, Deputy DSL, More Able</p> <p>Teacher- J Page (0.8) - Maths, RE, Global Learning Project, Year 3/4 Class Teacher</p> <p>Teacher- K McBride - Year 5/6 Class Teacher, NQT</p> <p>Business Manager- C Checksfield (term time plus two weeks) - Admin, Finance, HR, Health and Safety</p> <p>J Millar (term time only) - HLTA- 15 hours - Cover Supervisor- 21 hours, lunchtime supervisor – 2.5 hours</p> <p>Teacher- G Challender (0.2) - Art & Design, Music, Year 3/4 Class Teacher</p> <p>L. Humphrey (term time only) - HLTA 6.75 hours, TA 17.75 hours, Breakfast club 2.5 hours</p> <p>S. Horner (term time only) - TA 28.25 hours, Breakfast Club 1.25 hours</p> <p>V. Learoyd-Elliot (term time only) - 1:1 Support 30 hours, Breakfast club 1 hour</p> <p>J. McKechnie (term time only) - TA 13.5 hours</p> <p>S. Gilford (term time only) - HLTA 5 hours</p> <p>L. Martin (term time only) - TA 15.25 hours</p> <p>M. O'Neill (term time only) - 7.5 hours</p> <p>S. Clavaud (year round) - 18.25 hours</p> <p>A. Hanusova (year round) - 6 hours</p> <p>R Joannou took up post as Headteacher at the end of February 2019.</p>

There are 13 confirmed places for Reception next year but 17 places available. Oxfordshire had a very low number of applications for primary school places this year, largely due to a drop in the birth rate, so many schools will have unfilled places.

Achievement

At the end of last academic year (2017-2018) achievement was as follows:

End of KS2

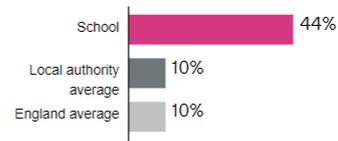
Progress score in reading, writing and maths ?



Pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths ?



Pupils achieving at a higher standard in reading, writing and maths ?



Average score in reading ?



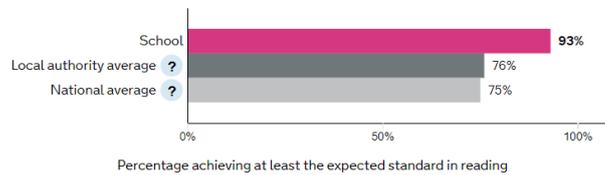
Average score in maths ?



End of KS1

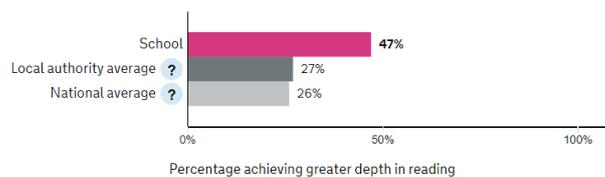
Percentage achieving at least the expected standard in reading

Number of pupils = 15



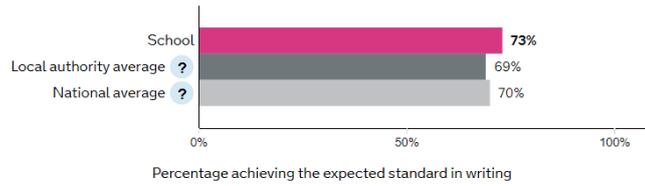
Percentage achieving greater depth in reading ?

Number of pupils = 15



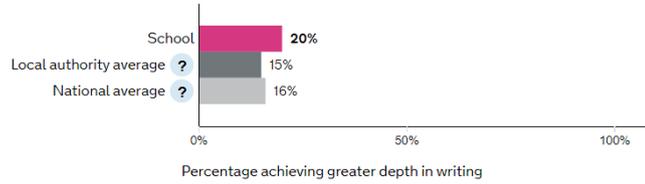
Percentage achieving at least the expected standard in writing

Number of pupils = 15



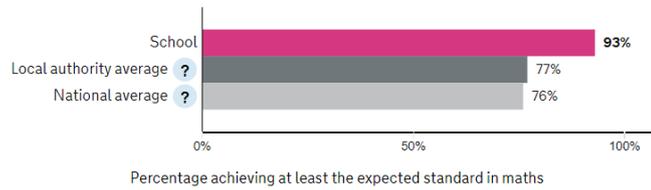
Percentage achieving greater depth in writing ?

Number of pupils = 15



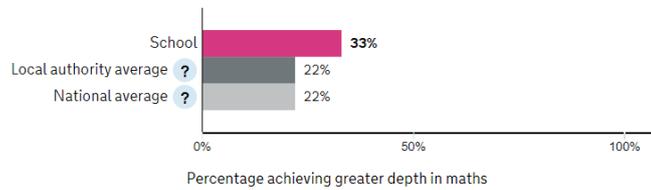
Percentage achieving at least the expected standard in maths

Number of pupils = 15



Percentage achieving greater depth in maths ?

Number of pupils = 15

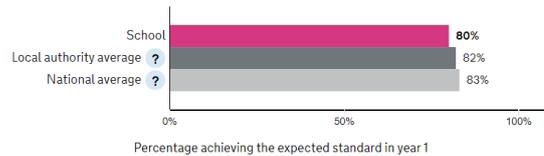


Phonics- Year 1

Percentage achieving the expected standard in phonics

Number of pupils = 15

[View](#)

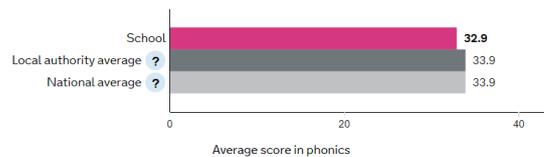


[Explore data in detail](#)

Phonics average score

Number of pupils = 15

[View](#)

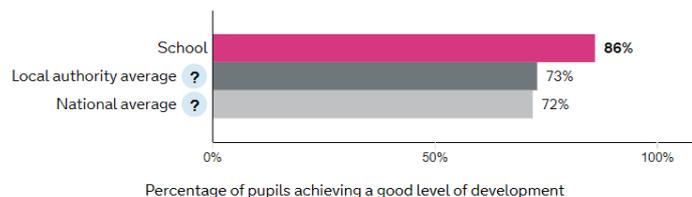


End of EYFS

Percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development

Number of pupils = 14

[View as table](#)



Forest School - We are developing and expanding our use of Forest School. We are able to use Blenheim land to host our forest school. Over the last year, Year 1, 2, 5 and 6 have had Forest School sessions. S Legge runs the Forest School sessions for Year 1 and 2. A parent volunteer, who is Forest School trained, has run the sessions for Year 5 and 6. We are hoping to develop this further next year.

Blenheim Bursary - We have secured a £4000 grant from Blenheim to go towards the cost of repairing the large feature window and insulating one of our classrooms.

EYFS outdoor area - Our EYFS outdoor area has undergone a major redevelopment over the Easter break. This work was made possible by the support of funding received from Friends of Combe School.

Visits in and out of school - The following visits in and out of school have taken place over the last year:

Zoo Lab- Year R-4 Ultra Olympics- Y2 Multisports- Y3/4 Swimming Gala- Y5/6 Quad Kids- Y5/6 Girls Sports- Y4/5 Combe Mill- Year 5/6 Kwik Cricket- Y5 PGL Liddington- Y5/6 residential Cricket workshops- all years Dance Workshops- all years	Science Workshops- Y1/2 Safe Cycling- Y6 Bikeability- Y5 Sailing day- Y6 Ashmolean- Y3/4 Young Leaders- Y6 Christ Church Music Day- Y3/4 Magic Science Show- Y5 Cogges Manor Farm- Y1/2 Natural History Museum- Y3/4 Young Voices- Year 3-6 Living Rainforest- Y6	Street Dance- Y5 Tri golf- All Air Tattoo at Fairford Climbing- Y1-6 Cricket- Y1-6 Junior Citizen at Rew Road Fire Station- Y6 Maths Challenge- Y4 Young Shakespeare- Night Pantomine- Year R-6
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Community Events

Over the past year, we have participated in the following events:

May Day celebrations on the village green, Children litter picked around the village

Harvest, Christmas and Easter Service in the church, Attended Ascension Day traditional celebration at Lincoln College, Village Cream Teas in August

Developments to building and site

The hornbeam hedge in the car park now successfully masks the car park.

Improvements were made to the car park to maximise safety and spaces.

Over the Easter holidays the Y3/4 classroom was redecorated.

The gazebo in the playground was transformed into an outdoor reading den.

		<p>The EYFS outdoor area was redeveloped.</p> <p><u>Charity Fundraising</u></p> <p>Wear it Pink- Breast Cancer- £96, Christmas Jumper Day- Save the Children- £75 Jeans for Genes- £102, Read Nose Day- £138, Children in Need- £352, Mind- £157 Animal Sanctuary- £157, Thames Valley Air Ambulance- £157, Seesaw- £157</p> <p><u>Timings of school day</u></p> <p>The timings of the school day have changed so that we meet the DfE recommended minimum. The times are now:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="416 539 1134 842"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>EYFS/KS1</th> <th>KS2</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Doors open</td> <td>8:40-8:50am</td> <td>8:35-8:45am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Official start time</td> <td>8:50am</td> <td>8:45am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Official end time</td> <td>3:05pm</td> <td>3:10pm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>After School Clubs</u></p> <p>We have expanded the number of clubs we offer to the pupils of Combe School. This term the children have been offered:</p> <p>Tennis, Spanish, Musical Theatre, Eco-club, Computers, Colouring and Construction, Football, Relax Kids, Tag Rugby, Family Music, Science, Recorders. We hope to expand this further in September.</p>		EYFS/KS1	KS2	Doors open	8:40-8:50am	8:35-8:45am	Official start time	8:50am	8:45am	Official end time	3:05pm	3:10pm
	EYFS/KS1	KS2												
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Official end time	3:05pm	3:10pm												
9/19	Reading Room Report	<p>Deborah Phillips presented the following report prepared by Roger Pursell: 2018 was, for the Reading Room, a year of consolidation to replenish our resources in readiness for a couple of major projects scheduled for 2019 and as such this report will be somewhat shorter than usual.</p> <p>We are very fortunate to enjoy the support of the community and this we try to repay in working to keep our offering an important and relevant part of village life. We have undertaken our usual round of fundraising. This has happened through monthly coffee mornings, yearly Village Cream Teas, the 100 Club and the annual curry supper as well as the increasingly important income generation provided from lettings for parties, teaching, village events and corporate meetings.</p> <p>The remit we are tasked with carrying out is to upgrade and maintain the building and its facilities, to protect this important village asset and to increase its hiring potential. Our to do list for 2019 includes the repair and painting of the exterior woodwork and the upgrade of the path. For these and other similar projects we like, where possible, to favour the local economy by using Combe based trades people.</p> <p>On the admin front we are reviewing, strengthening and documenting our policies on health and safety, safeguarding and the conditions of hire.</p> <p>The success our venture enjoys is without doubt attributable to that hardworking, stable and extremely competent group who are my fellow trustees. That we are able to function as effectively as we do is due to the ever reliable and enthusiastic Sue Golder who we are so fortunate to have as our wonderful caretaker.</p>												
10/19	Village Hall & Recreation Ground Report	<p>Jo Willis-Bund presented the following report:</p> <p>The Village Hall committee currently consists of 9 members and we aim to meet once a month, on the first Tuesday. We continue without a permanent Chair, with Madeline Laxton still Acting Secretary and Mike Lloyd Treasurer. We held our AGM last night and these positions were again confirmed (??!!), together with Jo Willis-Bund as Lettings Officer. (The committee has ensured all outstanding annual returns and accounts have been filed with the charity commission and its records are now fully compliant and up to date. The bank accounts have also been re-registered with two active trustees following a lengthy process.</p>												

		<p>As ever, sport is our main focus. The current football season is just about over and the club has again been awarded the FA Charter Standard Mark, which is excellent. As for the teams, it has been a pretty successful season all-round, particularly for the younger players. A new team, the Under 6s, won both of their games, and the Under 7s and 8s both had very successful seasons. The Under 10s got to the semi-finals of their cup and the Under 11s have reached the final of their Champions' League Cup, which will take place on 12th May and the Under 12s won their league and got to the semi-finals of their cup. The Under 14s and Under 16s both finished mid-table, and the men, despite a somewhat disappointing season, have remained in Division 1. So, all in all, football is thriving across the age groups.</p> <p>Cricket has just started again, although mowing and strimming have been happening for some weeks already. The men's team had another successful season last year, again gaining promotion, and they will be playing in Division 3 of the OCA this year. The team won their first game on Saturday so have started this season well.</p> <p>The club have also entered an U11 team into a local league, training on Fridays and with matches on Sundays. This will be run by Colin Pratley, Dave Simmonds and Margaret Moore.</p> <p>The cricket club ran the ECB All Stars programme for eight Fridays in May and June last year, and these were a great success. This programme is aimed at bringing youngsters into the game and the club is running it again this year, with the first session on Friday 10th May. Numbers have risen from 25 to 60, so a busy year ahead. Last year, the Village Hall and cricket club worked together to provide a barbeque and bar in support of these All Stars evenings and, undoubtedly helped by the astonishingly good weather, they were an enormous success, regularly attracting a good number of villagers who had nothing to do with the cricket. They became real village events and we hope that the same will be true this year (the first one is this Friday), but obviously they are partly dependent on the weather. We even have a shiny new barbeque to cope with the hordes.</p> <p>We continue to host our regular customers, Michelle Eeley's exercise classes, the toddler group, and the Kidlington Runners, as well as hiring the hall out for parties and events. Last year we had a very successful wedding at the field, and we have another such booking for next year.</p> <p>Our overall expenditure last year was £5,521.22, whereas our income was only £3,526.60, but we also had a delayed income of £1,900 from football and cricket fees. We do, of course, really appreciate the financial support which we get from the Parish Council.</p> <p>Our next infrastructure priority, which is becoming ever more urgent, is the re-surfacing of the car park and extension of the hard-core area. This will involve considerable financial outlay, and we will need to apply for grants in order to fund it. We have had several quotes for the work involved and the committee is currently considering its next move. We would welcome any help from Parish Council members with reinvigorating our website and with future grant applications to ensure we can put in place a maintenance solution that is fit for the long term. We would like to re-iterate our thanks to the Parish Council for all its support and we look forward to another successful year.</p>
11/19	Combe Charities Report	<p>Celia Adamson presented the following report:</p> <p>Combe Charities exists to help those in our community in financial need. It is an historic charity with reference to a bequest in 1636 and the interest from the fund was distributed by the church wardens. It is connected to the Church in so far as the incumbent or rector is a trustee, but the recipients of the fund do not have to have any connection with the Church.</p> <p>We have made only one donation from the fund since the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting but there are two or three more possible donations to be made, currently under consideration.</p> <p>Funds received to the Charity in the last year have included a donation by a football sweepstake organised by Moray and Rosie Tadman which raised £180 and a further £130 donated by the prizewinners, making a very generous total of £310. The collection on the Combe Feast Service on The Green amounted to £142.92 and</p>

		<p>an anonymous donation in August of £50. The Charity is very grateful for the continuing support that it received.</p> <p>The bank statements show a balance of £4540.50, with the Long Combe Common or Waste Land Charity and the Combe Relief in Need Charity receiving £41.71 interest. At present we are not regulated by The Charity Commission as our annual income is below £5000, so unfortunately any donations are not Gift-Aided.</p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow trustees and everyone else involved, especially Katy and Andrew Hobson who have helped enormously with the paperwork and queries with the Charity Commission. Also, thanks to Margaret Moore for help with many fundraising events, together with Sue Goodman and Mary Denham and many others who give generously. Finally, thanks to all who support us in what we are trying to do in our community.</p>
12/19	Church of England Report	
13/19	Combe Community Hub Report	<p>Andrew Hobson provided the following report after the meeting:</p> <p>Since our report to the PCC on 9 May 2018, we have been working continuously to upgrade the facilities at the building and remedy the effects of neglect in the latter years of Methodist ownership.</p> <p>All of the windows to the west and east sides of the chapel room have been replaced or repaired incorporating double glazing which preserves the original glass. The windows to the school room have been replaced similarly and now allow for ventilation of the school room which was not previously possible.</p> <p>In conjunction with the pre-school we have undertaken a major redecoration and refurbishment of the interior, including laying new floors to the school room and lavatories and redecorating throughout.</p> <p>The building has been connected to the main drain in Park Road via a pump. After some teething problems with the alarm system this has worked without problems. However, the manhole in the garden has turned out to be the lowest point in the Park Road drainage system and we have had three escapes of sewage through it, all caused by blockages in the Park Road sewer. We are seeking to escalate this with Thames Water.</p> <p>In line with the original vision for the Hub prior to acquisition of the building, we have successfully applied to WODC for planning permission to extend the rear of the building to both east and west to allow separate access, kitchen and lavatory facilities to the school room and the chapel room. Over the next twelve months we will be fundraising to raise the balance of funds needed for this project.</p> <p>The Combe Pre-School remains the anchor licensee for the Hub and uses the rear room daily during term times from about 08.30 to 17.00; the Chapel room is in use daily in the afternoon for after-school club. We work closely with the CPS to ensure the premises remain suitable for their use. Yoga classes are held each Saturday morning and Wednesday evening and a variety of other events have been held at the Hub, including sadly the funeral reception for Geoff Green.</p> <p>The cinema club run by Byron Russell and Clare Dingwall was delayed by a long wait for the promised equipment. The first season has been reasonably successful and plans are afoot for a second season as soon as the evenings draw in. We continue to seek a suitable blackout solution that would extend the season.</p> <p>We are comfortable that income exceeds operational costs.</p> <p>The committee currently comprises: Directors Andrew Hobson, Clare Paterson, Roger Purrnell & Andrew Walker-Brown; Volunteers; David Lyon, Carly Nielson, Andrea Oliver, Sally Purrnell, Richard Sherrott, Elena Softley, Lizzy Combe. Others have donated skills to assist in many areas and we are most grateful for such assistance.</p> <p>We keep the village informed of what is happening mainly via Facebook updates, which are linked to our website and via updates in the Combe Courier.</p>
14/19	Pre-School and After School Club Report	<p>Elena Softley presented the following report on behalf of Sally Purrnell:</p> <p>This year is the 50th anniversary of the opening of Preschool in Combe in 1968, an occasion which we are looking forward to celebrating on 22nd June. We have invited past and present staff and families to join us for a big party, and we hope that many of you will come and help us celebrate this special event.</p>

		<p>This year began with an idea, led by our very enthusiastic committee, to paint and refresh the Preschool room. The plan was to complete the job with the Parents volunteering all the labour, and working over a weekend to get the job done during the summer holidays. However, the initial modest plans quickly grew into a total refurbishment, including new floorings, bathroom and kitchen fittings, furniture and painting all the walls and ceilings - so effectively remodelling the whole environment! The Parents worked tirelessly, often long into the night, donations of materials were sought, additional friends and village helpers were roped in, items were sourced and upcycled, and finally, in true DIY SOS style, everything was finished just in time for the start of the September term. What an amazing transformation was achieved – all through everyone pulling together, and giving so much time and energy. We are very grateful to all those in the wider community who helped in any way. Everyone has enjoyed the transformed space, which now feels fresh, bright and inviting.</p> <p>Our next plans are to achieve a similar transformation of the outdoor area. We have been lucky enough to secure a grant from Blenheim, and financial support from the Parish Council, for which we are extremely grateful. We hope that this, together with more fundraising events over the next few months, will enable us to get the work completed over the summer holidays.</p> <p>Numbers at Preschool and After School Club are thriving. We are full on several days, and the numbers look good into the next academic year too. This combined with prudent financial planning means that Preschool is in reasonable shape going forward.</p> <p>Our main frustration at the moment is the difficulty of recruiting sufficient qualified staff. This is currently a national problem, and is adding to the workload of our existing staff team. There are currently two vacancies we are trying to fill.</p> <p>We are very fortunate to have such a committed, hardworking and dedicated staff team, who work consistently to provide the very best care and learning opportunities for the young children of Combe and surrounding villages.</p> <p>As always, we are so grateful, and offer our thanks, to the school, the Hub and the wider community for their continued support and generosity towards Preschool.</p>
15/19	Police Report	The police were unable to attend and no report was provided.
16/19	Bonfire Report	<p>Bill Oddy presented the following report:</p> <p>The annual Combe bonfire and firework display is one of the largest and most popular free events held in the village, it takes place on the 5th November annually. In 2018 this was a Monday and the weather was favourable. This had a positive impact on the number of people attending the event and the donations that were made.</p> <p>Three years ago, a small working group was established by the Parish Council after the long-standing volunteers stepped down after many years. The new group worked with the Parish Clerk to ensure the event was as successful as it always had been, and last year was no exception. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The medical team, including two doctors, who were able to respond to medical emergencies • The volunteers who collected £1,131.90p in donations, this will be used to meet costs to run the event in the future • The team that helped build the bonfire, set off the fireworks, and install the barriers and safety equipment on the day of the event <p>The working group also invested in some more safety equipment that can be used during future events.</p> <p>Last year, the fireworks were more intense over a shorter period of time which was very positively received. The bonfire was lit after the firework display last year to enable great visibility of the display and received good feedback as well.</p> <p>The working group have reviewed last year's event with the Parish Council and concluded that it was a success.</p> <p>The Working Group would like to thank everyone who supported the event and volunteered their time and everyone who gave generous donations.</p> <p>Combe Bonfire and Firework Working Group members : Vikki Days / Julia Sharpe / Bob Days / Bill Oddy</p>

17/19	Women's Institute	<p>Julia Sharpe presented the following report:</p> <p>At the start of the year we had 30 members with an average of 20 members attending each meeting. Sadly, this year 3 members have decided not to continue with their membership taking our numbers to 27.</p> <p>Throughout the year we had a full and varied programme of talks and events, with talks ranging from Living with canine partners, Life with Hedgehogs, views of the Cotswolds and Bridewell Organic Gardens. Other activities included a colourful flower arranging demonstration by Doreen, the opportunity to taste a variety of wines with a bluffers guide to wine tasting and a tasty selection of Indian food with an Indian cookery demonstration.</p> <p>Our summer trip to Broughton Castle was well attended by members and guests and we enjoyed an interesting tour of the castle and gardens followed by a delicious supper in the beautiful courtyard.</p> <p>All of this together, with our Bring and Share supper, summer garden party and Christmas Party when a decorated Christmas cracker proved the challenge provided something of interest for everyone.</p> <p>Our thanks to Rob and Christine Smith for printing our annual programme and for the Courier delivery volunteers who ensured that it was delivered to every household.</p> <p>In an effort to maintain the profile of the WI in the village and to attract new members we again hosted a coffee morning which was well attended and raised £328.05 in the process. Be warned - we will be hosting another coffee morning this year in October.</p> <p>Doreen Moss and Marion Rawlings were the joint winners of the Best Bloom Competition. The competition raised £39.98p which was sent to ACWW.</p>
18/19	Any Other Business	There was no other business and the meeting was ended at 9.15pm