

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2015 - Approved

Present

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

Members of the Public – None

No.	Item	Minutes	Action
116/15	Apologies	Cllr Hudspeth and Cllr Bishop	
117/15	Questions from the Public	None	
118/15	Register of Interests	None	
119/15	Review of bonfire arrangements	The Chairman thanked Colin Pratley and Martin Seacole for another excellent bonfire and firework display. Colin reported that despite the weather the crowd had been bigger than expected however the collection was down on previous years and resulted in a slight deficit. He thanked everyone for their help and said that there had been no reported incidents or accidents. Michael Green agreed to remove the debris and re-seed the bonfire area.	MG
120/15	Minutes of the last meetings	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th October were read and signed as correct.	
121/15	Clerks report and progress on actions	Parking – Park Road & Orchard Close – PCSOs informed and dealing. Swan Bridge, overhanging bushes – with the land owner agreement Michael Green will cut back the bushes near the bridge. Tasks from walk – all now completed. Post in Church Walk – post replaced. Parking outside school – ongoing concern. Clerk to request PCSOs to monitor at drop-off and pick-up times. Christmas tree arrangements – a donation of a tree has been received and accepted. Removal of Poppy Wreath – it was agreed that the wreath would be removed at the beginning of February each year.	JS
122/15	Report from County Councillor	In the County Councillor's absence the Chairman outlined his report as follows: Budget Consultation - OCC has launched a public consultation on options for saving money. It has already saved or has firm plans to save nearly £300m since 2010 but believes it needs to find another £50m of savings over the next four years. Children's Centre and Early Intervention changes - OCC is asking for views on its proposal to adopt a new model of children's services in Oxfordshire for children aged 0-19 to save £8 million from the budget by 2016-17. The proposal is to create a brand new service for families and their children aged 0-19 years old, or up to 25 if the child has additional needs.	

		<p>The consultation runs until 23:59 on 10 January 2016.</p> <p>Oxfordshire Together – successful launch - OCC is looking at alternative ways in which it can deliver a number of different public services, across a wide range of areas. The way public services are delivered will shift towards enabling people and communities to take ownership of local priorities.</p> <p>Better Broadband for Oxfordshire - OCC is on track to achieve the target – agreed back in 2013 – of connecting 64,500 homes and businesses with superfast broadband by the end of 2015.</p> <p>Free Wi-Fi in Libraries - OCC has been awarded more than £86,000 by Arts Council England for Wi-Fi to be installed in the 28 Oxfordshire libraries that currently do not have it.</p>																					
123/15	Report from District Councillor	<p>In the District Councillor’s absence the Chairman outlined his report as follows:</p> <p>The West Oxfordshire Local Plan is now published – it sets out a vision for the future development in the District until 2031. The plan is underpinned by a general presumption in favour of ‘sustainable development’. The Plan expects to see development of 525 houses in our area, with towns and villages characterised as sustainable if they fulfil certain criteria. Stonesfield falls into this category and Combe escapes, as it is smaller with fewer amenities such as library or shop</p> <p>‘2020’ vision organisation has received enthusiastic support locally and the model is widely applauded nationally. There are indications that other Local Authorities may be considering joining with WODC, Forest of Dean, Cheltenham Borough and Cherwell.</p> <p>The A40 investment proposals are in dire need of substantial progress – now some 30 years after being mooted (1985)! An extended bus lane element is a priority together with other options.</p> <p>On the Planning front, an interesting and innovative scheme in Charlbury has been given a green light. It involves 25 housing units and incorporates an “Early-Onset Dementia Unit” of some 40 beds. This will be the first such facility in the country and has attracted wide support. An application to develop an area on the edge of Milton-under-Wychwood, which attracted a very large section of residents in opposition, was refused.</p>																					
124/15	Planning Applications	<p>Applications –</p> <p>Edgecombe House, West End – erection of single storey and two storey extensions – No objections or comments.</p> <p>Decisions – Nil</p>	JS																				
125/15	To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received	<p>Payments</p> <table> <tr> <td>WODC – Grass cutting</td> <td>£644.77</td> <td>VAT</td> <td>£107.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J.Sharpe – Wages</td> <td>£196</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>British Legion – Poppy wreath</td> <td>£25</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>E. Softley – printing and stamps</td> <td>£25</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Received</p> <table> <tr> <td>Bonfire</td> <td>£628.45</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	WODC – Grass cutting	£644.77	VAT	£107.46	J.Sharpe – Wages	£196			British Legion – Poppy wreath	£25			E. Softley – printing and stamps	£25			Bonfire	£628.45			
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126/15	Budget and Precept	Additional information required – deferred to December meeting																					
127/15	Play Park Update	Simon Oliver reported that the gate mechanism is now working correctly. Anne-Marie Ferrett reported that the bark under the zip wire required raking back into position – Simon Oliver agreed to do this.	SO																				
128/15	Methodist Chapel	The Chairman reported that as a result of the questionnaire a																					

	Update	group consisting of people who had expressed an interest in creating a business plan for acquiring the Methodist Chapel had met on 2 occasions with Andrew Hobson as Chairman. As a result a draft business plan has been written and a web-site set-up. Enquires with people who offered to make a financial donation are ongoing as are enquires with the Plunkett Foundation. The Chairman said that a structural survey is required together with clarification of the covenant. Michael Green offered to provide details of a surveyor. It was agreed to circulate the notes and actions to all members of the Parish Council.	MG JS
129/15	To consider the PC's response to the Oxfordshire together initiative	The Chairman reported that at this stage OCC are considering changes to the provision of highway services and that of the 16 services only 2 that relate to the village - Salt bin management and tree basal growth cutting have funds available. It was agreed to make enquiries with neighbouring parishes and to discuss again at the January meeting. It was also agreed to investigate the insurance implications of holding a 'Village Clean Up/Working Day' in the spring.	JS JS
130/15	Review of assessments	The annual review of the Parish Council's standing orders, risk assessment, financial risk assessment, use of social media and asset register was undertaken. No amendments were made. Simon Oliver proposed that the assessments be accepted, Anne-Marie Ferrett seconded the proposal and all were in agreement.	
131/15	To Consider Requests for Donations	A request for a donation from the Citizens Advice Bureau was considered, it was agreed that the service could potentially be used by village residents. The Chairman proposed making a donation of £40, this was seconded by Rachel Whitehead and all were in agreement. A request from the Blind association was considered but declined on this occasion.	
132/15	To consider donation to PCC	The annual donation to the PCC towards grass cutting and church yard maintenance was discussed. It was agreed that the Churchyard should be considered as an asset to the village. Michael Green proposed making a donation of £300, The Chairman seconded the proposal and all were in agreement.	
133/15	Annual review of clerk's salary	Additional information required – deferred to December meeting	
134/15	Urgent Correspondence	Cotswold AONB – appointment of a board member – Red Bag WODC – annual meeting of town and parish councils – Tuesday 1 st December – Elena Softley, Simon Oliver and Rachel Whitehead all expressed an interest in attending.	JS
135/15	Next Meeting	The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 9 th December at 7.30 in the Reading Room, Combe	