

# COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 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
98/15	Apologies	None	
99/15	Questions from the Public	<p>Parking in Orchard Close – concern re parking close to junction – refer to PCSOs</p> <p>Swan Bridge – concern re overgrown hedges – clerk to contact Long Hanborough Parish Council. Michael Green offered to trim the hedges back with the land owner’s permission.</p> <p>Foot Bridge – concern about the safety of the bridge over the river Evenlode at Weir Cottage – complainant to send letter and photographs to Dan Weeks, OCC.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>JS</p>
100/15	Register of Interests	Anne-Marie Ferrett – Methodist Chapel/Pre-school	
101/15	To agree the arrangements for Bonfire	<p>Arrangements for the bonfire and firework display were discussed and it was agreed that the evening would be arranged as in previous years. The Chairman said that whilst this was a hugely enjoyable evening concern had been expressed regarding litter, access for emergency vehicles and the number of parked vehicles. It was agreed that advertising for the event should be word of mouth only. The Chairman thanked Martin Seacole and Colin Pratley.</p>	
102/15	Minutes of the last meetings	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September were read and signed as correct.	
103/15	Clerks report and progress on actions	<p><b>Completion of tasks from walk list</b> – Keep off the verge notices, Blenheim re overhanging tress and PCSOs re parking still outstanding.</p> <p><b>Post in Church Walk</b> – request Paul Merry to replace.</p> <p><b>Replacement of Post Lady</b> – The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council supports the campaign to protect the position of the village post lady.</p> <p><b>Poppy wreath</b> –Mr Ken Townsend to be asked to lay the wreath this year.</p> <p><b>Parking outside school</b> – Simon Oliver expressed concern regarding the parking outside the school at drop-off and pick-up times – Anne-Marie Ferrett agreed to mention the matter to the head teacher and request a reminder in the school newsletter.</p> <p><b>Extension of conservation area</b> – The Chairman outlined the proposed extension to the Conservation Area to include the listed buildings not currently covered. The proposed area was agreed. The Chairman agreed to arrange to discuss the matter with the Conservation Officer.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>MG</p> <p>AMF</p> <p>ES</p>

		<b>Request for donation</b> – Blind Association – November Agenda	JS
104/15	Report from County Councillor	Cllr Hudspeth said the hard work of preparing a budget for 2016 – 17 is well under way. Announcements about the possible areas for cost cutting under consideration will be made in the autumn. There will be a series of road shows and consultation to enable residents to express their views. With regard to the Children’s centres and early intervention changes he said that there will be extensive consultation throughout the autumn before any decision is taken. If approved at the Cabinet meeting on 15th September, a consultation into the future of intermediate care beds in Chipping Norton will go ahead. Funding for the current arrangements last until the end of March 2016. The consultation will be on alternative arrangements which are sustainable beyond March 2016. Alan Revell said that Long Hanborough station has seen an increase in usage since the roadworks began and asked whether or not parking fines could be suspended whilst the roadworks were ongoing as. Cllr Hudspeth agreed to investigate the possibility.	
105/15	Report from District Councillor	Cllr Richard Bishop reported that the proposed Woodstock East development has been refused by both WODC and Cherwell District Council but that an appeal was expected. Further consultation on the West Oxfordshire Local Plan will take place in late October. WODC have agreed to take on an enabling role in housing expected Syrian refugees. Wrensic ward at the Witney hospital has been re-opened but further work to refurbish the lower floor and kitchen is expected to be completed in the spring of 2106. The 2016/17 budget parameters have been set. The transport recommendations are currently being reviewed. The 20/20 vision of joint working with other Council’s is progressing with acclaim and attracting much national support. Cllr Bishop concluded by saying that as part of the OCC spending review it is likely that the grant for green waste recycling would be suspended and that WODC were deciding how to deal with the situation but that the collection service would continue in some format.	
106/15	Planning Applications	<b>Applications</b> None <b>Decisions</b> Abelwood House, Horns Lane – Extension of existing garage – Approved Northgate – Erection of 2 semi-detached houses - Approved	
107/15	To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received. To undertake the quarterly Audit and to consider expenditure against budget prediction	<b>Payments</b> Galactic Fireworks £1217.46 Bank Fees 22/6 & 21/9 £2 HMRC – PAYE £391.20 OALC Course Fees £42 J. Sharpe – Wages £196 Data Protection Registration £35 (Renewal) P Merry £80 (village green posts & repairs) <b>Received –</b> WODC – ½ year precept £6,374.11 <b>Quarterly Audit</b> The quarterly payments and receipts account and summary of	<b>VAT</b> £202.91  £7

		<p>payments details were circulated. The Chairman proposed a motion that the accounts be accepted, Simon Oliver seconded the motion, all were in agreement and a resolution was passed accepting the accounts and summary.</p> <p><b>Expenditure against budget prediction</b></p> <p>The figures were considered and with the exception of the grass cutting figure all other figures were in line to the earlier prediction. The grass cutting difference being due to the reduced grant from OCC.</p>	
108/15	Play park update	<p>Anne-Marie Ferrett reported that maintenance work is required under the slides, following damage caused by children digging soil from underneath the safety matting. It was agreed that it was not necessary to close the area at this time and to ask Paul Merry to undertake repair work.</p> <p>Dogs in the play park area continue to be an issue.</p> <p>The gate spring is broken again and continues to be inefficient – Simon Oliver agreed to look at it again.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>SO</p>
109/15	To consider the results of the Methodist Chapel questionnaire and decide upon the next course of action	<p>Over 90 questionnaires were returned, of those, 64% said yes to retain the Chapel as a village asset and of those a number of people indicated that they would be willing to help with a business plan, fundraise and donate to the project. It was agreed that the next stage is to form a business plan. The Chairman offered to contact the relevant people to arrange a meeting. A meeting has been arranged with the Chairman of Freeland Parish Council. Rachel Whitehead reported that she had made an initial Land Registry search and it was agreed that she would make further enquiries to clarify the implications.</p>	<p>ES</p> <p>ES/JS</p> <p>RW</p>
110/15	To agree objectives and next steps in producing a village plan	Deferred	
111/15	To agree arrangements for the Christmas Tree	<p>Rachel Whitehead reported that the Reading Room had offered to erect the Christmas tree and that the headmistress and agreed to switch on the lights but that the donation of a tree was required. Simon Oliver said that he would contact local businesses and put a request on Twitter, Clerk to include request in Combe Courier article.</p>	<p>SO</p> <p>JS</p>
112/15	To agree action to address the implications of the Pensions Regulations	<p>To comply with the Pension Regulations that come into effect next year it was agreed to nominate the Clerk as the point of contact. Due to the level of pay it will not be necessary for the Parish Council to nominate and contribute to a Pension Fund unless the Clerk requests it.</p>	<p>JS</p>
113/15	To approve the dates for the 2016 Parish Council meetings	<p>The Clerk circulated the dates for the 2016 Parish Council meetings. The dates were agreed.</p>	
114/15	Urgent Correspondence	<p>AgeUK – Community Information Network Partnership meetings</p> <p>ORCC – Your Place: Housing, Communities, Neighbourhoods event – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November</p>	
115/15	Next Meeting	<p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 in the Reading Room, Combe</p>	

