

# COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 - approved

## Present

Elena Softley (ES) – Chairman  
 Alan Revell (AR) – Vice Chairman  
 Michael Green (MG)  
 Deborah Phillips (DP)  
 Denise Cripps (DC)  
 John Hunt (JH)  
 Cllr Bishop – District Councillor  
 Nathalie Chapple – District Councillor  
 Bill Oddy – Bonfire Working Party  
 Julia Sharpe - Clerk

Members of the Public – None

No.	Item	Minutes	Action
147/19	Apologies	Cllr Hudspeth	
148/19	Questions from the Public	Concern about parking and speeding in Horns Lane making it particularly difficult and dangerous at school drop off and pick up times – it was agreed to monitor the situation.	ALL
149/19	Register of Interests	John Hunt – planning application	
150/19	Bonfire and Firework arrangements	Bill Oddy attended and outlined the arrangements for this year's bonfire and firework celebration. He said that the format was in line with previous years with the firework display scheduled for 7pm followed by the lighting of the bonfire at around 7.20pm. He confirmed that the fireworks had been ordered, the insurance, risk assessment were in place and that the emergency service had been notified. The Chairman thanked him and other members of the working party for their work in organising the event.	
151/19	Solagen Demonstration	A demonstration of a mobile Solagen speed indicator device took place. A number of technical questions were raised and answered.	
152/19	Minutes of the last meetings	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September were read and signed as correct.	
153/19	Clerks report and progress on actions	Church Walk o/s Little Lodge – awaiting update from Cllr Hudspeth Swan Bridge repair – scheduled for late October Actions from village walk update – all completed West Oxfordshire Water Day – 22 <sup>nd</sup> October – AR to attend Someone to lay Poppy wreath – JH to make enquires with neighbour.	Cllr H  AR JH
154/19	Report from County Councillor	Cllr Hudspeth was unable to attend. His October report which is available on <a href="http://www.ianhudspeth.com/id11.htm">www.ianhudspeth.com/id11.htm</a> was discussed and there were no questions	
155/19	Report from District Councillor	The Chairman welcomed Cllr Chapple to the meeting. Cllr Chapple reported that a new post at Cabinet level has been created with the portfolio holder being responsible for developing a strategy for Climate Change. David Harvey has been appointed as the new cabinet member and that a cross-party working party has been established of which she is a	

		<p>member.</p> <p>Cllr Bishop reported that the Council has developed an amended Council Plan outlining the real need to make "affordable" properties much more affordable than is possible under the national scheme of a reduction of 20% on the market value and that although Blenheim Estates have gone some way towards this goal much more needs to be done.</p> <p>The District has designated three areas for electric vehicle charging points and are currently out to tender with an average charging point installation costs of around £5000.</p> <p>Finally, he said that the proposition of re-classifying the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as the Cotswold National Park is receiving a very mixed response with many finding it difficult to appreciate the potential advantages.</p>																												
156/19	Planning Applications	<p><b>Applications –</b>  <b>19/02645/HHD –</b> 46 Akeman Street – erection of two storey side extension and first floor rear extension –  There are no objections to plans themselves but with two conditions:  <b>Retention of important physical features</b> - the existing entry and in particular the dry-stone wall along the road side of the property is retained.  <b>Traffic and Highways issues</b> - there is sufficient parking provision onsite to prevent parking on the road. The property is directly on the Stonesfield Road/Akeman Street junction and vehicles parked on the road outside the property would make it impossible for S3 bus and other larger vehicles to manoeuvre around the junction.</p>	JS																											
157/19	To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received. Approve financial reports	<p><b>Payments</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>J. Sharpe – September (SO)</td> <td>£298.84</td> <td><b>VAT</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>P. Merry –</td> <td>£50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>verge and post maintenance and cleaning</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ubico – dog bin emptying</td> <td>£97.66</td> <td>£16.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garden Wizard –</td> <td>£152.40</td> <td>£25.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>weed control, Akeman Street</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denise Cripps – travel expenses</td> <td>£11.50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alan Revell – travel expenses</td> <td>£22.50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R. Oddy – Fireworks</td> <td>£1,015.80</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Received – Nil</b>  MG proposed that the half year financial report and half year summary of payments be accepted. JH seconded the proposal. All were in agreement and a resolution passed.</p>	J. Sharpe – September (SO)	£298.84	<b>VAT</b>	P. Merry –	£50		verge and post maintenance and cleaning			Ubico – dog bin emptying	£97.66	£16.28	Garden Wizard –	£152.40	£25.40	weed control, Akeman Street			Denise Cripps – travel expenses	£11.50		Alan Revell – travel expenses	£22.50		R. Oddy – Fireworks	£1,015.80		
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158/19	Play Park Update	<p>No issues to report with the playpark.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the response from WODC had been that the insertion of a gate into a boundary wall would not require planning permission, unless the wall is part of a Listed Building and that access onto the playing field would be a civil issue, and not a matter that comes under planning control. AR to ask VH&amp;RG to refer the matter to the Parish Council after which the Chairman agreed to make further enquiries regarding access.</p>	AR ES																											
159/19	Speedwatch Update	<p>Following discussion, it was agreed that AR would produce a detailed and full costing for the purchase of a mobile SID (or 2) together with solar and battery options, data analysis and fixing posts for the next meeting.</p>	AR																											
160/19	Village Design Statement Update	<p>DP reported that the questionnaire is now ready for delivery to every household and available on the Parish Council web-site.</p>																												

		Collection of the questionnaires will be in the week after the 10 <sup>th</sup> November.	
161/19	Broadband Update	DC updated on discussions with the High-Level Complaints team at Openreach re. repairs to the broadband cabinet. We have more clarity about the process but not yet a definite date for the replacement of the cabinet - Openreach are currently awaiting information from SSE re. the turning off of power to the cabinet for the work to take place. DC also briefed on a new Government Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme for rural communities; residents would not be eligible for the Rural Gigabit Voucher (as all but one house in Combe officially has a broadband speed of greater than 30mbps) but could be eligible for a Gigabit Broadband Voucher as part of a group scheme (1 business:10 residents). She had contacted the business development team at Gigaclear, a company that had been rolling out fast fibre broadband across West Oxfordshire as part of a funded scheme over the past two years, and would report back once she had further information.	
162/19	VH&RG Update	AR produced accounts for the VH&RG. Following discussions ES proposed and JH seconded a motion to grant £700 to the VH&RG sinking fund and an additional £700 for the 2018/19 financial year. All were in agreement and a resolution passed. Clerk to raise cheque for November meeting.	JS
163/19	To approve donation to Combe Courier	Following discussion DP proposed a donation of £100 to the Combe Courier, JH seconded the proposal. The majority were in agreement and a resolution passed. JS to raise cheque for November meeting.	JS
164/19	To approve regulations	MG proposed that the updated Risk Assessment, complaints procedure, standing orders and financial regulations be adopted. AR seconded the proposal. All were in agreement and a resolution passed.	
165/19	Road Closure for Blenheim events	MG reported problems encountered due to road closures during the recent half-marathon organised by Blenheim. Clerk to contact Blenheim to highlight issues and to request alternative arrangements in future.	JS
166/19	Response to LTS Connecting Oxfordshire Questionnaire	It was agreed that the questionnaire should be completed by individuals and the Chairman urged all Councillors to do so.	ALL
167/19	Urgent Correspondence	None	
168/19	Next Meeting	The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 in the Reading Room, Combe	