

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th July 2020 - approved

Present

- Elena Softley (ES) – Chairman
- Alan Revell (AR) – Vice Chairman
- Michael Green (MG)
- Deborah Phillips (DP)
- Denise Cripps (DC)
- Cllr Bishop
- Julia Sharpe - Clerk

- Members of the Public – Nil

96/20 Apologies

John Hunt (JH), Cllr Hudspeth

97/20 Questions from the Public

Parking in Akeman Street / Square Firs junction – Action Clerk to contact OCC Highways and PCSO.
Litter at the river – Action – Clerk to contact WODC for litter poster
School – Antisocial behaviour – Action – All to be aware
Hatwells – request for permission for coffee bar on the green - Action - agenda item August meeting

98/20 Register of Interests

MG item number 8 – planning. AR item number 14 – VH&RG funding request

99/20 Minutes of the last meetings

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th June 2020 were read and signed as correct

100/20 Clerks report and progress on actions

Footpath signs for Alma Grove and Little Lane – signs obtained from OCC. Clerk to put up.
Website progressing well – developer has shared first version, comments made. **Action – Clerk to liaise with developer.**
Playpark opening – JH and Clerk undertook safety inspection and Covid 19 risk assessment. New posters erected and play park now open. Insurance company notified. **Action – JH to make regular safety inspections.**
Village maintenance, Ivy on recreation ground wall – waiting quote from JH. **Action – Clerk to follow up and possibly invite other tenders.**
Swan Bridge – vegetation clearance has started. **Action – Clerk to check with OCC that work is sufficient.**
Overgrown verges – Railway bridge and Akeman Street junctions. **Action – Clerk to notify OCC Highways**

101/20 Report from County Councillor

Apologies were received from Cllr Hudspeth. The Councillor's July report had not been received in time for the meeting.

102/20 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Bishop reported on the work carried out by WODC during the lockdown period and outlined the Local Recovery Plan. He also reported that some difficulties with refuse collection had been experienced in some areas due to lack of staff and that the Water Day scheduled for October was expected to be cancelled with no expectation of it taking place this year.

103/20 VH&RG – Funding request

Dave Lee (VH&RG Committee member) presented a clear and well-documented request asking for a commitment from the Parish Council of £5,000 towards the refurbishment and extension of the VH&RG car park.

104/20 Planning Applications

MG left the meeting for this item.

20/00006/Appeal – Manor Farm, Park Road – Certificate of lawfulness - Having considered the case, the Parish Council felt unable to support the appeal on the grounds of negative visual impact on the surroundings in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The proposed siting of the caravan at the side of the existing property means that it is potentially visible from the road leading into the village and the surrounding countryside. **Action – Clerk to notify the Planning Inspectorate.**

105/20 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages - June (SO)	£224.24	
HMRC – PAYE (SO)	£447.60	
J. Sharpe - Zoom licence	£14.39	
WODC – Grass cutting (April and May)	£658.53	£109.76
C. Browning – Audit fees	£252	£42
P. Merry – village and playpark maintenance	£195	
Received – Nil		

106/20 2019/2020 Audit

The 2019/20 Audit forms comprising of the Certificate of Exemption, Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement and Section 2 – Accounting Statements were presented. DP proposed that the statements be accepted, ES seconded the proposal, all were in agreement. The statements were signed by the Chairman and RFO. **Action – Clerk to forward the Certificate of Exemption to external auditors and to upload all documents onto the website.**

107/20 Speedwatch Update

AR confirmed that the quote received from Solagen is still current and that the SIDs would be available for September. AR requested that enquiries be made into the SID being used by Stonesfield. **Action – Clerk to contact Stonesfield Parish Clerk. AR/JS to submit order to Solagen. All to consider appropriate locations on village walk in August.**

108/20 Village Design Statement Update

DP outlined the procedures required for Local Green Space and Green Infrastructure Designation. The 5 green spaces that are valued by Combe residents and are potentially 'demonstrably special' are: Alma Grove field, the recreation ground, the village greens, the churchyard and the allotments. It was agreed that with the exception of Alma Grove field the other sites have some protection from development under existing additional statutory legislation. AR said that further protection of Alma Grove field should be investigated. DP said that the matter would be raised at the forthcoming meeting with WODC. **Action – DP to meet with WODC and report back to the August meeting.**

109/20 Gigaclear Update

DC reported that the build was now underway and that the build schedule indicates that there will be no work in August and that it will recommence in September with a November completion date. The Chairman asked DC to request that all rubbish and equipment, other than essential safety barriers, be removed from the roadsides during August. It was agreed that organisations should submit their request for the free Gigaclear connection in writing to the Parish Clerk by Monday 1st September. **Action PC representatives to notify organisations. DC to notify school and contact Gigaclear re clearing equipment.**

200/20 To agree funding to VH&RG

The request for a contribution towards the VH&RG car park refurbishment as presented by Dave Lee in agenda item 103/20 above was discussed. DP proposed that the request be granted, all were in unanimous agreement that the request for £5,000 should be approved and a resolution passed. The Clerk asked that the appropriate budget be confirmed before notifying Dave Lee. This was agreed. **Action – Clerk to confirm funding and notify Dave Lee.**

201/20 Urgent Correspondence

None

202/20 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 12th August 2020 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe, followed by the village walk if social distancing guidelines permit