

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th December 2020 – approved

This was a virtual meeting hosted by Zoom.

Present

- Elena Softley (ES) – Chairman
- Alan Revell (AR) – Vice Chairman
- Michael Green (MG)
- Deborah Phillips (DP)
- Denise Cripps (DC)
- John Hunt (JH)
- Cllr Hudspeth
- Cllr Bishop
- Julia Sharpe - Clerk
- Members of the Public – None

273/20 Apologies

None

274/20 Questions from the Public

Overgrown Hedge - Swan Hill – Complaint received re. overgrown hedge. **Action - Clerk to contact Hanborough Clerk to ask for hedges on East Side of Swan Hill to be cut back.**

Soldier Silhouettes – request for permission to install silhouettes around the village for armistice day 2021. Agreed in principle. **Action – Clerk to request further information.**

275/20 Register of Interests

None

276/20 Minutes of the last meetings

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 2020 were read and signed as correct

277/20 Clerks report and progress on actions

Akeman Street – gully and grip clearing – awaiting response from OCC.

Chatterpie Lane – hedges – resolved.

Church Walk – posts knocked down by DPD delivery van re-installed. Chairman chasing DPD for compensation.

Parking at Combe Gate – representatives from Blenheim to attend February meeting

278/20 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Hudspeth reported that he continued to discuss parking solution with Blenheim. County Councillors have rejected an allowance increase until after the May elections. There were no questions arising from Cllr Hudspeth's December report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman and Vice Chairman thanked Cllr Hudspeth for regularly attending the PC meetings and for the grant that had enabled the purchase of the SIDs.

279/20 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Bishop reported that the Council's decision to remove 'bring sites' had caused great concern but reassured the meeting that the bi-weekly house collections will take everything that would normally have been left at these sites. A Covid test centre will open on the 12th December at the Woodford Way Car Park and vaccinations have started at the Churchill Hospital. Complaints received from the public regarding the high number of planning applications passed on delegated powers are likely to result in a review of the

process. Cllr Bishop concluded by confirming that WODC had approved a grant for the VH&RG car park refurbishment. The Chairman and Vice Chairman thanked Cllr Bishop for regularly attending the PC meetings and for the grant for the VH&RG.

280/20 Planning Applications

20/02385/FUL – Land North East of Swan Lane, Long Hanborough - Change of use of agricultural land to camping site, including the siting of two temporary timber shower units, two timber toilet units and the erection of 8 canvas bell tents.

Objections on the grounds of – **Traffic and Highways Issues** - Swan Lane is a narrow country road with no footpath. Access to and from the site would be hazardous for pedestrians, cyclists and other vehicles.

Noise, disturbance - The campsite could result in noise and light pollution for close by residents. **Loss of Important Open Space** - The ecological report highlights the importance of this area. The flora and fauna need to be preserved and protected and more mitigations should be outlined. **Parking** - Insufficient parking provision. **Other** - Concern regarding management of the site both whilst campers are present but also when the site is unoccupied.

Action – Clerk to notify WODC Planning.

281/20 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages – November (SO)	£224.64	
Medisave – Defib replacement battery	£244.30	£40.72
Solagen – x2 Speed Indicator Devices & misc equipment	£6,984	£1,164
J. Sharpe - Zoom licence & posts	£110.82	£16.07
P. Merry – Church Walk Post	£120	
Donation to War Memorials Trust	£25	
WODC – Grass Cutting – September	£152.39	£25.40
Received - Nil		

282/20 Speedwatch Update

The Chairman thanked JH and AR for installing the Speed Indicator Devices. JH reported that the Akeman Street device requires adjusting and agreed to undertake the work. JH and AR agreed to monitor the equipment on a regular basis. AR agreed to contact Solagen to establish the battery life expectancy.

Action – AR and JH as outlined above.

283/20 Gigaclear Update

DC confirmed that Dominic Hones would be attending the January meeting. The Chairman reported that the Hub and Village Hall would be able to share the free connection with a one-off cost of installing the appropriate cable. DC to obtain costing. Gigaclear are expected to erect verge repair notices in the near future. DC reported that she had responded to a query from Don Redding, a Church Walk resident, who had expressed concern that Church Walk had not been included in the project. It was agreed that Church Walk should be included and that enquiries with Gigaclear should continue to find a way to make this possible. DC to make enquiries prior to further discussions with Dominic at the January meeting and to notify Church Walk residents of the current situation.

Action – DC as outlined above.

284/20 Playpark – RoSPA Inspection

The RoSPA report was discussed, it was agreed to treat the wooden posts with preservatives in the Spring and for the Clerk to obtain a quote from Trevor Stewart to repair the brake on the zip wire.

Action – Clerk to contact TS and add item to Spring Agenda item.

285/20 Annual review of Clerks salary and pension contribution

ES proposed and MG seconded a proposal to increase the Clerk's wages from 01/04/2021 by 2.75% in line with April 2020 pay award. It was agreed not to back date the award. All were in agreement and a Resolution passed. No pension contributions are required.

Action – Clerk to make adjustment to bank mandates from April 2021.

286/20 2021-22 Budget and Precept

Following discussions, it was agreed not to raise the precept for 2021/2022 and to use reserves to fulfil already agreed expenditure. The budget was set at £13,685 resulting in a 0.024% increase. ES proposed that the budget and precept be accepted, DC seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

Action – Clerk to notify WODC of precept request.

287/20 Funding for cycle to school route signs

AR proposed supporting the request for funding towards the provision of signs for the school cycle route by offering to fund a third of the total cost (£72) to be matched by Stonesfield PC and Woodstock TC. JH seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

Action – Clerk to notify project leader.

288/20 Donation to Volunteer Link Up

DP confirmed that Volunteer Link Up do support our community and provide a service that other groups don't. AR proposed a donation of £50, CP seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

Action – Clerk to raise cheque for signature at the January meeting.

289/20 Urgent Correspondence

JH highlighted concern about groups of adult cyclists using the footpath round the back of Alma Grove at night. JH to investigate appropriate signage.

Action – JH to obtain costings for signs. January Agenda.

290/20 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe or a virtual meeting via Zoom.