

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th February 2021 - Approved

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 – 6

18/21 Apologies

None

19/21 Blenheim

Roy Cox, Blenheim Estates Director and Dominic Hare, Blenheim Chief Executive Director attended the meeting.

Parking at Blenheim Gate – residents from East End attended for this item and expressed their concerns regarding the increased parking in the area of Combe Gate. Roy Cox acknowledged that parking in the area had always been a concern and that it had got worse since the first lockdown period. Roy Cox agreed to discuss options for East End when he meets with the police and OCC regarding parking at Black's Gate where similar problems are being experienced. Ian Hudspeth offered to discuss the possibility of making the posts on the triangle of grass more 'permanent' with OCC Highways. East End residents wishing to discuss parking issues further should contact either Roy Cox or Dominic Hare direct via email.

A Sketchbook of an Emerging Vision for Blenheim Estate – Dominic Hare introduced the document written by Velocity and outlined Blenheim's ambition to enhance village life, address the climate emergency, reduce traffic congestion and pollution and improve connectivity. Consultations with WODC and Sustainable Woodstock have taken place and consultations with other local villages will begin as soon as current restrictions are lifted. Work has already begun on cycle routes through the park and some progress has been made towards biodiversity net gain and carbon net zero. A number of points were raised by village residents concerning the document. It was suggested that, although aspects of the 'Vision' would be supported by most people, in particular aiming for environmental sustainability and less reliance on cars, other aspects, including higher density housing and expanding Combe's population to over 1,000 are more controversial. It was agreed to share Combe's Village Design Statement with Blenheim once it has been approved by WODC. It was also agreed that once current restrictions are lifted a more in-depth meeting would be arranged.

20/21 Questions from the Public

S3 Saturday bus service – due to lockdown the S3 timetable has been amended resulting in no service Saturday service. It was agreed to email Stagecoach and request that some service to be reinstated. Cllr Hudspeth also agreed to contact Stagecoach.

Action – Clerk.

21/21 Register of Interests

None

22/21 Minutes of the last meetings

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th January 2021 were read and signed as correct.

23/21 Clerks report and progress on actions

Swan Hill road signs turned by hedge cutting – MG agreed to look at the signs. **Action – MG.**

Telephone box library – having received a request for books to remain it was agreed to leave the books until after lockdown but ask users to make sure that the books are kept tidy and the floor space kept clear. **Action – Clerk.**

Playpark update – JH reported that he had carried out weekly inspections and other than the play park area being extremely muddy there were no outstanding maintenance issues.

Use of stones to protect verges – MG raised concern about residents use of stones to protect verges. It was agreed to ask residents to ensure that the stones do not encroach the highway. **Action – Clerk.**

Flooding - Chatterpie Lane – blocked drains – the clerk reported that the problem had been logged with OCC Fix my street. Under the railway bridge – MG reported that he had met with OCC and that the drain would be cleared in the spring or once the crops have been harvested. Investigations into a longer-term solution between MG, OCC and WODC ongoing. **Action – MG.**

Road Closed Signs – One sign is stored in the car park of the pub. MG agreed to check the location of any others. **Action – MG.**

Road closure notification – Park Road will be closed on 19th April to facilitate works to the water valve.

24/21 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Hudspeth reported that the 2021/22 budget had been approved resulting in a 2.9% increase in Council Tax. £20,000 has been set aside for the introduction a 20mph speed limit to the communities requesting it with Combe being put forward. There were no questions arising from Cllr Hudspeth's monthly report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

25/21 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Bishop expressed support of the introduction of a 20mph limit in principle. He confirmed that the Environmental Department at WODC were aware of the flooding at the railway bridge and working with WODC, OCC and MG. Business grants are still available. Cllr Bishop agreed to give an update on the Salt Cross development at the next meeting.

26/21 Planning Applications

20/03359/HHD – The Old Stores, Church Walk – restoration of existing outbuilding – there were no comments or objections.

Action – Clerk to notify WODC

27/21 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages – January (SO)	£224.64	
Viridor – 3 rd Party Payment	£750	
J. Sharpe - Zoom licence	£14.39	
P. Merry – telephone box and bus shelter cleaning	£50	
P. Merry – post maintenance	£30	
Received		
NS&I Interest	0.77p	

Information - Section 137 allowance for 2021/22 - £8.41

28/21 Speedwatch Update

AR reported that analysis of the data from the Speed Indicator Devices for the month of January showed that 2839 vehicles passed the Akeman Street SID with an average speed of 31.4mph and 2323 vehicles passed the SID in Stonesfield Road with an average speed of 28.2mph. 35.6% of the traffic in Stonesfield Road and 28.4% of the traffic in Akeman Street was recorded at 30mph or above. The highest recorded speed was 58.4mph at Akeman Street and 49.5mph at Stonesfield Road. It was agreed to monitor the data on a monthly basis. AR agreed to clarify the distance from the device that the speed is recorded.

Action – Clerk and AR.

29/21 Gigaclear Update

DC reported that there had been no update from Gigaclear regarding the Church Walk connection situation. Repairs to the verges are expected in March with a site meeting before works begin. It was agreed that DC would confirm arrangements for the free connection with the Hub and Village Hall.

Action – DC.

30/21 Alma Grove No Cycling Signs

JH reported that on several occasions groups of adult cyclists have used Alma Grove footpath and for safety reasons proposed purchasing No Cycling signs at a cost of approximately £45 for both ends of the footpath. All were in agreement.

Action – Clerk and JH.

31/21 Grass Cutting Tender – 2021 & 2022

The grass cutting contract was discussed and it was agreed to increase the number of cuts from 5 to 7 for the outlying verges. Four prospective contractors were identified to be invited to submit tenders by 8th March.

Action – Clerk.

32/21 Spring Clean

It was agreed to hold the annual litter pick on Saturday 5th June to run in conjunction with the National campaign.

Action – Clerk.

33/21 Relocation of litter bin

It was suggested to relocate the litter bin to the grass area in front of the Reading Room to the right of the green boxes between the poles of the telegraph pole. All were in agreement. It was also agreed to request WODC to replace the litter bin at Combe Halt.

Action – Clerk.

34/21 Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting

DC suggested that the new Vicar be invited to speak at the Annual Meeting. All were in agreement. A provisional date of 5th May was agreed as an alternative date for the meeting to enable it to be held by zoom.

Action – Clerk.

35/21 Urgent Correspondence

Thank you letter from Volunteer Link Up.

36/21 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe or a virtual meeting hosted by zoom.