

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th March 2020 - 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
- David Lee - VH&RG Committee

- Members of the Public – None

37/21 Apologies

None

38/21 David Lee, VH&RG

On behalf of the VH&RG Committee David Lee thanked the Parish Council and District Council for their support and reported that the majority of funds needed for the drainage, slightly enlarging and resurfacing the car park had been raised. Work will begin in the near future. Concerns regarding adequate drainage were discussed and David agreed to circulate the design plan. The Chairman congratulated the VH&RG Committee for their work to date.

39/21 Questions from the Public

DP reported that the stone marker by the Halt that marks the line of the path from Combe Mill to the Church has a substantial crack through it. It was agreed to make enquiries to establish the history of the marker stone and to identify possible repair solutions.

Actions- enquiries as above – All, Agenda Item for April - JS

40/21 Register of Interests

Chairman – Church Walk Planning Application.

41/21 Minutes of the last meetings

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th February 2021 were read, line 5, item 28/21 was amended to read 49.5mph at Stonesfield Road and then signed as correct.

42/21 Clerk's report and progress on actions

Road signs along Horns Lane by the Halt, by the entrance to the Mill and up Swan Hill thought to have been turned by hedge cutting – MG to investigate.

Flooding – under the railway bridge – MG – no update.

Road Closure Signs – MG to investigate.

Relocation and replacement of litter bin – pending action from Ubico.

Playpark update – JH reported that inspections had been undertaken and that the ground had dried up nicely. He said that there were no other concerns at this time. DP said that some of the larger stones had cracked and offered to pick up the broken pieces.

Village Travel network (VTN) –ES/DC attended meetings and reported that a logo and the following vision statement had been agreed. *The Village Travel Network brings villages together to enable sustainable travel, connectivity and networking that enhances community safety, wellbeing and long term social and environmental eco-friendly benefits.*

Outline objectives for implementing the VTN include the following:

- To deliver environmental, low carbon, safety, health and social benefits that demonstrate best practice across the village network and protect nature and habitats.
- Implement 20 mph speed limits for motor vehicles in all residential and shopping areas where pedestrians and cyclists mix.
- Prioritise cycling and walking routes to Hanborough Station.
- Key inter-village routes to be declared with priority given to pedestrians and cyclists
- Key east west connections to be facilitated with new restricted and conditional routes to be identified.

43/21 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Hudspeth reported that the County Council set the budget on 9th February with investment in key priority areas despite the challenges of the pandemic with an additional £20,000 for the roll out of a 20mph speed limit for towns and villages wanting to take part in the scheme and an additional £20,000 for drainage and vegetation clearance targeting areas prone to flooding. Cllr Hudspeth's full report can be found at <http://www.ianhudspeth.com/id11.html>.

44/21 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Bishop reported that WODC has achieved a balanced and robust budget which maintains in full all existing services, grants and free parking arrangements. He said that 85% of Covid grants had been paid and that future grants would be paid automatically. The Council has also agreed a Climate Change Strategy and has introduced its first electric vehicle.

45/21 Planning Applications

21/00670/LBC – Fern Cottage, Church Walk – PROPOSAL: Internal and external alterations to include the replacement of the existing roof over dining room and erection of a single storey link extension to existing outbuilding together with changes to internal layout – No objections, comment re vehicle access during construction period to be made.

21/00648/HHD – Fern Cottage, Church Walk – PROPOSAL: Replacement of the existing roof over dining room and erection of a single storey link extension to existing outbuilding – No objections, comment re vehicle access during construction period to be made.

Evenlode, Horns Lane – construction of driveway – no planning application has been made and the matter has been reported to WODC Planning Department for further investigation.

Action – Clerk to notify WODC Planning, Cllr to speak to owners of Fern Cottage

46/21 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages – January (SO)	£224.64	
J. Sharpe – Zoom licence, No cycling signs	£43.32	£4.82
OALC Membership	£156.26	£26.04
OPFA Membership	£42.00	
J. Sharpe – Website domain name renewal	£14.34	

Received - Nil

Bank Mandates – the Chairman proposed accepting and signing the bank mandates for the Clerk's wages and HMRC payments for 2021/22, AR seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

Review of Internal Financial Controls and Risk Management - The Council's Financial and Risk Management Regulations were reviewed and approved at the Parish Council meeting on 11th November 2021. This included an assessment of the risks facing Combe Parish Council, the steps we have taken to manage those risks, and also a review of the effectiveness of our internal controls. Quarterly Accounts and quarterly Summary Payments were prepared and approved at the Parish Council meetings on 12th August 2020, 14th October 2020 and 13th January 2021. The half year expenditure, and full year expenditure prediction was compared with the approved 2020/21 budget and approved at the Parish Council meeting on 14th October 2020.

Action - Clerk

47/21 Speedwatch Update

AR presented the findings from the Speed Indicator Devices for the month of February – the total vehicles passing the 2 SIDs was 7309 compared with 5162 in January, an increase of 41.6%; of these, 3496 passed the Akeman St SID and 3813 passed the Stonesfield Rd SID. The average speed recorded at Akeman St in February was 32.7mph versus 31.4mph in January, and 28.9mph at Stonesfield Rd, versus 28.2mph in January. At Akeman Street, 67.9% of traffic was recorded at 30mph and above. At Stonesfield Road that figure was 25.78%. The highest speed recorded was 59.6mph at Akeman St, and 52.1mph at Stonesfield Road. Both of these are higher than the top speeds recorded in January.

In terms of traffic volumes, again there were some interesting discoveries. Hourly traffic volumes peaked at 354 between 5-6pm on Akeman St – that's almost one vehicle every 10 seconds - and 339 between 2-3pm on Stonesfield Rd. The corresponding figures for January were 284 and 216. On Akeman Street, the traffic volume for every hourly period from 12 noon to 7pm was higher than for any hourly period before midday. On Stonesfield Road hourly traffic counts were more evenly distributed. These figures dispel the notion that high traffic volumes are largely a morning and evening 'rush hour' phenomenon. AR speculated that this is at least partly explained by delivery vehicles coming to the village or passing through.

48/21 Village Design Statement Update

DP reported that the draft written report has now been circulated to members of the steering group for comment and that arrangements are in hand to meet with David O'Brien to identify key areas for photographs. The Chairman thanked DP for her effort and excellent report.

49/21 Gigaclear Update

Chairman and DC to meet with Gigaclear on 19th March to look at outstanding repair works. DC said that the decision to link in Church Walk is still outstanding as are the arrangements for the free connection.

Action – Chairman and DC to meet with Gigaclear

50/21 Grass Cutting Tender 2021 and 2022

Three tenders were received and considered. DP proposed accepting the tender from Ubico. DC seconded the proposal; all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

Action – Clerk to inform all parties

51/21 Annual Parish Meeting

Emergency legislation enabling virtual meetings is due to end mid-May. It was agreed to hold the Annual meetings on the 12th May providing legislation still allows for virtual meetings. A provisional date of the 5th May was agreed.

Action – Clerk to confirm

52/21 Local Transport and Connectivity Plan

The Chairman circulated a draft response and asked Councillors for comments by 29th March.

53/21 Urgent Correspondence

None

54/21 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 14th April 2021 at 7.30pm and it will be a virtual meeting hosted by zoom.