

# COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – approved

The Chairman opened the meeting with the following statement:

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Our thoughts are with the Royal Family, and on behalf of Combe Parish Council we would like to offer our deepest sympathies.

As a mark of respect, the Union Flag is flying at half-mast on St Laurence Church and the Combe Reading Room."

### Present

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

### 55/21 Apologies

None

### 56/21 Questions from the Public

Wildflower verges – DP reported that she had been approached by members of the community wishing to identify verges and other areas for creating wildflower sites in the village. In general, the idea was supported by all Parish Councillors. An area in the Recreation Ground and school have already been identified. DC suggested that it may be possible to identify an area in the Church Yard. It was agreed that DP would consult with the group and obtain a list of proposed sites prior to a general village vote.

**Action – DP**

### 57/21 Register of Interests

Chairman – Evenlode Cottage Planning Application.

### 58/21 Minutes of the last meetings

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were read and signed as correct.

### 59/21 Clerks report and progress on actions

**Swan Hill road signs & road closure signs** – MG reported that he would arrange for the road signs to be straightened and that he would check if he has any road closure signs.

**Action – MG**

**Village green verge maintenance works** – Paul Merry to be asked to repair the corner of the village green outside Number 1 The Green. Gigaclear to be asked to repair the opposite verge.

**Action – Clerk and Chairman**

**Annual Parish Meeting Update** – The Rector has confirmed that he is able to attend. All other arrangements in hand.

**Action – Clerk to send reminders and Zoom meeting invitations.**

### 60/21 Payments and Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages – January (SO)	£224.64	
HMRC – PAYE	£446.40	
J. Sharpe - Zoom licence	£14.39	

Combe Hub (final instalment of grant)	£3,000	
Community First Annual Membership	£55	
Viking – office supplies	£56.39	£9.40
Ubico – Dog waste bin emptying	£100.09	£16.68
Dragon IT (Live Drive backup and Web Protect)	£97.20	£16.20
<b>Received</b>		
WODC – Precept	£6,843	
VAT Return (2020/21)	£1,709.43	

## 61/21 End of Year Accounts and Summary Payments 2020/21

The Clerk presented the end of year accounts and summary payments for agreement by the Parish Council prior to sending to the internal auditor. The Chairman proposed that the accounts and summary payments be approved. JH seconded the proposal; all were in agreement and a resolution passed.

## 62/21 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Hudspeth did not attend the meeting or provide a report.

## 63/21 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Bishop reported that staff and Councillors are engaged preparing for the forthcoming May elections. He reported that Woodstock Town Council had applied for ownership and management control of the Woodstock Water Meadows. The District Council fully supported the proposal and an application will now be made to Natural England. 2020/21 Community Revenue Grants not paid due to Covid will be carried forward and paid in this new financial year. Financial aid has been agreed to help combat homelessness and deal with problems associated with domestic abuse.

This being Cllr Bishop's last meeting the Chairman thanked him for being such a great support to the village, for his regular attendance at our Parish Council meetings, his monthly reports and all of his contributions to the Parish Council.

## 64/21 Planning Applications

**21/01094/HHD – Evenlode, Horns Lane** – Formation of a driveway – the application was discussed and whilst there were no objections to the formation of a driveway there was concern regarding the proposed design, in particular the gravel surface, lack of system to prevent water being discharged onto the highway, the gradient of the slope, the depth of the granite sets between the gravel and the road, the gate being shown as opening onto the property against the gradient and the lighting needing to be motion sensor.

**Action – Clerk to respond to WODC and highlight concerns.**

## 65/21 Speedwatch Update

AR reported the following breakdown of information obtained from the SIDs.

Total vehicles passing the 2 SIDs in March was 10275 compared with 7309 in February (and 5162 in January) an increase of 40.5% month on month and 99% versus January.

Of those 10275 vehicles, 5225 passed the Akeman St SID and 5050 passed the Stonesfield Rd SID.

The average speed recorded at Akeman St in March was 33.4mph compared to 32.7mph in February and 31.4mph in January. The average speed recorded at Stonesfield Road was 29.1mph compared to 28.9mph in February and 28.2mph in January.

In summary, the traffic has become faster and heavier each month - and we should expect further increases in traffic volumes as restrictions imposed to help combat the pandemic are relaxed.

At Akeman Street, 70.09% of traffic was recorded at 30mph and above, versus 67.9% in the previous month. At Stonesfield Road that figure was 43.88% versus 25.78% in the previous month.

The highest speed recorded was an astonishing 61.4mph (more than twice the legal limit) at Akeman St versus 59.6mph in February, and 49.7mph at Stonesfield Road versus 52.1mph in February.

In terms of traffic volumes: Hourly traffic volumes peaked at (a monthly average of) 606 between 5-6pm on Akeman St and 518 between 8-9am on Stonesfield Rd. The corresponding figures for February were 354 and 339.

The Chairman thanked AR for his report.

## 66/21 Gigaclear Update

The Chairman reported that some of the verge repairs had been undertaken but that areas were still outstanding. It was agreed to include the verge by the green to the list needing attention. Gigaclear have confirmed that Church Walk will now be included in the installation programme.

**Action – Chairman to liaise with Gigaclear re repairs.**

## 67/21 Playpark Schedule of works following 2020 RoSPA Inspection

The RoSPA report identified signs of rotting to the supporting posts of the swings and slides. It was agreed JH and the Clerk would meet to draw up a schedule of work.

**Action – JH and Clerk to arrange meeting and obtain quotes.**

## 68/21 Arrangements for return of face-to-face meetings

Prior to face-to-face meetings resuming in June a risk assessment needs to be completed. DP reported that the Reading Room has a risk assessment available.

**Action – DP and Clerk to undertake risk assessment.**

## 69/21 Village Litter Pick Arrangements

The litter pick will be on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 2pm – 4pm, refreshments will be available at the end. Clerk to produce posters, make necessary arrangements with WODC and The Reading Room.

**Action – Clerk as above.**

## 70/21 Marker Stone, Horns Lane

Following a lengthy discussion regarding possible repair and relocation of the marker stone it was agreed to canvas village opinion before undertaking any action.

**Action – Everyone.**

## 71/21 Village Travel Network Update

Update will be given at a future meeting.

## 72/21 Urgent Correspondence

None

## 73/21 Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at **7.00pm** followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm. All of these meetings will be hosted via Zoom.