

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th June 2021 - approved

Present

- Elena Softley (ES) – Chairman
- Alan Revell (AR) – Vice Chairman
- Michael Green (MG)
- Deborah Phillips (DP)
- Denise Cripps (DC)
- John Hunt (JH)
- Julia Sharpe – Clerk
- County Councillor - Andy Graham
- District Councillor – Nathalie Chapple

- Members of the Public – None

82/21 Apologies

District Councillor Mathew Parkinson

83/21 Questions from the Public

Request for the overgrown grass along the lane at the back of Alma Grove to be cut. **Action – Clerk to arrange cutting.**

Concern about the weeds and nettles along the inside of the Park Road wall in the Recreation Ground. **Action – AR to liaise with VH&RG Committee.**

84/21 Register of Interests

MG - planning application 21/01643/HHD – 43 Knott Oaks.

85/21 Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, the Parish Council meeting and the Annual Village Meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 were read and signed as correct.

86/21 Clerk's report and progress on actions

Wildflower Verges – the Little Lane and the bank outside Corner Cottage, Chatterpie Lane have been identified as potential sites. It was agreed that the sites should be clearly marked for the information of WODC and local residents. **Action – Clerk to notify WODC. DP to speak to volunteers re marking.**

Litter Pick – the Chairman thanked the large number of volunteers who attended and commented how nice it was to see many children involved. Despite the long grass around 20 bags of litter were collected.

Bonfire/Firework arrangements – due to the livestock in the field it was agreed to contact Mrs Balfour regarding the use of Alma Grove field for the firework display. **Action – Clerk to email to Mrs Balfour.**

Road Signs – MG reported that the road signs by the railway bridge and up Swan Hill had been turned back in the right direction and that the ditch under the railway bridge had been cleared.

87/21 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
Sharpe – Clerks wages – January (SO)	£230.20	
J. Sharpe – TsoHost annual fee	£129.46	£21.58
VH&RG – Sinking Fund 20/21 & 21/22	£1,400	
WODC – Grass cutting – April	£390.06	£65.01
P. Merry – Green repairs and post maintenance	£175	
Moore – External Audit Fees	£200	
Received – Nil		

88/21 Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2020/21

The 2020/2021 Audit forms comprising of 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 completed forms to the external auditors and to upload all documents onto the website.**

89/21 Report from County Councillor

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Graham and congratulated him on his election as County Councillor for the Woodstock Division.

Cllr Graham said that under the new administration the County Council's priorities had changed and that climate change, active travel with more use of bus travel and changes to the home to school bus transport policy were key priorities within the current budget.

Cllr Graham outlined the process for obtaining a 20mph speed limit through the village. Following a discussion, disappointment from the Parish Councillors and bearing in mind the considerable amount of work already undertaken by the Parish Council he agreed to start the process straight away by facilitating a meeting between himself, James Wright, OCC Highways and Combe Parish Councillors to discuss the issues.

Cllr Graham also reported that work to repair large areas of the verge along Akeman Street were in the current programme of works and that we will be notified of a date as soon as the schedule has been agreed.

Weekly bulletins will be available for all to access via Facebook, please visit Woodstock and Villages (@Woodstocklibdems) and Cllr Andy Graham @AndyGrahamUK for more information.

90/21 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Chapple reported that under the new administration she and recently elected Cllr Parkinson would be attending as many Parish Council meetings as possible. With the new District Council just formed and with everyone settling into their new roles and responsibilities there was nothing else to report at this time.

91/21 Planning Applications

21/01643/HHD – 43 Knott Oaks – two-storey extension to rear of dwelling. There were no comments or objections to the planning application, however reference to the lack of a design and access statement was made. **Action – Clerk to notify decision to WODC and to follow up additional documentation.**

92/21 Speedwatch Update

AR reported the following summary of information obtained from the SIDs for the month of May: Total vehicles passing the 2 SIDs in April was **10,091** compared with **12,032** in April, the first month-on-month decrease since we began recording data in January. Of those **10,091** vehicles, **5,068** passed the Akeman St SID (from the north) and **5023** passed the Stonesfield Rd SID (from the west). The *average* speed recorded at Akeman St in May was **33.6mph**. The *average speed* recorded at Stonesfield Road was **29.3mph**. At Akeman Street, **71.9%** of traffic was recorded at 30mph and above. At Stonesfield Road that figure was **46.47%**. The highest speed recorded was an incredible **62.5mph** (a new record) at Akeman St. Three vehicles were recorded travelling at more than 60mph – one at 5-6am, another between 3-4pm, i.e., when school finishes, and a third at 6-7pm. At Stonesfield Road, the highest speed recorded was **47.6mph**. In terms of traffic volumes: hourly traffic volumes peaked at (a monthly average of) **501** between 5-6pm on Akeman St and **560** between 8-9am on Stonesfield Rd. NB: Remember, the SIDs only record vehicles passing in one direction i.e., north-to-south on Akeman St, and west-to-east on Stonesfield Rd.

93/21 Village Design Statement Update

DP reported that the completed text had been sent to WODC in April. An acknowledgement had been received and a response was hoped for by the end of June.

94/21 Gigaclear Update

DC reported that the survey of Church Walk was still outstanding and that discussions with Gigaclear to connect Church Walk, together with the application for the free community connection and outstanding repairs were ongoing. Cllr Chapple offered to follow up the Church Walk connection with Gigaclear direct. **Action – ES and DC to follow up with Gigaclear.**

95/21 Village Travel Network Update

DC outlined the VTN work to date and in particular the involvement with Blenheim enabling children to cycle through the park to school in Woodstock and the possibility of a cycle route through the park and up Swan Hill for easy access to the Hanborough railway station.

96/21 Playpark repair work

The Clerk presented the quote of £445 (ex VAT) received from Trevor Stewart to cut off the rotting posts on the zip wire, cradle swing frame and small climbing/slide unit, dig out the foundations and supply and fit custom-made galvanised metal post shoe brackets, re-concrete, re-treat the cut posts and dispose of all waste.

Due to the specialist work involved it was agreed that further quotes would not be required. JH proposed that the quote be accepted, MG seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a resolution passed.

Action – Clerk to notify Trevor Stewart.

97/21 Stone Marker

Following discussion regarding the existing position of the stone marker and a suggestion that it should be removed and placed in the centre of the village for safe keeping and as an item of interest, a vote was taken. The vote was split with 3 members in favour for and 3 members against moving it. The Chairman used her casting vote and it was agreed that the stone should remain in its current position but that efforts must be made to protect it from further damage from the frost and grass/hedge cutters. **Action – Chairman to investigate forms of protection.**

98/21 Pound Wall

Concern about the condition of the wall was discussed. It was agreed to obtain quotes to remove the ivy from the complete section of the wall in the care of the Parish Council. **Action – Clerk to obtain quotes for the July meeting.**

99/21 Stonesfield Road Hedges

Following complaints and after further investigation it was agreed to write to the owners of 28 and 26 Stonesfield Road, the SSE regarding the electricity sub-station and Winthorpe, Akeman Street requesting that they make arrangements for their overgrown hedges to be trimmed back to stop them overhanging the footpath. **Action – Clerk to write to each household and the SSE.**

100/21 Urgent Correspondence - Nil

101/21 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe