

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th July 2021 - approved

Present

- Elena Softley (ES) – Chairman
- Michael Green (MG)
- Deborah Phillips (DP)
- Denise Cripps (DC)
- Cllr Graham
- Cllr Parkinson
- Julia Sharpe - Clerk
- Members of the Public – None

102/21 Apologies

Alan Revell, John Hunt

103/21 Questions from the Public

Complaint of parking in Knott Oaks and overhanging branches in Akeman Street – deferred to the annual Parish walk

104/21 Register of Interests

Chairman – Planning applications in Horns Lane

105/21 Minutes of the last meetings

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9th June 2021 were read and signed as correct

106/21 Clerks report and progress on actions

Wildflower Verges, Little Lane – concern re grass overhanging the footpath – DP to ask Janet Robinson-Wood to ensure that that the footpath is kept clear. The Clerk reported that the bank outside Corner Cottage, Chatterpie Lane has been cut – DP to check with Jo McKechnie if the bank is no longer a designated wildflower area.

Action - DP

Bonfire/Firework arrangements – Confirmation received from Mrs Balfour that the field will be available to use.

Playpark Work – work has commenced.

Marker Stone – The Chairman reported that she had sourced a suitable guard to protect the marker stone for around £169. MG suggested relocating the stone approx. 2m further up the hill and incorporating it in the existing wall which is due for repair. Chairman and MG to arrange site meeting.

Action – Chairman and MG

Overgrown Hedges – some action has been taken by residents. Final check to be made on the August Parish walk.

107/21 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received and to approve first quarter accounts and summary payments

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages – January (SO)	£230.20	
HMRC – PAYE	£460.41	
J. Sharpe – TsoHost standard SSL Certificate annual fee	£49.99	£8.33
Cox & Browning – Internal Audit	£264.00	£44.00
WODC – Grass cutting – May	£300.06	£50.01
P. Merry – strimming Alma Grove, post maintenance & cleaning	£230	£175
Cotswold Line Annual Membership	£15	
WODC – Grass Cutting – June	£300.06	£50.01
Received – Nil		

The Clerk presented the accounts and summary payments records for the first quarter of the 2021-22 financial year. DP proposed that the accounts be accepted, DC seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution was passed.

108/21 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that James Wright was awaiting the plan locating the existing 30mph signs. There were no questions relating to the Councillor's weekly reports.

Action - Clerk to forward plan to OCC.

109/21 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Parkinson attended the meeting to introduce himself. The Chairman welcomed him to the meeting.

110/21 Planning Applications

21/01802/FUL – Sutterton, Horns Lane – time extension – no objection

21/02128/HHD – Forest View, 10 Stonesfield Road – proposed entrance porch, new timber cladding, changes to windows and door openings and replacement windows, stone boundary wall and entrance gates – no objection

21/02266/HHD – Evenlode, Horns Lane – erection of single storey and two storey extension and single storey garden annex – objection on the grounds of loss of privacy/overlooking from the first-floor windows on the North West, South West and North East of the extension

21/02331/HHD – Southernwood, Church Walk – erection of a greenhouse – No objection

Action – Clerk to notify WODC

111/21 Speedwatch Update

AR provided the following report:

Total vehicles passing the 2 SIDs in June was **10,522** compared with **10,091** in May. Of those **10,522** vehicles, **5992** passed the Akeman Street SID (from the north) and **4530** passed the Stonesfield Road SID (from the west). In the case of Akeman Street, this represented a significant increase on the previous month, while the Stonesfield Road count was a *decrease* on the previous month. I am not sure why this would be - perhaps recent road works in Stonesfield impacted the numbers from that direction.

The *average* speed recorded at Akeman St in June was **33.7mph**, 0.1mph higher than the previous month.

The *average speed* recorded at Stonesfield Road was **29mph**, marginally slower than in May.

At Akeman Street, **72.6%** of traffic was recorded as travelling at above the speed limit, another month-on-month increase

At Stonesfield Road that figure was **44.3%**, a month-on-month decrease

The highest speed recorded was a barely-credible **67.2mph** (another new record) at Akeman St. Five vehicles were recorded travelling at more than 60mph - one at 10am, another between 4-5pm i.e., soon when school finishes, and another 3 between 6-7pm. Another 2 vehicles were recorded as travelling in excess of 65mph, one at 5-6am and another at 10-11pm

At Stonesfield Road, where the road bends, the highest speed recorded was **47.6mph**. A total of 6 vehicles were recorded as travelling at between 45 and 50mph, including one at 9-10am and one at 3-4pm.

In terms of traffic volumes: Hourly traffic volumes peaked at (a monthly average of) **694** between 5-6pm on Akeman St and **466** between 8-9am on Stonesfield Rd. This was lower than in the previous month, again perhaps due to the road works/closures in Stonesfield

The coming months data will presumably establish if this is a correct hypothesis.

112/21 Village Design Statement Update

DP reported that the response from WODC had been postponed until the end of July.

113/21 Gigaclear Update

DC reported that Dominic Hones had confirmed that Church Walk would definitely be included in the build programme with part of the network underground and part overground using the existing overhead telephone cables. An updated contract for the free connection is still outstanding. Gigaclear have declined to provide a second free connection.

Action - Clerk to inform Church Walk residents

114/21 Village Travel Network Update

DC provided copies of maps for Councillors to mark with suggested additional routes for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. It was agreed that the key route would be from Combe Gate to the Hanborough Railway station.

Action – All. DC to send copy of proposed routes to Councillor Parkinson.

115/21 Removal of Ivy and other vegetation from the Pound wall

Following the tender process one quote to remove the ivy was received. MG proposed that the quote be accepted, DP seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

Action - Clerk to notify all concerned.

116/21 River Pollution – untreated sewage in the river Evenlode

The routine and increasing number of incidents when water operating companies dispose of untreated sewage into local rivers was discussed. It was agreed to write to Robert Courts MP raising local concern. Draft letter to be circulated prior to sending.

Action - All

117/21 Financial Contribution for Queens Jubilee 2022

The possibility of making a financial contributing to village events during the forthcoming celebrations was discussed. It was agreed, in principle, that a contribution would be available in line with Jubilee celebrations in previous years.

118/21 Urgent Correspondence

None

119/21 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 11th August at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe followed by the annual parish walk