

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th November 2021 - approved

Present

Elena Softley (ES) – Chairman
Alan Revell (AR) – Vice Chairman
Deborah Phillips (DP)
Denise Cripps (DC)
John Hunt (JH)
Cllr Graham
Julia Sharpe - Clerk

Members of the Public – 1

163/21 Apologies

Michael Green (MG), Cllr Parkinson

164/21 Questions from the Public

Mobile telephone signal – request for mobile mast in or near the village - the general opinion was that there is a good mobile signal indoors with the use of wifi calling but that there may be areas in the village where the signal is weaker, but this depends on the provider. Advised to make representation to own provider and to get an idea of the level of support from others.

School bus pick up outside Stores Cottage – The Parish Council were not consulted about this and are not aware of the arrangements in place. Alternative pick up places could possibly be the school gate or by the noticeboard on the green where the other school buses pick up. Advised to contact the bus company direct.

165/21 Register of Interests

None

166/21 Bonfire Night Review

Don Slatter (Event Manager) attended to give his report on the evening. DS reported that the evening had been a great success and that the detailed pre-planning had been essential, it had been good to see so many volunteers, including a number of new faces, and he thanked them for their hard work. He said some minor changes had been made which had led to the success. A number of suggestions were made for next year. The Chairman proposed a vote of that to DS for managing the event and to MG for all of his support.

Action – Clerk to thank all volunteers.

167/21 Minutes of the last meetings

Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on Wednesday 13th October and the extraordinary meeting held on 5th October were read and signed as correct.

168/21 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

WODC Bin Replacements – Akeman Street bin relocated. Monitor the situation at the Halt, Blenheim Gate and VHRG by the Churchyard. **Action – December agenda item.**

Gigaclear Update – DC reported that Gigaclear had confirmed that the overhead section of Church Walk from Ivy Cottage to West Cottage would start on 15th November and the other section completed by the end of the year. Mayfield Cottage issue has been referred to the contractor responsible.

Post Office – the Clerk reported that she had received a negative response from the post office regarding reinstating an afternoon collection. **Action – Clerk to forward correspondence to Cllr Graham.**

Lighting at Combe Halt – response from GWR confirming that Network Rail are responsible. No response received from Network Rail. **Action – Clerk to contact Network Rail.**

Bin at The Halt – GWR responded by stating that our complaint has been passed to the cleaning team.

Playpark – the Clerk reported that the slide had been repaired. **Action - JH/JS to meet to agree works to overhanging trees by the swings, broken zip wire cover, insecure gate fixing and wobbly see-saw post.**

WODC – Settlement Sustainability Report – it was agreed that the largest challenges for the next 5 years included affordable housing for the community, flooding, traffic, both speed and increased volume, impact of Blenheim as an increasingly popular leisure destination (e.g., parking overflow at Combe Gate, increasing number of events that lead to road closures, noise and light pollution from seasonal events, etc), transport links – need for the provision of integrated transport links, including active and sustainable methods such as cycling, infrastructure – need to encourage more local services, e.g. shops, development of the pub, reinstatement of postal services (e.g. a priority post-box). **Action – DC to complete and submit survey.**

OALC Update – Remote meetings survey – the Chairman offered to complete and submit the online survey.

Emergency plan update – the Clerk reported that the EP is in the process of being updating.

139/21 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that James Wright is now in the process of completing the 20 mph plan for Combe and that the plan, together with costings, will be available within the next month. **Action – Clerk to notify JW date of December meeting.**

Cllr Graham’s bulletin including details of the Stonesfield 20mph scheme, the Woodstock parking scheme and new health centre was discussed and there were no questions.

140/21 Report from District Councillor

Neither Cllr Parkinson or Cllr Chapple attended the meeting and no report was received.

141/21 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages – October (SO)	£230.20	
J. Sharpe – bonfire equipment expenses	£195.74	£31.12
WODC Grass Cutting – September	£300.06	£50.01
P. Merry – Post maintenance	£25	
Witney Welding – Playpark repairs	£120	£20
Received		
Bonfire donations	£1444.53	

142/21 Planning Applications

21/03506/HHD & 21/03507/LBC - Combe House Bungalow, Church Walk, – refurbishment and internal layout adjustments of the cottage within the curtilage of Combe House – no comments or objections
Action – Clerk to notify WODC.

143/21 Speedwatch Update

AR presented the October Speedwatch figures:

	Total	Number of vehicles		Average Speed		Above 30 mph		Highest Speed		Average Hourly	
		Akeman Street	S’field Road	Akeman Street	S’field Road	Akeman Street	S’field Road	Akeman Street	S’field Rd	Akeman Street 5-6pm	S’field Road 8-9am
Sep	12450	5787	6753	33.7	30.2	73.3%	55.0%	63.5	54.1	689	685
											9-10am
Oct	12540	5118	7422	33.7	30.2	69.2%	54.7%	67.1	>70	575	635

144/21 Village Design Statement Update

DP reported that the VDS is nearing completion and thanked Sophie Johnson, David O’Brien and Simon Phillips for their involvement. The next stage is a 3-week online consultation period and the village consultation on Saturday 20th November, after which the document will go to WODC for approval and adoption. The Chairman thanked DP for all her work on this project.

145/21 Village Transport Network Update

DC reported that the VTN steering group had met with Blenheim and that additional cycling routes had been suggested. Hopefully, work on a cycle route from Woodstock/Bladon to Hanborough Rail station will start soon. DC is continuing to push for action on West-East cycle routes, i.e. from Combe/Long Hanborough to Hanborough Rail station.

146/21 To Agree 2022/23 Budget

The 2022/2023 budget was discussed and suggestions made. Clerk to amend figures and re-present at the December meeting.

Action – Clerk to update figures and circulate prior to December meeting.

147/21 To Approve Donations to Combe Courier and Geophysical Survey

JH proposed a donation of £150 to the Combe Courier to cover additional printing costs. ES seconded the proposal, a vote was taken, one councillor abstained from voting the others were in favour and a resolution was passed.

Action – Clerk to notify Courier and raise a cheque for signature at the December meeting.

All were in favour to financially support the Geophysical Survey of the field adjacent to Combe Mill. The amount to be agreed once other contributors are identified.

Action – Clerk to notify outcome to George Speake.

148/21 To Approve 2022 Meeting Dates

Dates for the 2022 Parish Council meetings and provisional dates for additional planning meetings were circulated and agreed.

149/21 To Agree Budget for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

In principle all were in favour of providing some financial support to the village Jubilee celebrations with the amount to be agreed nearer the time.

150/21 Urgent Correspondence

Requests for donations from the Witney Baby Bank and Clean Slate.

Action – Clerk to circulate details to Parish Councillors.

151/21 Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 8th December at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe.