

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 - Approved

Present

- Elena Softley (ES) – Chair
- Deborah Phillips (DP) – Vice Chair
- Denise Cripps (DC)
- Alan Revell (AR)
- Michael Green (MG)
- John Hunt (JH)
- Julia Sharpe - Clerk

- Members of the Public – 3

110/22 Apologies

Cllr Graham (OCC), Cllr Parkinson (WODC)

111/22 Questions from the Public

Children at play sign at the play park – It was agreed to add this to the October agenda. **Action – Clerk.**
Letter from Apple House re removal of trees – noted.

112/22 Meryllyn Davies – Community Officer, Blenheim

The Chair introduced Meryllyn and thanked her for attending the meeting.

Meryllyn explained that the position of Community Officer is new to Blenheim. She said that she sees her role to be the voice for the community, to liaise with Blenheim to ensure that local villages' concerns are considered by Blenheim and that Blenheim better communicate their plans. Meryllyn is a local resident and aware of many of the local issues, she will represent the villages of Bladon, Cassington, Long and Church Hanborough, Freeland Stonesfield, Wootton, and Combe and act as the Blenheim Representative on the Village Travel Network (VTN) group.

113/22 Michael Green – Footpaths and Trespass through Crops

MG thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity to express his concern regarding the use of footpaths, in particular the spoilage caused to the crops by walkers and their dogs not keeping to the footpath and also the dog mess in the food crops. He was also concerned walkers seem to think they can walk anywhere they like, which is causing enormous economic losses to the farm. This led him to block off an entrance to Frogden Wood which walkers were using, having crossed the wheat crop from the footpath. The farm cast a blind eye on the trespassing during Covid but this had increased the problem. Members of the Parish Council empathised with MG's concerns and felt that communication of these issues would help to raise awareness among the community.

Jonathan Ford (member of the public) said that he wished to see improved amenity, biodiversity, community, and a reduced carbon footprint in our Parish and that he would like to see a forum in which the most influential land managers in the Parish identify what can be done to respond to these issues. He asked if this was something that Blenheim, MG and our elected representatives would welcome. Jonathan Ford offered to arrange a meeting between interested parties. The footpath issues would also be discussed at this meeting.

114/22 Register of Interests

None

115/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th August were agreed and signed as correct.

116/22 Clerks Report and Progress on Actions

Soil Sample update – MG said that the soil sample was still waiting to be sent for analysis.

Church Walk Repairs – still on OCC schedule.

Combe Feast 2023 – it was agreed to invite members of the Hebborn family to the February meeting.

Action – Clerk.

Gigaclear – DC reported that she had requested a site meeting with Gigaclear and affected residents on Church Walk to address and resolve the issues and to move the Gigaclear project in Combe to its conclusion.

Christmas Tree Lights – a request from FOCSH to hold the annual event on the Little Green on Saturday 3rd December was approved.

117/22 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Amount	VAT element
WODC – Grass Cutting - June	£258.18	£43.03
Don Slatter – Fireworks	£1054.73	£175.84
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages – August	£234.05	
P. Merry – Monthly maintenance & ivy removal	£100	
WODC – Grass Cutting – July & August	£258.18	£43.03
WODC – bin emptying	£100.09	£16.68
Received		
Precept	£7,014.50	

118/22 Planning Applications

None

119/22 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham was unable to attend but sent his apologies.

120/22 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Parkinson was not present but sent a report stating that is likely that the Village Design Statement will be on the October Cabinet Agenda to be considered for further consultation with a view to it becoming a Supplementary Planning Document to the Local Plan.

121/22 VDS Update

DP said she has received very positive comments following the review of the VDS by a senior officer at WODC and that subject to the decision made by the Cabinet at the October meeting there would be a period of six weeks for further consultation at District level before a final decision being made.

122/22 VH&RG Update

AR reported that several VH&RG committee members had recently resigned leaving the committee short of members and people able to undertake specific tasks. He said that the VH&RG committee are actively seeking additional members to join the committee and a further update will be made at the October Parish Council Meeting. **Action – October Agenda item.**

123/22 RoSPA Inspection

JH reported that the zip wire and roundabout had been identified as needing interim attention. It was agreed to obtain tenders to provide and install more permanent matting around the roundabout and to obtain a specific tool to maintain the zip wire. **Action – Clerk to discuss with Trevor Stewart and obtain quotes.**

124/22 Bonfire Night Arrangements

The Clerk reported that the fireworks have been purchased and that a meeting to review the Risk Assessment and task/action list has been arranged with Don Slatter. A full briefing update will be made at the October meeting. **Action – October Agenda Item.**

125/22 UBICO feedback request

Remove from agenda.

126/22 Climate Emergency

It was agreed to link this item with item number 113/22 above and for the group to consider this along with the other local issues.

127/22 The Cock Inn – New ownership

It was agreed to invite the new owners to attend a future Parish Council meeting to enable the Council to express their interest in the future development plans for the pub and to discuss potential issues such as parking and noise as the property remains an asset of community value.

It was also agreed to invite the pub to provide a bar at the forthcoming Bonfire night celebrations. **Action – Clerk.**

128/22 Urgent Correspondence

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 12th October at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe.