

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th November 2022 – approved

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair Alan Revell was elected by the members present to act as Chair for the meeting.

Present

- Alan Revell (AR) - Chair
- Denise Cripps (DC)
- Michael Green (MG)
- John Hunt (JH)
- Cllr Graham (OCC),
- Cllr Parkinson (WODC)
- Julia Sharpe – Clerk
- One member of the public

146/22 Apologies

Elena Softley – Chair, Deborah Phillips – Vice Chair.

147/22 Questions from the Public

Overhanging trees along the Little Lane from Orchard Close to Chatterpie Lane – passed to the OCC tree officer to investigate.

148/22 Register of Interests

MG – Planning – Blenheim Solar Project, AR – VH&RG – donation application.

149/22 Firework Display Update

Don Slatter attended for this item and reported that the evening had gone well with no reported incidents. The firework display had been excellent and well received and a good number of people had attended, despite the weather and lack of bonfire. The VH&RG Committee had provided a pop-up bar. The owner of the animals had not removed them from the field but had been present throughout the display and there were no incidents. Next year additional volunteers and first aiders will be required. MG agreed to remove the spent firework cases from the field. The Chair thanked Don for his dedicated work.

150/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th October were read. Item number 131/22, line 7 was amended to read – DC said that she would not contact the school on this occasion. The minutes were then signed as correct.

151/22 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Soil Sample update – outstanding – MG.

OCC Highways – site visit from OCC highlighted additional potholes in Church Walk, West End, Chatterpie Lane and Orchard Close needing repair. MG asked for the gullies along Akeman Street to be cleared.

Action – Clerk to report to OCC.

The Cock Inn – no contact.

20mph Report – AR reported that the initial reports from the cameras show a slight reduction in the speed. AR to analyse the data and to provide a detailed report.

Pension Regulator Registration – to comply with regulations the Clerk was asked and declined pension contributions.

Poppy Wreath – Major Henry Freeland has offered to lay the wreath. MG agreed to act as stand-in if required.

Combe Feast – the Clerk reported that Hebborns have confirmed that they will bring a funfair in 2023.

Action – Clerk to invite them to attend the March Meeting.

152/22 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages – October	£234.05	
J. Sharpe – First Aid Station Banner	£30.96	
WODC – Grass Cutting – September	£56.89	£9.48
CPRE – Annual Membership	£36	
British Legion – Poppy Wreath	£25	
VH&RG – Annual Donation	£700	
Received		
Bonfire Collection	£879	

153/22 Planning Applications

Blenheim Solar Project – the Botley West Solar Farm which incorporates areas of Hanborough was discussed. The Chair circulated documentation for the Parish Councillors to consider. It was agreed that Councillors would comment individually to the Chair and that he would collate the comments and circulate a draft response prior to submitting it to the West Botley consultation process. **Action – All Councillors.**

154/22 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that the Home to School Transport Policy would be considered by the Cabinet in January. The 20mph implementation is on schedule with schemes for Bladon, Wootton, and Barton ongoing. He urged the Council to participate in the Local Plan consultation meetings.

155/22 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Parkinson said that as part of the WODC commitment to delivering the best services possible, they regularly consult with the community on a wide range of proposals and plans. He also recommends involvement with the consultations. Cllr Parkinson said that his contact at Gigaclear has left the company but that he would continue to work with them to resolve the issues in Church Walk and Combe Gate.

156/22 VH&RG – Request for Additional Donation

Madeline Laxton and David Lee from the VH&RG Committee attended for this item and thanked the Parish Council for the annual £700 donation. ML reported that despite ongoing efforts to recruit more people the committee has resource issues with insufficient committee members and people with the required skills, particularly around fund raising, grant applications and project management. The annual maintenance plan together with the 2021/22 accounts and 2022/23 forecast accounts were circulated and discussed. Due to increased energy costs and other increased costs the running costs alone show a projected loss of around £1,300 this is without any expenditure on building maintenance works. A request for an additional grant to cover this loss was made. It was agreed that a long-term plan to address the running costs issues and to address building maintenance was required. Cllr Graham suggested that his Priority Fund could possibly be used to part-fund the grant if the Parish Council also agreed to part-fund. **Action – December Agenda for agreement.**

157/22 Gigaclear Update

DC reported that a meeting was due to take place on Thursday 10th November with Gigaclear representatives and residents of Church Walk and that she would report back once that meeting had taken place. **Action – DC.**

158/22 2023/24 Budget

The Clerk presented the 2022/23 budget detailing the actual half year payments and projected end of year payments showing that the expenditure is expected to be in line with the budget prediction. Consideration for an increase in the Clerk's wages, in line with the NALC guidelines and possibly an increased annual donation to the VH&RG need to be figured in to the 2023/24 budget. Members were tasked with considering the budget requirements for further discussion at the December meeting by which time WODC will have provided the base figures to work with. **Action – ALL.**

159/22 Playpark Quotes

As no other quotes had been received and it was agreed to offer the contract to replace the running track around the spinning disk to Trevor Stewart. It was also agreed to ask him to repair the zipwire brake and to tighten the wire. **Action – Clerk to liaise with TS.**

160/22 May Elections

Deferred to the December meeting.

161/22 Urgent Correspondence

None.

Next Meeting

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