

# COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - approved

## Present

- Deborah Phillips (DP) – Vice Chair
- Denise Cripps (DC)
- Alan Revell (AR)
- Michael Green (MG)
- John Hunt (JH)
- Cllr Graham (OCC),
- Julia Sharpe – Clerk
- Members of the Public – 0

## 162/22 Apologies

Elena Softley, Cllr Parkinson

## 163/22 Questions from the Public

None

## 164/22 Register of Interests

AR – Village Hall and Recreation Ground donation.

## 165/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November were read and signed as correct.

## 166/22 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

**Soil sample update** – MG outstanding.

**Overhanging trees** – Orchard Close, no response from OCC. Clerk to contact neighbouring landowner.

**20mph Report** – AR reported that analysis of the Speed Indicator Device data for November against the 2021 data for the same period shows that there was a substantial increase in the number of vehicles entering the village – particularly from the Stonesfield direction but that, to date, there has been a small reduction in drivers' average speed. It was agreed to continue to monitor the data on a monthly basis and hope that over time people's driving behaviour will change.

**Alma Grove wall** – as a result of a road traffic accident a section of the Alma Grove wall has been damaged. The Police, Blenheim and the Alma Grove tenant are aware. The wall is private property and the Parish Council are not responsible for repairing the wall.

**Blenheim Solar Project** – AR to circulate proposed response to all Councillors for final agreement and prior to submission to the enquiry by 22/12/11.

**Playpark** – repairs to the ground around the roundabout are in hand. JH reported that there were no new issues.

**Emergency Plan** – annual update due, request for additional volunteers. DC suggested including information on power outages. **Action – Clerk.**

## 167/22 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages – November	£234.05	
WODC – Grass Cutting – October	£56.89	£9.48
J. Sharpe – Stamps & Email storage	£20.74	
<b>Received</b>		
Bonfire Collection	£10	

## 168/22 Planning Applications

**22/03320/HHD – 28 Knott Oaks** – an application to re-design an existing bedroom in the roof space with rear dormer was discussed. There were no comments or objections. **Action – Clerk to notify WODC.**

## 169/22 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that the County Council's 2023/24 budget is out for consultation until the end of December. He said that within the context of rising inflation and rising demand for OCC's services (e.g., adult social care, SEND), the administration is seeking to create a balanced and fair budget that protects the most vulnerable residents. Since the government has not provided funding to meet the costs of inflation, OCC has been required to make £44m of real-terms savings. However, the administration has sought to protect budgets impacting vulnerable residents, with particular emphasis on children with special education needs and disability.

Oxford United FC – an alternative piece of land has been identified and is being considered.

Solar Botley West Project – the Council has appointed a Senior Planning Officer to undertake a Local Impact Assessment.

S3 Bus Service – the current service is subsidised for a further year however the service is not viable and the need for the service needs to be demonstrated or the subsidy and service could be withdrawn.

## 170/22 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Parkinson was unable to attend.

## 171/22 Gigaclear Update

DC reported that the new Customer Services representative has been very proactive and that work to connect one property in Church Walk is now scheduled for February 2023. **Action – DC to clarify position for other outstanding properties.**

## 172/22 Village Hall and Recreation Ground Donation

The request presented to the November Parish Council meeting by members of the VH&RG committee for an additional grant of £1,300 was discussed. JH proposed awarding the grant in principle but to not agree the actual amount until funding from the County Council's Priority Fund and the CC's Community Building Energy Support Scheme had been confirmed. DC seconded the proposal; all were in agreement and a Resolution was passed. **Action – AR to notify VH&RG.**

## 173/22 Combe Courier Donation

The annual donation to the Combe Courier was discussed. It was agreed that the Courier provides a good service to the village and has the support of the Parish Council. DP proposed that the Parish Council donate £150 in line with previous years. JH seconded the proposal. A vote was taken, one councillor abstained, all other members in attendance agreed and a Resolution was passed. **Action – Clerk, cheque for signature at the January Meeting.**

## 174/22 Annual Clerk's Pay Review

DP proposed that the Clerk's pay increase in line with the NALC pay award be accepted from April 2023. DC seconded the proposal; all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

## 175/22 2023/24 Budget and Precept

The proposed budget was discussed. DP proposed that the budget be accepted, DC seconded the proposal, all were in favour and a Resolution passed.

Precept – MG proposed that the increase of 3.1% to the Parish Council element of the Council Tax be accepted, JH seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed. **Action – Clerk to notify WODC.**

## 176/22 Urgent Correspondence

None

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe