

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 - Approved

Present

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

1/23 Apologies

None

2/23 Questions from the Public

A request for additional posts on the corner by Blacksmiths Cottage, West End was agreed. **Action – Clerk to arrange.**

3/23 Register of Interests

None

4/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th December 2022 were read and signed as correct.

5/23 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Soil Sample – no update from MG.

Orchard Close, Overhanging trees – no response from OCC or adjacent landowner. **Action – Clerk to follow up.**

Playpark – JH reported that there were no outstanding issues.

2023 Parish Council Elections – it was agreed to advertise the OALC zoom meetings and to book the Reading Room for the 25th March for a questions and answers session. **Action – Clerk.**

6/23 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk's wages – December	£234.05	
Combe Courier Donation	£150.00	

7/23 Accounts and Summary Payments

The accounts and summary payments from 1/4/22 – 31/12/22 were circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions. The Chair proposed that the accounts and summary payments be accepted, this was seconded by DP, all were in agreement and a Resolution accepting the documents was passed.

8/23 Planning Applications

22/03323/HHD – Two storey extension in place of existing garage, with connection to the existing property. New garden office with facilities to replace existing garden outbuilding and greenhouse at 9 Orchard Close The application was considered. There were no comments or objections. **Action – Clerk to inform WODC.**

9/23 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that the OCC 2023/24 budget has been settled with a better than expected outcome meaning that current services are secured. The Stagecoach S3 £2 single fair bus ride scheme will continue until the end of March with the hope of introducing a £1 scheme for young people. Recommendations from the Home to School transport working party are expected at the end of January. Cllr Graham urged the Parish Council to apply for a grant from the Councillor's Priority Fund.

DC asked how the Parish Council could more effectively lobby Thames Water regarding the unacceptable sewage outflows. Cllr Graham advised that the PC email specific concerns to Cllr Parkinson who will ensure that the issues are raised at the monthly WODC meetings with Thames Water. **Action – DC to draft email.**

10/23 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Parkinson reported that West Oxfordshire District Council's Cabinet have agreed to support a new pan-regional partnership that will include councils and other organisations from Oxford to Cambridge, who will work together to boost the area's economy and environmental ambition. Cllr Graham added that the partnership has submitted a proposal to the Government which will unlock future funding for the programme and a new board will be established to take forward the partnership ambition and develop a work programme. He said that the Government has already committed an initial £250,000 to the partnership. West Oxfordshire District Council will be contributing £4,000 a year as part of funding from partners across the project which will help unlock further investment from the Government.

In addition, Cllr Parkinson reported that WODC have recently refunded pavement licences.

11/23 Gigaclear Update

DC reported that she is continuing to work with Gigaclear to resolve the issue of having points of access to all properties irrespective of whether occupants currently want to use the service and also outstanding issues with the Combe Gate accessibility.

12/23 Akeman Street Drainage

MG raised the surface water drainage problem along Akeman Street which is causing deterioration to the Alma Grove wall and erosion of the verge. It was agreed that the wall needs to be retained as it is an integral part of the village. In addition to requesting OCC to clear and re-instate the gullies it was agreed to request a meeting with OCC engineers to look at a longer-term solution for the drainage issues. **Action – Clerk to arrange meeting with Chris Grain.**

13/23 Coronation Memorabilia

Marking the Coronation with a bespoke commemorative mug in line with previous major events was discussed. It was agreed to make enquiries with Aston Pottery for further discussion at the February meeting. **Action – Clerk.**

14/23 Urgent Correspondence

There was no urgent correspondence.

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe