

# COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - Approved

## Present

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

## 15/22 Apologies

Michael Green, John Hunt.

## 16/22 Questions from the Public

None.

## 17/22 Register of Interests

None.

## 18/22 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The previously circulated minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January were agreed and signed as correct.

## 19/22 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

**Alma Grove Soil Sample** – Update from MG outstanding.

**Overhanging trees, Orchard Close** – OCC have confirmed that the trees are not their responsibility. Enquiries ongoing with adjacent landowner.

**Playpark** – No issues reported by JH.

**SID Data** – AR reported that the new speed limits have yet to have a dramatic effect on traffic at the point it enters the village. It was agreed to hold some Speedwatch sessions in the Spring. **Action – AR to arrange.**

**VH&RG Update** – AR confirmed that the VH&RG have been awarded an Energy grant from WODC and a grant from the County Councillor's Priority Fund and that additional funding requests are ongoing.

**Gulley Cleaning, Akeman Street** – Meeting with Chris Grain, OCC outstanding.

**Election Planning** – The Clerk confirmed that the Reading Room has been booked for Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> from 11.00 – 12.30pm.

**Coronation Mugs and Fundraising** – The design supplied by Sue Goodman was approved. Enquiries ongoing with Aston Pottery. A suggestion to use the Big Help Out to raise funds to enable the Winter Warmer sessions was discussed and rejected.

**Courier** – Thank you email from the Courier – noted.

**Fireworks** – Letter to Mrs Balfour requesting continuing support for our annual firework display. **Action – Clerk.**

**Request for PCC for funding for path through churchyard** – March agenda.

**Donation request from Clean Slate** – Declined.

## 20/22 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk's wages – January	£234.05	
Sophie Johnson – VDS	£90	
VH&RG	£377	
Reading Room – Room Hire	£96	
<b>Received</b>	Nil	

## 21/22 Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to be considered.

**Combe House, traffic management** – Late notification received by the school that all site traffic is to use the entrance to Combe House from Horns Lane that runs through the school buildings has raised safeguarding and traffic management implications for the school, school governors and residents. It was agreed that traffic should use the entrance to Combe House from Church Walk. **Action – Clerk to set up site meeting with project management team and request Traffic Management Plan. Cllr Graham agreed to investigate the planning process with WODC planning and OCC Highways – Clerk to forward all correspondence.**

## 22/22 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that the OCC budget had been agreed and that the Council would be working to make a balanced approach without the need to make drastic cuts to services. Additional money has been allocated for pothole repairs and gully clearing. The County Councillor's Priority Find has been extended for a further two years.

## 23/22 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that WODC are to meet with the developers of the Botley Solar Farm to ensure that residents' concerns are heard as a priority. WODC are also investigating heritage sites that could be affected by the development.

Cllr Parkinson reported that the WODC budget will be presented to Council week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> February. The Salt Cross development is still pending, three new electric vehicles have been added to the fleet and WODC have become the landlords of Marriotts Walk. The WODC response to the National Planning Policy has been agreed and it is hoped this will see the need for a five-year land supply abolished.

## 24/22 Gigaclear Update

DC reported that the property in Church Walk had finally been successfully connected. Work ongoing to establish connections for Combe Gate and to clarify whether Gigaclear have a responsibility to make other properties in Church Walk connection ready. **Action – Cllr Parkinson to follow-up.**

## 25/22 Village Design Statement Update

DP reported that after a 14 month wait, Combe's Village Design Statement has been posted online by WODC for the final period of consultation: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/>

## 26/22 Annual Spring Clean

It was agreed that this year's spring clean would be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March, meeting on the green at 2pm followed by refreshments in the Reading Room. **Action – Clerk.**

## 27/22 Annual Parish Meeting

Following discussion, it was agreed to invite Cllr Charlie Maynard as the speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting to provide an update on WODC's relationship with Thames Water, their involvement with the Environment Agency on sewage outflow into our rivers and how Combe residents can effectively lobby for cleaner rivers and water. **Action – Clerk.**

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe