

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th April 2023 - Approved

Present

- Elena Softley (ES) – 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 – 1

42/23 Apologies

Deborah Phillips

43/23 Questions from the Public

None

44/23 Register of Interests

None

45/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th March were read and signed as correct.

46/23 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Soil Sample update – The Chair requested that MG deal with the soil sample as soon as practicable.

Little Lane – The Clerk reported that No Cycling signs have been purchased. **ACTION – JH to erect.**

Playpark – JH reported that there were no new issues to record.

SID Data – AR reported that the data from the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) had shown disappointing results with a high percentage of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. It was agreed to recruit volunteers to undertake Speedwatch sessions and for AR to look at alternative sites to relocate the SIDs further into the village. **ACTION – AR.**

Election Update – Five candidates stood for election and were therefore appointed in an uncontested election. It is hoped that the vacancy can be filled by co-option.

Spring Clean Update – The Chair thanked everyone who, despite the weather, came and helped with the Spring Clean. A good amount of rubbish was collected and the village looks much better for it.

Annual Parish Meeting – The Clerk reported that the guest speaker, Cllr Maynard, has confirmed that he will attend.

Combe Coronation Mugs – The Clerk reported that the Combe Coronation mugs have been commissioned and are available to pre-order.

47/23 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Amount	VAT element
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages – March	234.05	
Ubico – dog waste bin emptying	100.09	16.68
J. Sharpe, Viking & litter picking supplies	86.77	14.47
Aston Pottery – Coronation Mug Deposit	1,672.65	
Received		
OCC – VH Grant	1,000	

48/23 To Approve Year End Accounts and Summary Payments

The end of year accounts were circulated. ES proposed that the accounts for 2022/23 be accepted, DC seconded the proposal, all present were in agreement and a resolution to accept the accounts was passed.

49/23 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported on the problems caused by the S7 bus now turning at the Town Hall in Woodstock and said that negotiations were ongoing with the bus company. Regarding the Home to School Transport Improvements Policy he reported that the working group (of which he is Chair) has investigated the recommended areas of improvement as identified by County councillors, officers and residents, including: review the spare seats scheme so that it maximises the number of seats available to parents; ensure all county councillors report parents' concerns over the safety of walking routes and where necessary reassess routes; provide SEND training provision for post-16 students to increase independent travel; offer a more accessible and streamlined process for appeals. The result will be determined by the Cabinet in April/May 2023.

S3 Bus Service – In Spring 2024, Oxfordshire County Council will be undertaking a review of all the bus contracts secured using their emergency funds. They will be considering the case for the retention of each service and the funds that may be available at the time. Ultimately, the best way to secure the S3 bus service in the long term is for us all to make as full use of our local S3 bus as possible. The fare cap of £2.00 per journey has been extended to 30 June.

50/23 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Parkinson reported that the District Council are to undertake a fully evidence-backed assessment on the effects of the Botley Solar Farm. The woodlands along the Woodstock Road have been reduced to remove trees affected by Ash Die Back, to remove trees close the highway and to increase light further into the woodland. He said that it is assumed similar work on the A4095 was for similar reasons but agreed to investigate further. He also reported that the Council are undertaking a full review of the waste service including kerbside waste and recycling and asked for comments to be made direct to him.

51/23 Planning Applications

Combe House Update – The Chair reported that a further meeting with the owner and contractors, and representatives from the School and Parish Council had been held at which the owner assured all present that the school lane entrance would only be used in extreme circumstances if at all and that measures to provide warning signs for pedestrians at the Church Walk entrance are in hand.

23/00563/HHD 16 Stonesfield Road – A retrospective application for a log cabin at 16 Stonesfield Road was considered, it was agreed to object to the application on the grounds that it did not comply with existing planning policies in that outbuildings should not be built forward of the wall forming the principal elevation and its impact on the surroundings of the front curtilage.

23/00865/HHD 1 Orchard Close – An application for a replacement two-storey side extension and rear single storey extension at 1 Orchard Close was considered and there were no objections or comments.

52/23 Village Design Statement Update

DP reported that feedback from the district-wide consultation was very positive. A few minor amendments to the wording as suggested by Historic England will be made and then it is expected that the VDS will be recommended by WODC planners for adoption as a supplementary planning document later in the summer.

53/23 Gigaclear Update

DC reported that advice received from the District Councillor and Ofcom suggests that Gigaclear do not have to provide a connection to the remaining houses unless the occupants want to use the service.

Action – DC to advise residents affected.

54/23 Combe Feast Arrangements

Mr Hebborn was unable to attend but reassurances have been received that they will be here for the annual fair on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th August. **ACTION – Clerk to invite to June meeting.**

55/23 Little Green for School Summer Fete

A request from the Friends of Combe School to use the Little Green for the school summer fete on Saturday 24th June was unanimously agreed.

56/23 Kidlington Airport

The response received from Kidlington Airport suggesting that Combe airspace is used so as not to upset residents of neighbouring villages was strongly objected to and to and it was agreed to suggest that all villages should take an equal share of the air traffic. **Action – Clerk and Chair to respond.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 10th May at 7.00, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting in the Reading Room, Combe.