

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

Deborah Phillips (DP) – Chair, Elena Softley (ES) – Vice Chair, Denise Cripps (DC), Alan Revell (AR), Michael Green (MG), Julia Sharpe – Clerk
Cllr Graham (OCC), Cllr Sumner (WODC)
Members of the Public – none

82/23 Apologies

None.

83/23 Questions from the Public

Orchard Close – Poor condition of the road surface and weeds in gutter – reported to OCC and WODC – follow up on village walk.

Barn Owls, Akeman Street – Overgrown hedges – follow up on village walk.

Combe House – Resident's concern over wall being built in front of ha-ha. **Action – Clerk to check with owner.**

84/23 Register of Interests

MG – items 14 and 15 on the agenda (95 and 97 in the minutes).

85/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

86/23 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Soil Sample update – MG reported that the soil sample has been sent off for analysis.

Kidlington Airport Update – DC, ES and David Cotterill met with James Dillon-Godfray, Head of Business Development, London Oxford Airport. Following a constructive meeting the following actions were agreed: - JDG to redraw the map showing flight corridors to include Combe in the pink zone with redrawn arrows and explanatory text and to remind the training schools of the noise abatement scheme in force at the airport. Parish Council to write to the CEO of Leading-Edge Aviation to raise the issue of aircraft noise over Combe and to encourage their trainees to avoid flying over the village whenever possible. Parish Council to consider writing to Enstone Airfield and RAF Brize Norton to make the point about noise pollution from aircraft over the village.

Playpark – Inspected on 9th July and nothing new to report.

Charlie Maynard – Confirmed attendance at the meeting on 11th October.

Combe Feast – Hebborn's have confirmed their intention to attend this year.

Firework Display (Alma Grove Field) – Blenheim are unable to confirm use of the field until new tenants are in residence. **Action – AR to check possibility of using the recreation field as a backstop measure.**

Alma Grove Wall – Still waiting for insurance. Request for overhanging trees to be cut back is in hand.

S3 Bus – DC reported the new bus timetable from 23/7. **Action – DC to design poster and article for the September Courier.**

SID – Akeman Street – Following a suspected criminal damage incident, the SID has been removed and sent for an estimate to repair it. The incident has been reported to police and insurance company. **Action – ES and AR to identify alternative sites.**

Village Design Statement – The Statement is due to go to the full Council week commencing 17th July with a recommendation that it will be approved and adopted. Cllr Graham said that the report had been heavily praised, was of a high standard and an excellent model for others to follow. **Action – Chair to write a separate article for the September Combe Courier.**

87/23 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received and Approval of First Quarter Accounts and Summary Payments

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk’s wages – June	253.63	
HMRC – PAYE	507.27	
P. Merry – telephone box & bus shelter	50.00	
T. Stewart – Play Park – Zip Wire repairs	1185.60	197.60
C. Cox – Internal Audit	306.00	51.00
Cotswold Line Annual Membership	20.00	
J. Sharpe – TsoHost SSL certificate	59.99	10.00
Received		
Mug Payments	41.99	

The First Quarter Accounts and Summary Payments were circulated and considered. The Chair proposed that the reports be approved, ES seconded the proposal. All were in agreement and a resolution passed.

88/23 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that significant work has been undertaken to repair potholes across the County and that results of recent trials to establish the most sustainable method of repair were expected soon. The day-time turning point for the S7 bus will be moved to the Wootton Turn. The parking in Woodstock will be reviewed in 6 months; the majority of the system is working well but there is still some abuse and fines will begin to be issued in the near future. OCC have submitted a very detailed response to the Botley West Solar Farm Scoping report, outlining environmental issues and concerns.

89/23 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Sumner outlined the revised Community Facilities Grants and Community Activities Grant schemes.

90/23 Planning Applications

None

91/23 Speedwatch Update

AR and ES to arrange one session prior to the school summer holiday period. **Action – AR to arrange further sessions in September.**

92/23 Parish Councillor Vacancy

Initially only one person applied for the vacancy and then subsequently withdrew. A new application has now been received and once the application process has been confirmed with the Monitoring Officer an interview will be held. **Action – Clerk to arrange.**

93/23 Volunteer Leaflet

A comprehensive and impressive draft document produced by Deborah Manning was considered by the Parish Council. Various minor amendments were suggested. Approval for funding for an 8-page document was agreed. **Action – Clerk to notify DM.**

94/23 Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The advantages of installing EVCPs were discussed and it was agreed to undertake further work to scope out the potential for installing charging points in the village. **Actions – AR to discuss with VH&RG, Clerk to register interest with WODC and add item to September agenda.**

95/23 Permissive Paths

DC reported that work to set up an online map was ongoing. **Action – DC to follow up.**

96/23 Overhanging Trees and Shrubs

MG produced an article outlining land owners' responsibilities for cutting back overhanging trees and shrubs. It was agreed that the document would be referred to on the upcoming village walk and shared with owners as necessary.

97/23 Botley West Solar Farm Scoping Report

The Chair circulated a proposed response to the scoping report prior to the meeting. The response was discussed and unanimously agreed. **Action – Clerk to submit to Inspectorate.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 9th August at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe, followed by the annual village walk.