

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2023 – approved

Present

- Deborah Phillips (DP) – Chair, Elena Softley (ES) – Vice Chair, Denise Cripps (DC), Alan Revell (AR), Peter Sloan (PS), Cllr Graham (OCC), Cllr Sumner (WODC), Julia Sharpe - Clerk
- Members of the Public – 1

105/23 Apologies

Michael Green (MG)

106/23 Questions from the Public

Mr David Groves provided background information regarding the retrospective planning application for 16 Stonesfield Road.

Mr Read queried the grass cutting arrangements for Chatterpie Lane. It was confirmed that currently both sides of the verge should be cut 7 times during the grass-cutting season. It was agreed to review this arrangement at the September meeting. **Action – September agenda.**

Mrs Paine enquired about the possibility of creating a wildflower area on the bank alongside her house in Chatterpie Lane. This was agreed, with the condition that the land is maintained and managed. **Action – Clerk to notify decision.**

107/23 Register of Interests

ES – Citizens Advice donation request.

108/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting and the report of the village walk held on Wednesday 9th August were read and signed as correct

109/23 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Soil sample update – Further analysis details are required before appropriate action to reduce the marestail can be taken. **Action – MG at the October meeting.**

Kidlington airport update – Letters have been sent to Kidlington airport and the associated flying schools acknowledging the revised map and advice for pilots. It was agreed to monitor the situation and to arrange an annual review. **Action – DC.**

Combe Feast – Feedback indicates that the limited assortment of rides and stalls had been disappointing. The dates for the 2024 feast will be Sunday 11th – Tuesday 13th August. **Action – Clerk to advise Mr Hebborn of disappointment and negotiate arrangements for 2024.**

SID, Akeman Street – Still waiting for confirmation from Insurance company that they will cover either repair or replacement costs.

Repair to war memorial – It was agreed that as the war memorial is a Grade 2 listed building, advice regarding suitable repair should be obtained from specialist stone masons. **Action – Clerk.**

PC Noticeboard – It was agreed to obtain quotes to repair and refurbish the noticeboard. **Action – Clerk.**

Bonfire update – DS confirmed that the fireworks have been purchased. Confirmation of use of Alma Grove field outstanding. AR confirmed that the VH&RG will run a pop-up bar. Request to be made for stewards and first aiders. Clerk to notify insurance. **Action – Clerk.**

Akeman Street tree – The Clerk reported that Jonathan Ford had agreed to look after the tree.

Village walk tasks update – The Clerk reported that all actions have been completed. The Chair confirmed that the Little Lane can now be cut. The Chair reported that the grass along Church Walk was overgrowing the pavements and needed removing. AR informed the meeting of the formation of an informal group undertaking village maintenance. **Action – Clerk to obtain quotes for grass removal and make contact with group.**

110/23 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk’s wages – August	253.63	
WODC – grass cutting – July	150.48	25.08
WODC – bin emptying	522.28	87.04
P. Merry – village maintenance	40.00	
D. Slatter (fireworks)	1213.67	242.70
RoSPA playpark inspection	132.00	22.00
Received		
Hebborn – Fair rental	80.00	

111/23 Planning Applications

23/02184/HHD - 16 Stonesfield Road – Erection of a log cabin to be used as a workshop. After taking into account the information supplied by Mr Groves, objections to the planning application were made on the grounds that the workshop is located forward of the front elevation of the main dwelling. It is overly prominent and visually impacts the street scene. **Action – Clerk to notify WODC and applicants.**

23/02295/HHD - 9 Orchard Close – Two-storey and single-storey rear extensions over existing garage. Existing garden and outbuilding replaced with proposed outbuilding to provide home office. There were no objections to this application. **Action – Clerk to notify WODC.**

112/23 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that the S7 bus has now reverted to the original turning point out of Woodstock. The County Council have approved funding for a feasibility study to consider bringing the buses into public ownership. The roadworks on the A44 are nearing completion although the expected completion date is still not known. The White Horse has successfully been purchased by Stonesfield residents. Overall OCC are happy with the revised parking arrangements in Woodstock and parking availability in the town is much better.

113/23 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Sumner confirmed the purchase of the White Horse pub by the local residents. He urged the Parish Council and residents to respond to the Local Plan consultation. The Cotswold National Landscape has been approved and will form part of the Local Plan. The Westhive programme which is a crowdfunding project will be delivered in partnership with the UK’s leading civic crowdfunding platform, Spacehive, to deliver and fund projects brought forward by the community.

114/23 Speedwatch Update

AR confirmed that although no Speedwatch sessions with school parents have yet taken place, the group is still keen to go ahead but dates have yet to be agreed. It was agreed to replace the SID in the same location in Akeman Street.

115/23 Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs)

AR and PS reported that they had made various enquires regarding schemes to implement EVCPs but were not yet in a position to make a formal update. It was agreed to complete the OCC grant funding expression of interest application. **Action – AR & PS.**

116/23 Footpaths

DC reported that the Countryside Access footpath map had been posted on Facebook and that large scale printed copies would be available at the Reading Room coffee morning on 14th October. **Action – DC to produce a copy for the website.**

117/23 Mobile Phone Mast

Following on from a previous request from a member of the public, a discussion on the possibility of installing a telephone mast took place. It was agreed that the matter required wide consultation with the community and consumer demands taken into consideration. **Action – AR to provide update at the October meeting.**

118/23 RoSPA Report

The 2023 Annual RoSPA inspection of the Play Park identified several areas in the medium/high risk category that require attention. It was agreed to ask Trevor Stewart to provide a quote. **Action – Clerk.** AR confirmed that a VH&RG working party were undertaking the issues raised regarding the skate bowl.

119/23 Donation to Citizens Advice

The annual donation to Citizens Advice was discussed. DC proposed making a donation of £150, PS seconded the proposal. The proposal was agreed and passed with two members abstaining. **Action – Clerk.**

120/23 WODC Local Plan Consultation

The Chair offered to coordinate the Councillors' responses and produce a draft response for agreement at the October meeting. **Action – All to respond to DP.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 11th October at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe.