

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th October 2023 – Approved

Present

Deborah Phillips (DP) – Chair, Elena Softley (ES) – Vice Chair, Michael Green (MG), Denise Cripps (DC), Alan Revell (AR), Peter Sloan (PS).

Julia Sharpe – Clerk

Members of the Public – 9.

Guest Speaker

Cllr Charlie Maynard (former Vice-Chair of Climate and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee) outlined the Council's partnership with Thames Water and the Environment Agency looking into the sewage outflow into our rivers. He said he is evaluating the data on the current sewage treatment capacity so that maximum pressure can be applied to Thames Water to upgrade both its network and treatment works.

Thames Water have an interactive map – <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/performance/river-health/storm-discharge-data> where most recent storm discharges can be viewed. He urged local residents and the Parish Council to lobby for cleaner rivers and water.

The Chair thanked Cllr Maynard for speaking at the meeting.

121/23 Firework Update

Don Slatter reported that permission has been given to use the Alma Grove field for the fireworks, all of the documentation has been reviewed and is in the process of being updated, the fireworks have been received and the VH&RG have agreed to run a pop-up bar. All other arrangements will be as for last year starting with the briefing in the Reading Room at 6.00pm. The brazier will be lit at 6.15pm and the firework display will start at 6.30pm.

122/23 Apologies

Cllr Graham (OCC), Cllr Sumner (WODC).

123/23 Questions from the Public

An incident of inconsiderate parking was raised and discussed. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the PCSO to discuss options for dealing with future incidences. **Action – Clerk to arrange meeting.**

124/23 Register of Interests

None

125/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th September were read and signed as correct.

126/23 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Soil Sample update – MG reported that the analysis had shown that the soil was normal and not acidic, hence the weeds.

Kidlington Airport update – DC – nothing to report.

SID, Akeman Street – The Clerk reported that the insurance company have agreed to pay for a replacement SID, final financial settlement to be agreed.

Repair to war memorial – The Clerk reported that enquiries are ongoing to find a suitable stonemason.

PC noticeboard – The Clerk reported that she was waiting for quotes for repairs.

Speedwatch update – AR reported that a group from the school intend to carry out some sessions after half-term.

Electric vehicle charging points update – AR reported that research is ongoing. It was suggested that a local consultation was needed to establish who the EVCPs would be used by.

Footpaths update – DC reported that two people had contacted her with suggested routes, one of whom had offered to be involved in the process. DC to take maps to the October Reading Room coffee morning.

Mobile telephone mast update – AR/PS reported that research is ongoing, including reviewing local coverage needs. It was noted that WODC have also identified that mobile network coverage is inadequate in many rural areas and they are to engage with Digital Mobile Spectrum Ltd (a government agreed rural network designed to achieve good quality coverage).

Playpark update – The Clerk reported that the inspections had taken place and that there were no new issues.

Church Walk quote – The Chair proposed that a quote to remove the grass alongside the edge of Church Walk be accepted. ES seconded the proposal; all were in agreement. **Action – Clerk to notify contractor.**

School Christmas event – A request from FOCSH to use the little green on Sunday 3rd December from 4.00pm – 6.00pm for the Christmas lights event was agreed, subject to weather conditions. **Action – Clerk to notify FOCSH.**

Additional verge cuts along Chatterpie Lane – It was agreed to review this in January when the grass cutting contract is due for renewal.

127/23 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received, Approve the Half Year Accounts and Summary Payments and Approve Half Year Budget

Payments	Amount	VAT element
Citizens Advice Donation	£150	
J. Sharpe – Clerk’s wages – September	£253.63	
WODC – Grass cutting – August	£257.28	£42.88
J. Sharpe – Titan email additional storage	£71.52	
Information Commissioner – Data Protection Renewal	£40	
P. Merry – Village Maintenance	£25	
P. Merry – Telephone box and bus shelter cleaning	£50	
Received		
WODC – Half year precept	£7,118.00	

The half year Accounts and Summary Payments and the half year Budget figures which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting were discussed. ES proposed that the documents be approved, PS seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution was passed. **Action – Clerk to publish Accounts and Summary Payments on website.**

128/23 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham circulated his report prior to the meeting. There were no questions arising.

129/23 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Sumner circulated his report prior to the meeting. There were no questions arising.

130/23 Planning Applications

None.

131/23 Village Design Statement – Printing Costs

The number of copies required and the associated costs for printing copies of the Village Design Statement were discussed. ES proposed that 20 copies at a total cost of £125 be ordered, AR seconded the proposal, all were in agreement. **Action – Chair to arrange order.**

132/23 Play Park

Quotes for the work had not been received in time to be considered. It was agreed to defer to November meeting. **Action – Clerk to chase quotes.**

133/23 Response to WODC Local Plan 2041

The proposed response, circulated by the Chair prior to the meeting, was discussed. All agreed that the response accurately reflected concerns of the Council. **Action – Clerk to forward to WODC.**

134/23 Adoption Regulations

Updated versions of the Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Risk Assessment, Complaints Procedures and Code of Conduct were circulated prior to the meeting. The Chair proposed that the documents be accepted, ES seconded the proposal, all were in agreement. **Action – Clerk to publish on website.**

135/23 Annual Donation to Village Hall and Recreation Ground

DC proposed making a donation of £800 to the VH&RG Committee as a contribution to the Recreation Ground maintenance, ES seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed. **Action – Clerk to raise cheque.**

136/23 Quotes for Cutting Little Lane

Two quotes to cut the Little Lane were considered. ES proposed that the quote from P. Merry be accepted, The Chair seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed. **Action – Clerk to inform relevant parties.**

Next Meeting

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