

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 – Approved

Present

- Deborah Phillips (DP) – Chair
- Elena Softley (ES) – Vice Chair
- Alan Revell (AR)
- Michael Green (MG)
- Peter Sloan (PS)
- Cllr Graham (OCC)
- Cllr Sumner (WODC)
- Julia Sharpe – Clerk

- Members of the Public – 1

152/23 Apologies

Denise Cripps

153/23 Questions from the Public

Verge erosion outside Blacksmiths Cottage, Marlborough Terrace and safety issues were discussed. Cllr Graham offered to attend a site meeting on Thursday 21st December. **Action – Clerk to confirm details and forward photographs.**

Ongoing flooding issues under the railway bridge and along the road to Swan Hill bridge were discussed. **Action – Clerk to forward photographs and emails from Chris Grain (OCC) to Cllr Graham.**

154/23 Register of Interests

None

155/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

156/23 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Kidlington Airport – No update – next meeting scheduled for January 2024.

Speedwatch – Members of FoCSH to arrange sessions in the new year.

Electric vehicle charging points – No update – next meeting in March 2024.

Footpaths – No update.

Mobile telephone mast – No further comments from the public have been received and it was agreed not to pursue the matter further at this time.

Playpark – No new issues.

Parking along Park Road on multiple match days – AR to establish the protocol and current arrangements on days when there are multiple games being played concurrently with VHRGC and Combe Junior sports.

Church Walk – loose pavements reported to OCC.

157/23 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk's wages – November	£253.63	
WODC – Grass cutting – October	£257.28	£42.88
P. Merry – Village maintenance	£110	
CPRE Membership	£45	
Combe Courier Donation	£200	
Combe Courier Printing	£100	

Solagen – Replacement SID	£4068	£678 (funded by insurance)
Trees & Gardens – Christmas Lights	£192	£32
Received		
Insurance (for SID)	£180	

158/23 Planning Applications

The Cock Inn 23/03001/FUL and 23/03002/LBC – It was agreed that the new application addresses many of the earlier issues raised, however concerns regarding inadequate parking provision, reference to the VDS as a statutory planning document, and consideration of the pub's Asset of Community Value status remain. It was agreed to support the application but to raise these concerns and request a site visit so that the nature of the business and the likely volume of traffic can be reviewed by the Planning Officers. **Action – Clerk to notify WODC.**

159/23 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that the S7 bus turning point had been agreed without the need for a traffic regulation. The OCC budget setting process is ongoing.

160/23 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Sumner reported that the Waterways Day with Thames Water had been a positive meeting and very well attended, the Council chambers are to be a community space available to all to use, and he urged people to complete the WODC leisure survey. **Action – AR to complete survey on behalf of PC.**

161/23 S101 Grass Cutting Contract

The amended agreement reduces the minimum number of cuts from two to one per year and introduces new biodiversity considerations. Having clarified the implications of the amendment it was agreed to sign the document. **Action – Clerk to return to signed document to OCC and to include biodiversity issues in revised grass cutting tender.**

162/23 2024/25 Budget and Precept

The budget for 2024/25 resulting in a precept increase of 4.3% was considered. The Chair proposed that the budget and precept be approved, ES seconded the proposal and all were in agreement. A resolution was passed. **Action – Clerk to return forms to WODC.**

163/23 Adoption of the 2023 Publications Scheme

PS proposed that the previously circulated updated Publication Scheme documentation be adopted, ES seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and the scheme was formally adopted. **Action – Clerk to add on the PC website.**

164/23 Quotes for strimming Alma Grove and along play park wall

A quote from Paul Merry to strim the Alma Grove footpath and along the front of the play park wall was considered. DP proposed that the quote be accepted. PS seconded the proposal; all were in agreement. **Action – Clerk to notify contractor.**

165/23 Quotes for repairs to the War Memorial

Four quotes to repair the War Memorial were considered. AR proposed that the quote from OG Stonemasonry be accepted, MG seconded the proposal, all were in agreement. **Action – Clerk to notify all tenders of the outcome and begin application for a grant from the War Memorials Society.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe