

# COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Approved

## Present

Elena Softley (ES) – Chair, Denise Cripps (DC), Alan Revell (AR), Michael Green (MG), Peter Sloan (PS)  
Cllr Sumner (WODC)  
Julia Sharpe –Clerk

Members of the Public – None

## 28/24 Apologies

Deborah Phillips and Cllr Graham

## 29/24 Questions from the Public

**Installation of a bench on the verge leading to Lower Westfield** – A request for Parish Council support for a proposal to Blenheim for a privately funded bench to be installed was discussed and agreed.

**Path clearing** – A offer to voluntarily clear the footpaths from the telephone box to The Old Post Office and along Akeman Street by Springwell Cottage was gratefully accepted. **Action – Clerk to notify volunteer and advise re safety.**

## 30/24 Register of Interests

None

## 31/24 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were read and signed as correct.

## 32/24 Report from County Councillor

There was no report from Cllr Graham.

## 33/24 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Sumner reported that WODC are investigating an affordable housing project in Sussex seeking to enable 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations to stay in the area. WODC have provided grants to the Chipping Norton and Windrush leisure centres to improve facilities and reduce running costs.

## 34/24 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

**Playpark update** – The Clerk reported that the children's swing seats are showing signs of wear. **Action – Clerk to contact Trevor Steward for advice.**

**Oxford Airport** – DC reported attending a meeting where the new airbus site for helicopters, installation of solar panels on hangers and the many complaints received from neighbouring villages regarding the amount of air traffic were raised. Oxford Airport assured those present that the flying schools had been reminded to use the recently updated maps. The Parish Council has been invited to respond by 24<sup>th</sup> April to an Airspace Change Proposal submitted by Oxford Airport. Part of the proposal is to upgrade from Beacon to GPS navigation. **Action – April Agenda.**

**Verge erosion outside Blacksmiths Cottage** – Awaiting an OCC inspection prior to further action.

**Flooding under railway bridge and potholes** – Blenheim have cleared the ditch which is already providing to be very effective. OCC are working on a maintenance plan for the regular clearing of the gullies. The potholes have been reported on fix my street and direct with the OCC Highways engineer. Some of the holes have been filled but due to the wet conditions they have very quickly failed. The Parish Council will be requesting that OCC undertake a complete resurfacing of the area. **Action – April Agenda.**

**Botley West speaker** – Awaiting confirmation that Anthony Thompson will attend the June meeting.

**SID update** – The new SID is in place. **Action – AR and Clerk to collect data at the end of March.**

**Blenheim's proposed development sites** – A letter of objection has been sent to WODC. Cllr Sumner agreed to establish timeline for further involvement.

**Village spring clean arrangements** – Clerk to collect litter pickers from WODC offices and ES offered to return them. Rubbish will be collected by WODC from the green on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Risk Assessment updated.

### 35/24 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

<b>Payments</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>VAT</b>
J. Sharpe – Clerk’s wages – February	£253.63	
OALC Membership fees	£168.00	
P. Merry – Village maintenance and cleaning	£335.00	
J. Sharpe – Reflective tape	£21.98	£3.66
OPFA Membership	£47.00	
<b>Received</b>		
VDS books	£25	
All outstanding CCM receipts	£1452.58	

### 36/24 Planning Applications

Planning Applications 23/03375/HHD for the construction of a pergola and 23/00586/LBC for repair work to the roof and construction of a new roof light at Combe House were considered. There were no comments or objections to either application. **Action – Clerk to notify WODC.**

### 37/24 Verges

The survey report circulated by DP and AR was discussed. It was agreed to prioritise reinstating the verge in West End opposite Rowan Cottage to leave parking for one car and to investigate methods to reinstate the verge in Akeman Street to protect the Alma Grove wall. **Action – Clerk to arrange site meetings with Paul Merry and OCC.**

### 38/24 PC Website

The new requirement for all Parish Council websites to be WCAG2.2AA compliant by October 2024 and a recommendation that website and email addresses end with gov.uk was discussed. It was agreed to contact our website provider for advice. **Action Clerk to contact Cherwell Digital.**

### 39/24 Grass Cutting Contract

Three tenders were considered. It was agreed to defer making a decision in order to clarify details and obtain references. **Action – Clerk to contact contractors and to request UBICO to undertake interim cut of the village greens and surrounding verges. April Agenda.**

### 40/24 Engaging with Young People

The importance of engaging with young people to encourage them to become involved in the community and with local democracy was discussed. It was agreed, in the first instance, to approach the primary school to identify areas, such as biodiversity, where this would be possible. **Action – Clerk to arrange meeting with school.**

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe