

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 – Approved

Present

Deborah Phillips (DP) – Chair, Peter Sloan (PS) – Vice Chair
Denise Cripps (DC), Alan Revell (AR), Michael Green (MG), Cllr Graham (OCC), Cllr Sumner (WODC)
Julia Sharpe – Clerk

Members of the Public – Nil

102/24 Apologies

Elena Softley (ES).

103/24 Combe Feast

William Hebborn of Hebborn Amusements attended the meeting; he explained that the poor attendance of attractions this year was due to showmen dropping out at the last minute and a general feeling amongst the showmen that Combe is no longer viable for them. The Council assured Mr Hebborn that the fair is still seen as an important part of village life and would like to see it rejuvenated. Mr Hebborn agreed to have one final attempt at making the fair work and to this end it was agreed that he and the Parish Council would work together to advertise the fair, arrange road closures if necessary and ensure that a bar and food are available. Cllr Graham offered financial support towards the advertising costs which was gratefully accepted. **Action – October Agenda item and Clerk to submit the CC Grant fund application forms.**

104//24 Questions from the Public

None.

105/24 Register of Interests

None.

106/24 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th August 2024 were read and signed as correct.

107/24 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that he has been appointed Chair of an Oxfordshire partnership group responsible for planning a strategy to delivery for future health care. The recent government decision for more local ownership of bus services is seen as a positive move and will help with rural services. Work is ongoing to address the Combe railway bridge, flooding and road repairs issues.

108/24 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Sumner reported that leisure centre attendance had increased and that the Council, possibly working with the NHS, will be looking to change leisure centres into wellness centres offering more services for all ages and abilities. The Chipping Norton leisure centre refurbishment has been completed and a new 3G pitch is going ahead in Witney.

109/24 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Playpark Update & RoSPA Report – No new concerns arising from the Clerk's inspections. The RoSPA inspection has highlighted two items requiring urgent action. **Action – Clerk to discuss with Trevor Stewart.**

SID Data – AR reported that the data taken from the SIDs showed a concerning increase in volume and speed of traffic compared to the same time in 2023. It was agreed to discuss this matter further at the October meeting. **Action – October Agenda item.**

Firework Display – The Clerk reported that Don Slatter had met with the tenants of the Alma Grove field to clarify our requirements and the insurance implications. The fireworks have been ordered and the insurance company has been contacted regarding cover for the evening.

Verges – OCC have been unable to supply any costing data regarding bollards/fencing by Blacksmiths Cottage and along West End. **Action – Clerk to continue to follow up.**

Blenheim Issues – The Chair reported that Merilyn Davies, the Blenheim Community Engagement officer, has offered to assist with any Combe/Blenheim issues. It was agreed to invite Merilyn to a Parish Council Meeting. **Action – Clerk to send invitation to attend either the October or November meeting.**

Stop Botley West – It was agreed that the Parish Council would not respond to Stop Botley West regarding the extension of the boundary and potential damage to veteran oak trees.

Winter Salt – It was agreed not to apply for additional salt this year.

110/24 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk’s wages – August	£272.83	
Moore – External audit	£252	
WODC – Grass cutting – July	£588	£98
Reading Room hire – Jan to August	£145	
D. Slatter – Fireworks	£1277.71	£212.98
P. Merry – Village maintenance	£110	
Received		
S. Vaughan – Combe Feast rental	£80	

111/24 Planning Applications

None.

112/24 Actions from the Village Walk

The issues identified on the annual walk were discussed and Councillors were allocated property owners to visit to discuss required action.

113/24 Appointment of a Fix My Street Super User

OCC want to appoint Super Users. These are members of the community who are willing to identify and then raise orders for potholes, kerbs, blocked drains and other highways matters direct to their highways repairs contractors to enable issues to be resolved in a timelier manner. It was agreed to advertise the position in the Courier. **Action – October Courier article.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 9th October at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe.