

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2024 - Approved

Present

Deborah Phillips (DP) – Chair, Elena Softley (ES) Denise Cripps (DC), Alan Revell (AR), Michael Green (MG), Cllr Graham (OCC), Cllr Early (WODC), Julia Sharpe – Clerk/RFO.

Members of the Public – One

114/24 Apologies

Peter Sloan (Vice Chair), Cllr Sumner (WODC)

115/24 Questions from the Public

Vermin control – concern regarding an increased squirrel population was discussed, it was agreed that this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. **Action – Clerk to notify the complainant accordingly.**
Hedges, potholes, flooding, the Little Lane and Alma Grove footpath – A number of complaints were raised and discussed. **Action – Clerk to take necessary action to address issues individually.**

116/24 Register of Interests

None

117/24 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th September were read and signed as correct.

118/24 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that OCC Highways engineers had carried out remedial work and are making progress in addressing the maintenance and flooding issues related to Swan Lane bridge (digging out the road/drainage grips along the road between the entrance to Combe Mill and the Swan Lane Road bridge). There are two issues outstanding: The cleansing of the highway drainage system between the railway bridge and the river bridge that drains into that land drain. The second is to recut highway drainage grips in the verge with the benefit of shedding water off the carriageway into the adjacent ditch. (Area of focus around the entrance to Combe Mill.) Cyclical Team colleagues at OCC will address these issues as part of their wider highway drainage-cleansing and grip-cutting programmes. This matter is now moving forward towards a satisfactory resolution.

Cllr Graham also reported that he is pleased to be supporting a Councillor Priority Fund grant application for advertising costs for the promotion of the Combe Fair as a valued part of the long history and cultural activity at Combe.

119/24 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Early reported on WODC matters including encouraging people to apply for pension credit, biodiversity policies to encourage working with neighbouring villages, the climate action fund for small and medium sized businesses and the Woodstock and surrounding area local cycling and walking infrastructure project helping people access Woodstock with the use of additional cycle racks and addressing other infrastructure issues.

120/24 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Ev micro hub – No update available. **Action – November Agenda.**

Airport update – DC reported that data shows that flight patterns are up 10% on last year but similar to 2021.

Playpark update – The recent inspection identified additional rotten planks on both slide structures. **Action – Clerk to obtain quote for repairs.**

Firework display – The firework display (weather and conditions permitting) will start at 6.30pm on Tuesday November 5th. There will be a brazier on the green. The VH&RG committee will run a pop-up bar and food will be available from Rico's pizza van.

The Cock Inn – The renewal of registration of the pub as an Asset of Community Value is currently with WODC. Attempts to clarify the current situation with the Lionhearth owners are ongoing. Cllr Early agreed to contact WODC planning department to clarify the situation regarding neglect of the listed property.

121/24 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received, Half Year Accounts, Summary Payments and Review Budget

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk's wages – September	£272.83	
HMRC – PAYE	545.66	
Reading Room – fire extinguisher service	£21.60	
WODC – Emptying dog/litter bins	£522.29	£87.05
Cotswold Line – Annual membership	£20	
CPRE – Annual membership	£45	
Received		
WODC – half year precept	£7598.50	

DC proposed that the half year summary payments and accounts be accepted, ES seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

DP proposed that the half year budget expenditure be accepted, DC seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

122/24 Review of Staff Salary

Deferred to November meeting.

123/24 Planning Applications

Application number 24/02361/HHD for the erection of a front extension and conversion of garage with associated internal alterations and external alterations to facade at Stonemead, Chatterpie Lane, was discussed and there were no objections or comments. **Action – Clerk to inform WODC.**

124/24 Flooding Issues

Flooding issues in Knott Oaks resulting from recent storms were discussed. It was agreed to report the issue on Fix my Street. **Action – Clerk to liaise with property owners.**

125/24 Log Storage at Lower Westfield

Concern regarding the amount of wood being stored at Lower Westfield and the heavy vehicles transporting the wood through the village was discussed. It was agreed to raise the issue with Merilyn Davies at the November meeting.

126/24 Speeding Concerns

The SID has been intentionally damaged for a second time and is now temporarily out of use. The extent of the damage has yet to be assessed. The exact date that the damage occurred is not known. It was agreed to ask the residents of Akeman Street for CCTV or door ring security footage around 2nd – 8th October.

Action – Clerk to contact Solagen, local residents and police.

127/24 Combe Feast

The 2025 Feast of St Laurence church celebrations will be over the weekend of 9th and 10th of August with the fair on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th. Mr Hebborn has agreed to work with the Parish Council to advertise the event and to provide a family fun fair with suitable rides and attractions for all ages. An application for a grant from the Councillor Priority fund has been submitted and further information regarding advertising costings has been requested. **Action – Clerk to provide additional information.**

128/24 Section 137 Donations

ES proposed a grant of £800 to the VH&RG Committee, MG seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

DC proposed a grant of £200 to the Combe Courier, ES seconded the proposal, one member abstained from voting, the others present were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

Action – Clerk to raise cheques for signature at the November meeting.

129/24 WODC Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

ES offered to complete the online survey on behalf of the Parish Council. **Action – ES.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 13th November at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe.