

# COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Present

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

Members of the Public – One

**Botley West Community Benefits Fund** – Mr Richard Devereux-Cooke, Chair of Hanborough Parish Council, updated the Parish Council on local concerns raised at meetings to discuss the use of the Botley West Community Fund. Although not considered as statutory consultees he invited representatives of Combe Parish Council to attend future meetings. The Chair thanked Mr Devereux-Cooke for the update and assured him that Combe Parish Council would be represented at future meetings.

## 129/24 Apologies

None

## 130/24 Marilyn Davies

Marilyn Davies, Blenheim's Community Lead Officer, outlined Blenheim's plans to manage water and subsequent flooding issues, travel issues with a potential access to Hanborough Station and the possible introduction of a community pass. The Chair questioned the selection of the two development sites identified for possible inclusion in the Local Plan and raised residents' objections. Marilyn assured the meeting that Blenheim have no plans to build in Combe and that any development would not go ahead without prior consultation. Concern about the amount of wood stored at Lower Westfield and the heavy traffic to the site was raised and Marilyn agreed to investigate. Finally, Marilyn reassured the meeting that the damaged Alma Grove wall would be repaired soon and advised that matters of concern should be addressed directly to her or if out of hours to the Customer Services team on 01993 810530 or via the Blenheim Communities Facebook page.

## 131/24 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

## 132/24 Register of Interests

None

## 133/24 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October were read and signed as correct.

## 134/24 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported on the Botley West timetable and the associated Community Benefit and said that a better outcome would be achieved by Parish Councils working together. He also reported on the success of the introduction of electric buses and, despite the increase in bus fares, work ongoing to improve and keep services to rural areas. He concluded by reassuring the meeting that he was still working on improvements to the road surface from the Railway Bridge to Swan Hill Bridge.

## 135/24 Report from District Councillor

Cllrs Sumner and Early reported on the Botley West timetable as it affects WODC, money received by WODC to help with the green infrastructure, the introduction of sheep to graze the Grintley Bridge meadow to encourage the meadow clary to grow, and changes to the Local Plan timetable.

## 136/24 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

**Firework Display** – Don Slatter attended for this item. The Chair thanked Don and the firework volunteer team for an excellent evening. Don reported that from an organisational perspective the evening had gone well and suggested that to encourage younger volunteers in the future, the setting up and taking down of the barriers should be undertaken on the weekends prior to and after the event. This was agreed. Special thanks were given to Maddy Uren for the use of Alma Grove field, without the use of which the event would not be able to take place.

**Playpark update** – The Clerk reported that there were no new issues to report. A quote of £276 + vat from Trevor Stewart for repairs was approved.

**EV micro hub update** – PS reported that OCC had replaced the expression of interest process with a new plan and that further details would be available in the new year.

**The Cock Inn** – The Chair confirmed that the renewal of the Asset of Community Value application had been submitted. Cllr Early agreed to follow up with WODC.

**Village Maintenance Issues** – Updates on the Knott Oaks flooding issues, Stonesfield Road hedge, and village green potholes were discussed.

**Solagen update** – The Clerk reported that, following a second incident of damage to the Akeman Street SID, a bill in excess of £500 for the call out fee and subsequent replacement of a cable to the solar panel was expected.

**School Christmas tree lighting event** – A request to use the Little Green on 6<sup>th</sup> December was approved.

**Combe House parking** – Complaints regarding anti-social parking were discussed. **Action – Clerk to write to Mr Vine.**

**Alma Grove Path** – It was agreed to obtain a quote from Ubico to cut the path 7 times a year. **Action – Clerk.**

## 137/24 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

<b>Payments</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>VAT</b>
J. Sharpe – Clerk's wages – October	£272.83	
VH&RG – Donation	£800	
Combe Courier – Donation	£200	
RBL – Poppy Wreath	£25	
ICO – Data Protection	£40	
WODC – Grass Cutting – August	£588	£98
J., Sharpe – Flock mail storage/land search/first aid	£311.79	£3.17
P. Merry – Village maintenance – October/November	£200	
<b>Received</b>		
Firework donations	£1020.32	
County Councillor's Priority's fund		£250

## 138/24 Planning Applications

**24/02478 – 4 Orchard Close** – installation of a balcony to existing flat roof garage with access from first floor and associated works – there were no comments or objections.

**24/02548/HHD Heronwood, Stonesfield Road** – demolition of garage and erection of single-story extension, construction of front dormer and conversion of loft to include two dormer windows – objections regarding the scale of the development and effect on light to neighbouring property.

## 139/24 Sexual and General Harassment Policy

PS proposed that the policy be accepted, DC seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a resolution to accept the policy was made.

## 140/24 Staff Salary Review

The Chair proposed that the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2024/25 be accepted, ES seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a resolution to approve the increase in the Clerk's salary in line with the agreement was made.

## 141/24 2025/26 Budget

The budget for 2025/26 was discussed. However setting the budget was deferred until receipt of the Precept notification from WODC. **Action – December agenda.**

## 142/24 2025 Meeting Dates

The meeting dates for 2025 were approved.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe.