

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th December 2024 - Approved

Present

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

Members of the Public – None

143/24 Apologies

Denise Cripps (DC), Cllr Graham (OCC).

144/24 Questions from the Public

Concern re fungus around the trunk of the oak tree on the village green opposite the Reading Room –

Action – Clerk to arrange an inspection of all PC trees.

145/24 Register of Interests

Peter Sloan – Prospects Planning Application.

146/24 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th November were read and signed as correct.

147/24 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham was unable to attend.

148/24 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Sumner reported on several schemes including the Thames Valley flood scheme, the West Hive Community Project, SOUP, Cap Zero and My Community.org. Cllr Sumner agreed to provide details of flood warning sites.

149/24 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Playpark Update – No new issues to report.

Updated Emergency Plan – Updated for 2024/25 and will be circulated.

Blenheim Walk – Dave Gasca, Head of Natural Capital organised an interesting walk to look at the plans to restore the Combe Marsh. Documentation to follow. **Action – Clerk to follow up with Merilyn.**

The Cock Inn – Concern regarding the property's decline and recent damage and danger posed by a falling window was discussed – Cllr Sumner agreed to raise this again with the Conservation Officer.

SID Update – An error in the recent reports meant that the data could not be compared. **Action – Clerk to resubmit the reports to AR for evaluation and circulation prior to next meeting.**

Combe House – Concern regarding the continuous anti-social parking of contractors' vehicles around the Village Green, Parsons Hill and Park Road resulting in erosion of the verges and the road surface and the undermining of walls, together with mud along Church Walk and around the entrance to the site, was discussed. **Action – Clerk to write again to Mr Vine outlining concerns together with an invitation for him to attend the January meeting and to request a visit from the PCSO.**

150/24 Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk's wages – November	£272.83	
Solagen – Call out and repair	£488.40	£81.40
WODC – Grass Cutting – September	£588	£98
Church – Footpath contribution	£375	
T. Stewart – Playpark Maintenance	£331.20	£55.20
P. Merry – Village maintenance – December	£70	

Received - Nil

151/24 Planning Applications

24/02791/HHD – Prospects, Chatterpie Lane – erection of side, front and rear extensions. Hard and soft landscaping together with alterations to vehicular access. Objections to the use of tarmac for the drive way and overlooking/loss of privacy issues were raised. **Action – Clerk to notify WODC.**

24/02893/LBC – Church House, Church Walk – Internal and external alterations to replace five existing windows on the front elevation of the dwelling. There were no objections. **Action – Clerk to notify WODC.**

152/24 2025/26 Budget and Precept

The 2025/26 financial requirements were discussed resulting in a total Budget of £16125 which will increase the Parish Precept by 4.2% meaning that Band D properties will pay £46.34. The Chair proposed that the Budget and Precept be accepted, PS seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution was passed. **Action – Clerk to notify WODC.**

153/24 Response to Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB) Management Plan

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council supports the general aims and objectives of the plan. **Action – Clerk to notify Simon Smith.**

154/24 Botley West

The developer of the Botley West Solar Farm has submitted their application for a Development Consent Order, which, if accepted, will trigger the next stage of the process which is the pre-examination stage. At this time, it will be possible for individuals, other interested parties and Parish Councils to register as Interested Parties. It was agreed, that the Parish Council would complete the registration process which will consist of a relevant representation summary together with a list of relevant concerns for the Parish. **Action – Chair to draft representation summary and together with the Clerk complete the Interested Parties registration process.**

155/24 Donation to Oxfordshire Mind

It was agreed not to donate to this charity.

156/24 Alma Grove Footpath

The quote from Ubico to include cutting the Alma Grove footpath seven times per year at a cost of £136.50 + VAT was discussed. The Chair proposed that the quote be accepted, MG seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution was passed. **Action – Clerk to notify Ubico.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe