

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2025 – Approved

Present

Peter Sloan (PS) – Vice Chair, Elena Softley (ES), Michael Green (MG), Denise Cripps (DC), Cllr Graham (OCC), Cllr Sumner (WODC),
Julia Sharpe - Clerk

Members of the Public – None.

01/25 Apologies

Deborah Phillips (DP), Alan Revell (AR), Cllr Early (WODC).

02/25 Questions from the Public

Christmas Tree Lights – Request for the lights to stay on until February 2nd to celebrate Candlemas. The Parish Council had no objections. Referred to the Reading Room Trustees.

Potholes and parking – Complaint re parking around the green and potholes. See Agenda Item 12.

Orchard Close footpath – Complaint re slippery surface. **Action – Clerk to ask Paul Merry to clear.**

Grass verge opposite Rowan Cottage – Complaint re loss of verge. **Action – Clerk to check with OCC.**

03/25 Register of Interests

None.

04/25 Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

05/25 Report from County Councillor

Following the Government's announcement regarding the reorganisation of local government, Cllr Graham outlined the options being considered by Oxfordshire County Council and said that West Oxfordshire District Council is committed to working with other council partners across Oxfordshire to explore options and will be focussing on making sure that in any new structures West Oxfordshire residents and businesses are well represented and that valued services are protected. With regard to the Woodstock GP surgery Cllr Graham said that Callum Miller MP is now working with the steering group to find a solution.

06/25 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Sumner summarised the work being undertaken by WODC's Heritage team to identify areas impacted by the proposed Botley West Solar Park and said that he had met CPRE who are looking at the option of solar panels on rooftops.

07/25 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Playpark Update – Due to the weather conditions a complete inspection had not been undertaken, however it was reported that the area under the swings has been worn and is excessively muddy. **Action – Clerk to obtain quotes for matting under the swings.**

The Cock Inn – An application to renew the Asset of Community Value status has been submitted and WODC are awaiting a response from the owners. WODC Planners, the Senior Conservation and Design Officer and the Enforcement Team have all be contacted regarding action that can be taken to address the current state of the building and the dangers posed by broken glass. We have been advised that there is little to no action that they are able to take at this time. Cllr Sumner offered to make enquiries to identify details of the current owner.

Clearing bonfire-related equipment stored at Gate Burton – Request to remove equipment prior to the commencement of building works. **Action – Clerk to meet with Don Slatter to make inventory of equipment and estimate amount of storage room required.**

Tree Survey – Prior to the Parish Council meeting the Clerk met with Paul Williams for a preliminary inspection of the trees in the care of the Parish Council. The chestnut tree at Kingdom Pool needs urgent attention as it has a cracked branch which needs removing and other branches overhanging the road and footpath need work to take the weight out of the branches. The ivy also needs removing. A tree survey is also overdue. **Action – Clerk to arrange tenders for survey and works to Chestnut tree.**

08/25 Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk’s wages – December	£272.83	
HMRC – PAYE	£545.66	
Reading Room	£80	
J. Sharpe – Domain name renewal	£45.58	£7.60
Received – Nil		

09/25 Third Quarter Accounts and Summary Payments

The third quarter financial reports consisting of the accounts and summary payments were circulated prior to the meeting PS proposed that the financial reports be approved and accepted, ES seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a resolution to accept the financial reports was passed.

Action: Clerk to add reports to the PC website.

10/25 Planning Applications

None.

11/25 Botley West

It was agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair would circulate a draft relevant representation document for comment prior to agreement at the February meeting.

12/25 Combe House

Carl Vine was unable to attend the meeting but by text said that he was meeting the head of the construction firm to address the parking issue and that he would report back. The Clerk reported that a meeting with SSE and OCC had been arranged to clarify details of the forthcoming road closures required to lay electricity cables from Combe House to the green adjacent to the Reading Room.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe.