

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2025 – Approved

Present

Deborah Phillips (DP) – 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 – Andrew Hobson for item 21/25

14/25 Apologies

Peter Sloan (PS)

15/25 Questions from the Public

Richard Francis asked if the PC had knowledge of anyone having made preliminary contact with the Plunkett Foundation regarding the possible purchase of the Cock Inn and if not should the Parish Council do so. It was agreed not to pursue this at this point as no notification regarding the sale of the pub has been received and the latest information from WODC is that the owners intend to refurbish the pub and are currently in the process of finding suitable contractors. It was also agreed to continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate action when able.

16/25 Register of Interests

DC re item number 20/25.

17/25 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th January were read and signed as correct.

18/25 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that the County Council budget had been agreed and that amongst other things £58m had been allocated to pot hole repairs, £3.6m for gully clearing, £1.8m for rural travel, and the park and ride prices had been frozen. A schedule of works for a more permanent solution to surface dress the road from the railway bridge to Swan Bridge is being drawn up. He confirmed that County Council elections will take place in 2025 and work is very much ongoing to deal with the Local Government Reform.

19/25 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Early outlined details of the Woodstock local cycling and walking infrastructure plan with comments required by the 5th March. Cllr Early agreed to contact WODC Legal Team regarding the renewal of the ACV for the pub.

Cllr Sumner reported that WODC have appointed a youth leisure officer to target and encourage more youth involvement in leisure activities. Work is ongoing to make sure that people are aware of benefits and help available to low-income families and individuals. A recent meeting at Oxford Airport has highlighted issues caused by large-scale solar panel developments for aircrafts and birds.

20/25 Funding for St Laurence's 700-year Anniversary

A request for the Parish Council to underwrite the cost of two musical evenings at the church to mark the 700th anniversary of the building of the Chancel was discussed. The Parish Council agreed in principle but asked for further information and costings nearer the time.

21/25 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Combe House – Potholes and parking – The Clerk reported that Carl Vine had responded encouragingly to recent text messages. It was agreed to further advise him of the ongoing damage to the green and verges and request a site meeting. **Action – Clerk.**

Playpark Update – Quotes for matting pending. No further repairs identified.

The Cock Inn – Discussed under questions from the public and Cllr Early's report.

Storage space for bonfire-related equipment – approx. 2 square meters is required – AR suggested storage maybe available in the back garage at the pavilion and offered to check. **Action – AR.**

Grass verge opposite Blacksmiths Cottage and Rowan Cottage – OCC have stated that they will not fund either project and have provided an estimated cost of £7,000. **Action – Clerk to obtain a breakdown of costs.**

Combe Feast – DC suggested contacting William Hebborn to discuss arrangements for Combe Feast. **Action – Clerk.**

22/25 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk's wages – January	£272.83	
P. Merry – Village maintenance and cleaning telephone box and bus shelter	£115	
Community First – Annual Membership	£55.00	
Received		
Nil		

23/25 Planning Applications

An application for internal and external alterations to the Old Farmhouse, Chatterpie Lane was discussed. There were no objections to the application but comments regarding the provision of a traffic management plan, construction workers' vehicles to be parked onsite and for a guarantee to repair and reinstate verges on completion. **Action – Clerk to inform WODC.**

24/25 Botley West Registration

The Chair presented a previously circulated document with the suggested relevant representation. All were in agreement. **Action – Clerk to register the Parish Council as an Interested party and submit the relevant representation.**

25/25 Tree Survey

Three quotes to undertake a survey of the trees under the Parish Council's care on the two village greens and at the Chatterpie Lane end of the Little Lane were considered. DP proposed that the contract be offered to Boward Tree Surgery Ltd, AR seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

Action – Clerk to notify all parties.

26/25 Annual Parish Meeting

The Chair suggested inviting David Gasca, head of natural capital at Blenheim, to outline plans to restore the Combe Marsh and other environmental management plans. There were no other suggestions and all agreed to inviting David. **Action – Clerk.**

27/25 Annual Village Spring Clean (VSC)

It was agreed that the VSC would be on Saturday 22nd March. **Action – Clerk.**

Next Meeting

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