

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 - 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 – Nil

40/25 Apologies

None.

41/25 Questions from the Public

None.

42/25 Register of Interests

ES – Church View planning application.

43/25 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th March were read and signed as correct.

44/25 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham reported that Oxfordshire County Council has been named the top performing county council waste disposal authority in England with around 50% of all waste being recycled or composted. WODC have been rated 16th out of 169 authorities. Some of the potholes at the railway bridge have been filled and the surface dressing is waiting to be scheduled in the programme. DC pointed out the potholes were impacting the active travel initiative.

45/25 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Early highlighted WODC'S new initiative to bring empty homes back into use, helping to increase housing supply and improve neighbourhoods across the district. Tim Sumner highlighted the work of the recently appointed Youth Development Officer and it was agreed to arrange an initial meeting with him.

46/25 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Combe House – Issues regarding potholes, damage to verges and parking are ongoing. The Clerk reported that she had met with Cllr Graham regarding Highways involvement.

Playpark update – The quote from Eco surface to resurface the area under the toddler swings was discussed, and it was agreed to obtain two further quotes. There were no other issues arising from the inspection. The Chair signed the VH&RG Licence Renewal and AR agreed to obtain signatures from the chair of the VH&RG committee. **Action – Clerk and AR.**

Storage of bonfire-related equipment – MG kindly agreed to provide storage.

Annual Meeting arrangements – It was agreed to ask speakers to provide a full written report and to speak just on main achievements, biggest challenges, and financial matters to allow more time for questions. **Action – Clerk.**

Spring Clean feedback – The Clerk reported that around 30 people of all ages had helped with the Spring Clean and that it had been a very successful and enjoyable event.

Combe Feast – The Clerk reported that William Hebborn had confirmed that he will be attending with a fair. DC offered to design some posters. **Action – DC.**

Manhole cover on the green – A quote to fix the unsafe manhole cover on the green was discussed. It was agreed to contact OCC once more before agreeing to pay for the repair. **Action – Clerk.**

47/25 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk's wages – March	£272.83	
HMRC PAYE	£545.66	
OALC – Annual Membership	£240.00	£40.00
J. Sharpe – Stamps, IT bits	£362.85	£58.78
WODC – Grass Cutting	£210	£35
Received		
Nil		

48/25 AGAR - Certificate of Exemption

The Chair and Clerk/RFO signed the Certificate of Exemption for the 2024 – 2025 accounts.

49/25 Planning Applications

25/00689/HHD, Bibury Cottage, Church Walk – Erection of single storey rear extension, widening the driveway to create double driveway and installation of an electric car charging point. There were no objections to this application. Comment to be made to ensure that the electric cable for the charging point does not damage the pavements and that pedestrian access along Church Walk would be required at school times.

25/00793/HHD, Church View Cottage, Church Walk – Erection of first floor side extension. There were no objections to this application.

50/25 Contract for tree works

Three tenders to carry out works to the trees on the green were considered. The Chair proposed that the tender from Boward Tree Surgery Ltd be accepted, PS seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a resolution passed. **Action – Clerk.**

51/25 Non compliance with 20mph speed limit

AR reported that for the month of March the Akeman Street SID had recorded 97.7% of vehicles above the 20mph speed limit and the Stonesfield Road SID had recorded 93.8% of vehicles above the 20mph speed limit. Speeding in the village continues to be a concern. It was agreed to ask Cllr Graham to lobby the police to enforce the 20mph limit and for advice regarding experiences from Parishes and other OCC traffic calming measures. **Action – Clerk.**

52/25 Blacksmiths Cottage and Rowan Cottage

A quote from OCC to install bollards along the verge outside Blacksmiths Cottage and opposite Rowan Cottage was discussed. OCC have advised that they will not provide any funding towards either. It was agreed that whilst being sympathetic, the Parish Council does not have adequate financial reserves to fund either of these projects and that any non-statutory expenditure is limited and must be proportional. It was suggested that the home owners consider alternative measures. **Action – Clerk.**

23/25 Response to Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan

All agreed that the draft plan was excellent and well thought out. The Chair agreed to respond to the online survey. **Action – Chair.**

Next Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 14th May at 7.00pm followed by the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm and the Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm in the Reading Room, Combe.