

# COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 - Approved

## Present

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

Members of the Public – Nil

## 32/25 Apologies

Nil

## 33/25 Questions from the Public

Request for data relating to Horns Lane speed monitoring – The last monitoring took place in 2017 and the speed along Horns Lane is not currently monitored. This item, together with Park Road speeding concerns, was discussed and it was agreed to request OCC Highways to set up speed monitoring systems in both locations. **Action – Clerk**

## 34/25 Register of Interests

Park Road – Chair, MG and DC. Horns Lane - ES

## 35/25 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council, the Parish Council meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were circulated and signed as correct.

## 36/25 Report from County Councillor

Not present.

## 37/25 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Early reported that the WODC quarterly report had been largely positive with a reduction in the number of long-term empty properties and an increase in the use of local leisure facilities. The target for new build affordable housing had not been reached and the percentage of recycling was at 57% against a target of 62%. In addition, Cllr Early reported that the consultation on the 2041 Local Plan - Preferred Options began in May and would last through June. A recent survey of Combe Fen shows it as being one of the most extraordinary fens in the country with a wide variety of rare plants.

Cllr Sumner reported that flight movements from Oxford Airport over the village had reduced and that although a number of private jets had left the airport the number of helicopter and training flights had increased. Cllr Sumner offered to deal with any concerns about air activity. Cllr Sumner also outlined details of the Community Activity Grant and Rural Enterprise Growth Grant schemes.

## 38/25 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

**Playpark Update** – No new issues to report.

**Combe Feast** – DC produced a draft poster which will be circulated for agreement. It was agreed to ask the new owner of the pub to provide a pop-up pub for the event, to inform William Hebborn of our progress and to request confirmation of their commitment. **Action DC and Clerk.**

**Bollards outside Blacksmiths Cottage** – No update as the revised plan has not yet been received.

**The Cock Inn** – It was agreed to reassure the village that the Parish Council is actively communicating with Mr Said. A parking solution suggestion from a resident was discussed. It was agreed not to take any further action at this time.

**Telephone Kiosk** – An update about retaining the payphone is due after the 15<sup>th</sup> June. It was agreed to progress with the adoption of the telephone kiosk in the event of the payphone being removed. **Action – Clerk.**

### 39/25 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received and End of Year Accounts and Summary Payments

Payments	Gross	VAT
Gallagher – Insurance	£1764.44	
J. Sharpe – Clerks wages – April	£284.92	
WODC – Grass Cutting – April	£670.20	£111.70
P. Merry – Village maintenance	£205	
<b>Received</b>	Nil	

The Chair proposed that the End of year account and Summary payments be approved, DC seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

### 40/25 Approval of Annual Governance Statements

**40.1/25 – Section 1** – PS proposed the approval of Section 1 of the AGAR, the Chair seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

**40.2/25 – Section 2** - PS proposed the approval of Section 2 of the AGAR, the Chair seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

### 41/25 Planning Applications

There were no applications to consider.

### 42/25 Annual Review of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders

DC proposed that the revised Financial Regulations and Standing Orders be approved, ES seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution passed.

### 43/25 Park Road Speeding Concerns

See item 33/25

### 44/25 Combe Courier

The Chair reported that due to Rob Smith announcing that he will stop producing the Combe Courier at the end of the year an initial meeting to discuss the setting up of a replacement publication had been held. It was agreed that the Parish Council would facilitate meetings with the publishers of the Stonesfield Slate and volunteers interested in helping to set up and run a replacement. **Action – Clerk**

### 45/25 Procedure for co-opting Parish Councillor

Alan Revell has ceased to be a member of the Parish Council creating a vacancy. The statutory Notice of Vacancy did not produce the necessity for an election and the vacancy has since been advertised with a closing date for applications of the 27<sup>th</sup> June. It was agreed that interviews should be held as soon as possible so that an appointment can be made at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe