

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th August 2025 - Approved

Present

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

Members of the Public – 5

58/25 Apologies

Cllr Sumner (WODC) Cllr Early (WODC).

59/25 Firework Display

Don Slatter attended and confirmed that he was happy to organise and manage the firework display and event again this year. Permission to use Alma Grove field to let off the fireworks has been obtained from Maddy Uren. Agreement to purchase fireworks valued in the region of £1,230 (+VAT) was approved. Arrangements for reviewing the risk assessment, obtaining appropriate insurance cover and storage of fireworks were agreed. The Bull Public House have agreed to run a pop-up bar and BBQ. It was agreed to make enquiries about the use of noise free fireworks in the future. The Parish Council thanked Don and Maddy. **Action – Clerk.**

60/25 Questions from the Public

Alma Grove Barn – Maddy Uren, Fiona Smith and two gentlemen attended for this item. The Chair began by stating that the Parish Council had not raised the matter of the construction of a new shelter with Blenheim but were aware that a member of the public had contacted them independently. The Parish Council had been approached by a number of residents enquiring about the shelter. Maddy explained that the mobile shelter is built on skids, it is moveable with a 4x4 or tractor, it is under 1,500 sq. m in size and the land had permitted and historical use. The shelter has been located on the concrete pad where there had previously been a milking barn. Maddy explained that Blenheim have permission to restore barns on the Alma Grove field and the shelter falls within that permission. The shelter is classed as permitted development and does not require planning permission. The shelter provides necessary protection for the horses from different weather conditions. The Chair thanked Maddy and others for attending the meeting and advised her that the Parish Councillors would be inspecting the site on their annual village walk and would raise any queries with her. MG thanked Maddy and others responsible for Alma Grove field for its excellent maintenance.

Car Parking on the Little Green – a proposal to turn an area of the Little Green into a car park to accommodate traffic expected when the pub opens was briefly discussed. It was noted that the Little Green is registered under the Commons Registration Act 1965, and is thus afforded protection. It was agreed that the Little Green should not be turned into a car park and that the issue of parking would be raised with the pub owner once a time frame for the pub works has been given.

61/25 Register of Interests

Chair, DC and MG – Park Road.

62/25 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9th July were read and signed as correct.

63/25 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Playpark Update – RoSPA Report – Clerk to meet with Trevor Stewart to review repair schedule for items identified in the report as high to medium risk. **Action – Clerk.**

Combe Feast – The Chair reported that although the number of attractions had been disappointing the fair had been well attended and that, overall, it had been a successful event. Thanks were given to William

Hebborn for his efforts to provide a family-friendly fair and to the Bull Public House for providing a popular pop-up bar. **Action – Clerk to write letter of thanks.**

Local Plan Consultation – The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council's response to the consultation had been submitted by email to WODC.

Pension Regulator Registration – To comply with the pension regulator the Clerk was offered enrolment in the Parish Council pension scheme which she declined.

Combe Connect – The Chair reported that the first issue of Combe Connect would be in September. MG proposed that £500 be made available for printing and other startup costs until a bank account had been set up and advertisers invoiced. DC seconded the proposal, all were in agreement and a Resolution was passed.

Chatterpie Lane sink hole – The Clerk reported that OCC have confirmed that the matter is under investigation. However the road remains closed and no time frame has been given for the repair works.

Action – Clerk to contact OCC Highways.

64/25 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk's wages – July	£284.92	
Reading Room Hire	£185	
WODC – Grass Cutting – June	£439.20	£73.20
P. Merry – Cleaning	£50	
G Miles – Fencing posts	£6.91	£1.15
D Cripps – Printing	£48	
Cotswold Line – membership renewal	£20	
Play Safe – RoSPA inspection and report	£134.40	£22.40
Received		
OCC – Grass Cutting Grant	£429.88	

65/25 Planning Applications

25/01689/S73 – Prospects, Chatterpie Lane – Variations to conditions to remove a rooflight and amendments to materials and fenestration – No objections. **Action – Clerk to notify WODC.**

66/25 Park Road Speed Survey

Options for the site of the speed survey either prior to Manor Farm Barns, which is currently outside the 20mph speed limit, or by Titchfield's, which is within the 20mph, were discussed. It was agreed to discuss the options further with OCC Highways before making a final decision. **Action – Clerk.**

67/25 Parish Council Website

Suitability of the current Parish Council website and the need to meet the requirement of a gov.uk website address and email addresses was discussed. It was agreed that enquiries should be made for the redesign of the website. **Action – Clerk.**

Village Walk

1 Church Walk, outside No 1 – 2 large bags of garden rubbish.

2 Alma Grove barn wall – top bricks along wall loose.

3 Alma Grove field shelter – View restricted from Back of Alma footpath towards church but situation generally accepted. Consider conservation area implications.

4 Winthorpe – Overhanging branches on Akeman Street corner.

5 20 Stonesfield Road outside SSE substation – Hedge around substation needs cutting back.

6 24 Stonesfield Road – Hedge overhanging footpath up to No 2 Knott Oaks.

7 The pub – Weeds outside and general untidiness.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 10th September at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe.