

Present

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

Members of the Public – one

68/25 Apologies

None

69/25 Questions from the Public

None

70/25 Register of Interests

DP, MG, and DC – speed survey in Park Road
DC – work to path leading to the Church

71/25 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th August 2024 were read and signed as correct

72/25 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Graham confirmed repair works to the potholes under the Railway Bridge have been scheduled. At County level he reported that the Woodstock Strategic Partnership team is actively looking at alternative venues for the new Woodstock GP surgery and that a public consultation will follow. He also reported that the Oxford £5 congestion charge has been approved and that the Park and Ride service will be free for November and December.

73/25 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Early reported that the Evenlode Catchment Partnership group is continuing to intensively monitor the river with the intention of increasing the pressure on Thames Water. The Planning Inspectorate has approved the Net Zero policy for the Salt Cross development. The Youth Leader Development Officer is actively working in areas where there are limited services for younger people. It was agreed to request a meeting to discuss help available to Combe. **Action – Clerk.**

Cllr Sumner reported the launch of the Carterton Area Strategy for the town and surrounding villages which will involve a plan for the future of the area. The plan will look at how growth can deliver for communities, from generating new jobs to improving infrastructure and community facilities. WODC have spent £3.5m on improvements to leisure facilities ensuring the continued opening of leisure centres and swimming pools.

74/25 Clerk's Report and Progress on Actions

Playpark update – The Clerk reported that repairs are required to circular roundabout and one of the zip wire posts.

Combe Feast – Dates for 2026 confirmed with Hebborn's and the Church as 16th, 17th, and 18th August 2026.

Alma Grove stable block – The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council is satisfied that there are no WODC planning restrictions for the Combe conservation area and ANOB that would prohibit this form of temporary shelter.

Winter salt – It was agreed that no additional salt supplies would be needed for 2025-2026.

Combe Marsh – The Chair suggested asking David Gasca to provide a Combe Marsh information board. All were in agreement. **Action – Clerk.**

Pub update – The Clerk reported that she had been advised that all surveys have been received, some changes to the drawings are needed which will then go back to WODC for agreement. No timeframe was given. Plans to tidy the front of the pub are in hand.

Biodiversity policy – The Chair stated that the current Biodiversity policy and action plan would need to be updated to include Carbon Reduction and Climate Resilience. It was agreed to obtain an update from our action plan partners and add to the agenda for the October meeting. **Action – Clerk. Chair to respond to the online consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.**

Park Road speed survey – OCC have confirmed that extending the 20mph along Park Road is not an option. It was therefore agreed not to request a speed survey at this time.

Parish Council website – The Clerk reported that enquiries are ongoing. **Action – October Agenda.**

Parish Councillor interviews – Peter Sloan announced his resignation from the Parish Council. The Chair thanked Peter for his contribution over the last two years. As there are now two vacancies it was agreed to check the co-option procedure with WODC but aim to hold interviews early in October. **Action – Clerk.**

75/25 To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received

Payments	Gross	VAT
J. Sharpe – Clerk's wages – August	£284.92	
Cotswold Line – Membership renewal	£20	
J. Sharpe – Stationery and website	£162.65	£27.11
WODC – Grass cutting – July	£439.20	£73.20
D. Slatter – Fireworks	£1214.73	£202.50
Windrush Printing – Combe Connect	£188.00	
P. Merry – Village maintenance	£80	
Received – Nil		

76/25 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

77/25 Funding for works to path from Park Road to the Church gates

DC outlined a request received from the PCC for a contribution towards the cost of repairs to the path from Park Road up to the church gates. Ownership of the path has been hard to establish but as the path benefits the whole village it was agreed, in principle, to contribute towards the cost. It was suggested that the PCC make further ownership enquiries and identify other parties who should be asked to contribute.

78/25 Playpark Maintenance Quotes

Quotes for the repairs had not been received in time for consideration – **Action – October Agenda Item – Clerk.**

79/25 Response to Eynsham Park and Ride Consultation

All were in support of the plans. **Action – Chair to respond to the online consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Combe Parish Council will be on Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Combe