

COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th July 2011 - approved

Present:

Michael Green – Chairman
 Paul Williams
 Celia Adamson
 Simon Oliver
 Philippa Howells
 Gillian Oldfield - District Councillor
 Julia Sharpe - Clerk

Apologies:

Elena Softley
 Neil Owen – County Councillor

Members of the Public – One

Number	Item	Minutes	Action
93/11	Apologies	Elena Softley and Neil Owen	
94/11	Signing of Declaration of Acceptance Form	Philippa Howells signed the declaration of Acceptance form witnessed by the Clerk	
95/11	Register of Interests	Paul Williams – Planning Application	
96/11	Broadband in Rural Communities	Julian Fifield attended for this item. Mr Fifield outlined the current situation with the local broadband service in that it is slow to very slow and that rural communities are not on the BT priority list. He outlined the work currently being undertaken by the OCC and a Chipping Norton group. He urged the Parish Council to support action. It was agreed that the Parish Council would discuss the matter further and that Mr Fifield would continue to research the options available and report back to the September meeting.	
97/11	Questions from the public	Nil	
98/11	Minutes of the last meeting	Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 11 th May, Wednesday 8 th June and Wednesday 15 th June were read and signed as correct.	
99/11	Matters Arising	<p>Update on Witney Bus Service – In response to an e-mail sent by Elena Softley to Highways a copy of an e-mail sent to RH Travel from Highways outlining the contract was read out. Situation to be monitored.</p> <p>Notice boards – The Clerk reported that a final quote, excluding self-healing board of £1,566 (+VAT) from Eynsham Park Sawmill had been received. It was agreed that this would be accepted and that Simon Oliver would continue to investigate self-healing board.</p> <p>Tree Insurance – The Clerk reported that the current Insurance company would not insure the tree against vandalism and that any additional insurance had a £250 excess. It was agreed not to progress at this time.</p>	JS/SO

		<p>Severe winter weather – Letter sent, awaiting response.</p> <p>Code of Conduct Training – The Chairman reported that he had recently attend a training course and agreed that the other members who had not attended should do so. Clerk to arrange.</p> <p>Simon Oliver said that he would like to attend the New Councillor’s Training Course – Clerk to arrange.</p> <p>VH&RG – Easement Order – document agreed and filed.</p> <p>Mrs Newton – location of village well – Clerk to reply</p> <p>Emily Pigott – request to use small green for wedding – additional details and plans for the use of the little green were discussed. It was agreed that in principal it would be possible to make the green available subject to alternative parking arrangements, a deposit of £150 for damage to the green and verges and an end time of 11pm. Advice also to be given about the likely condition of the ground in March and the need for a marquee with suitable flooring.</p> <p>Path across little green – John Hunt and Geoff Miles - meeting in hand.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>JS</p> <p>JS</p>																											
100/11	County Councillor’s Report	No Report																												
101/11	District Councillor’s Report	Gillian Oldfield reported that May Gurney were investing in more roadside kerb recycling sorting vehicles and that roadside sorting had led to an increase in the quality of recyclable materials.																												
102/11	To Consider Planning Applications	<p>Paul Williams and Gillian Oldfield left the room.</p> <p>Applications – 1 Orchard Close – erection of two storey side extension and front porch – No comment or objections</p> <p>Decisions – West End House, West End, Combe – change of use of land and erection of garage/workshop granted subject to conditions</p> <p>Sutterton, Horns Lane, Combe – erection of detached dwelling and new access - granted subject to conditions</p> <p>Charnwood – alterations to garden store to form pitched roof – granted subject to conditions.</p> <p>Paul Williams and Gillian Oldfield returned.</p>																												
103/11	To Approve Payments and Note Sums Received	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Payments</th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">VAT element</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Citizens Advice Bureau (Donation)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£40</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>S. Oliver (Mileage and expenses)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£80.90</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garden Wizard (Grass cuts 4&5)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£561.60</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£93.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Viking (Paper and Ink Cartridge)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£88.25</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£14.71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs F Clarke (Telephone box & bus shelter cleaning)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£40</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>J. Sharpe (Clerks salary)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£120</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC (PAYE)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£240</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Received</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">– Nil</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payments	VAT element		Citizens Advice Bureau (Donation)	£40		S. Oliver (Mileage and expenses)	£80.90		Garden Wizard (Grass cuts 4&5)	£561.60	£93.60	Viking (Paper and Ink Cartridge)	£88.25	£14.71	Mrs F Clarke (Telephone box & bus shelter cleaning)	£40		J. Sharpe (Clerks salary)	£120		HMRC (PAYE)	£240		Received	– Nil		
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104/11	Play Park Update	Paul Williams and Simon Oliver reported that their visit to the Play Fair and landscaping show had been very beneficial and that good contacts had been made with suppliers of play equipment and associated products. They reported that the first meeting of the sub-committee had been very productive and that all of the members were keen and committed to working on the project. The sub-committee would be launching the scheme to the village on 7 th August when they would be holding the village cream teas. During the afternoon people would have the opportunity to view some options and make comments. The date of the next sub-committee meeting will be 26 th July. Simon Oliver reported that an accident had occurred in the Skate bowl and that the VH&RG committee had closed the facility.	
105/11	Report from OALC Annual Meeting	Celia Adamson reported that she had attended the OALC AGM and that the two speakers, Cllr Kieron Mallon who spoke on the Approach to Localism and Emma Maier who spoke about Libraries had both been very interesting and informative.	
106/11	Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations	The Clerk reported that positive replies had been received from various organisations. Letters to be sent to Combe Junior Sports, Men's Football and The Cricket Club. Agenda Item for September	JS
107/11	Correspondence	OCC Highways – Local Transport Plan 3 (2011 -2030) - Clerk to apply for hardcopy of plan. ORCC – County Council Consultation – Red Bag Christ Church Cathedral – an invitation to 'A Celebration of the Environment' – Red Bag WODC – Planning Policy – opportunity for comments until 31 st July – Red Bag Colin Carritt – Invitation to launch of Woodstock's solar pv scheme – 21 st July - Circulated OCC – Highways and Transport – Temporary VAS locations – Not applicable	JS
108/11	Any other business	Simon Oliver asked for a note of thanks to John Hunt for spraying the Back of Alma path to be recorded in the minutes. Overgrown Hedges – Paul Williams reported that the hedge on the corner of Akeman Street and Stonesfield Road belonging to Mr and Mrs Creak was now so badly overgrown that it was causing a danger for pedestrians and people in push chairs, wheelchairs and on mobility scooters. It was agreed that the Clerk would write and ask them to take urgent action and that to look at it again on the Parish Walk. Clerk also to write to Mr and Mrs Ibbitson of the Stonesfield Road as their hedge also obstructs the footpath. Back of Alma – Simon Oliver said that the mares' tail and condition of the wire fence were causing problems for pedestrians and asked for both to be attended to. Michael Green said that he would discuss the issues with Blenheim and deal with the matters accordingly. Street Names for the new development along Stonesfield Road – Simon Oliver queried the process for selecting street names. Clerk to contact WODC. Twitter Account – Simon Oliver asked permission to	JS MG JS

		<p>set-up a Parish Council twitter account that he would administer. This was agreed</p> <p>Gate onto Alma footpath - Simon Oliver noted an access had been made onto the footpath from 32 Akeman Street. MG reported Blenheim were aware and taking action to remedy the situation.</p> <p>Combe Charities – Celia Adamson reported that the Cream Teams had raised £405 for the fund and that cards designed and sold by Sue Goodman had raised a further £100. The sale of cards would be on going.</p> <p>Parking in Church Walk – Celia Adamson raised concerns about the parking in Church Walk, particularly near the Old Chapel and outside Green Close. It was agreed to look at the problem in August on the Parish Walk.</p> <p>Combe Courier – Simon Oliver suggested that the editor of the Courier be approached to establish whether or not the Parish Council could submit a regular article for publication.</p> <p>Management of Verges – Celia Adamson requested that the parish Council sign up to the Cotswold Conservation Board scheme for managing verges. This was agreed.</p> <p>Hedge from the Railway Bridge to Swan Bridge – Paul Williams said that he was concerned that a new hedge had been planted on the verge instead of along the edge of the field where the wall had previously been and that in time the hedge would impair walkers and drivers. Michael Green agreed to look in to the matter.</p>	<p>SO</p> <p>JS</p> <p>MG</p>
109/11	Next Meeting	The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 10 th August meeting at 7.30pm on the village green for the annual Parish inspection/walk.	