

COMBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14 March 2016 at 8.00pm at Apple Trees, Combroke

Present

Jo Price (JP)

DCllr Chris Mills (CM)

Tim Goodhead (TG)

CCllr Chris Williams (CW)

Brenda Rayson (BR), Chairman

Georgina Lowe (Clk), Clerk

Members of the Public 3

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Dispensation Requests

None.

4. Public Representation

None.

5. Co-option of Parish Councillor

BR reported the Clerk had received one expression of interest from Stephanie Connah. Following a brief discussion it was proposed BR, seconded JP and

RESOLVED: To appoint Stephanie Connah to the Council as a Co-opted Member

The Chairman thanked Stephanie for her interest in the role; the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' was duly made and signed where upon SC was invited to join the remainder of the meeting as a full Member of the Council.

6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th January 2016 had been circulated. Proposed JP, seconded TG and

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting be confirmed and signed by the Chairman

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes

With reference to Minute item 16 BR reported on her contact with the resident following the last meeting. BR confirmed the issues raised were not directly for Council decision.

JP enquired about the 'Gateway Feature'. CW confirmed the existing signs were to be repainted.

'Transparency Fund' – BR reported contact had been made with SDC regarding the new website. Although there had been an initial delay due to some staff changes it was hoped the project would now start to progress.

BR

8. Planning

A For Consultation

8.1 Woodstock 16/00756/TREE

G1: x3 Ash Trees, Crown reduction by 30%. After discussion it was agreed to go with the Tree Officer's recommendation.

B Update

8.2 Granted Red Holm 15/04364/FUL

8.3 14 Combrook

It is understood the Enforcement Officer has yet to visit the premises following the Parish Council's submitted Representation (December 2015); CM to follow up.

8.4 CE Gilbert Site Update – road naming; surface water flooding

The Clerk reported she had received confirmation from SDC that Mr Gilbert was happy to proceed with the proposed access way name of "Compton Fields", Spring Lane would not form part of the address and the development would now be allocated its own unique postcode. Discussions however were ongoing regarding the legal requirement of a name plate.

*BR /
Cik*

BR reported that on Wednesday 9 March, following heavy rainstorms, there was significant surface water flooding on the site. The storm drain inspection chamber in plot 3 had been overflowing and much of it had emptied onto Deepdene and beyond.

Copies of the drainage plan proposed for the site were distributed at the meeting, these show that the rainwater collected from the roof gutters and hard surface gullies on site flow into a storm drain at plot 3 and then a "150mm pipe to the river". It is believed the pipe work to the river is missing.

The Chairman reported that she had emailed SDC Building Control on 11 March to ask them to investigate.

*BR /
Cik*

9. Ongoing Reports

a. Village Hall and Green

BR reported Jim Blenkinsop had been making excellent progress with the new gateway. BR asked the Council's thanks to be recorded for all his hard work on the project. It was also noted the Village Hall would be closed for redecoration during the month of March.

b. The Leys Project Update

BR reported that she had been contacted by a resident who had raised concern after the recent heavy downpour that the water on the diagonal footpath had been caused by the roots of a large tree deflecting the flow away from the ditch. After an initial discussion it was agreed to investigate further.

*TG /
BR*

10. Lanes and Drainage:

10.1 County Highways Repair and Improvement

BR reported that in response to matters raised at the last meeting, County Highways had confirmed depositing mud on the road was an offence and any person doing so was responsible for cleaning it up. The Parish Council had also received from the County a helpful leaflet, Farming and the Public Highway, which had been produced in collaboration with NFU. It was agreed it would be useful to have some additional copies to distribute to landowners.

Cik

It was also confirmed that the local Highways Team Manager, Patch Byrne, would be carrying out an inspection of the lane to the Fosse to look at the Parish Council's concerns regarding the lane edges.

10.2 Leys Drainage Flood Grant

Grant submission ongoing.

*Cik /
BR*

11. Village Lanes and Postcodes

TG and BR will meet to examine the issues and produce a possible action plan.

*TG /
BR*

12. Local Council's Charter

Copies distributed to Members

13. Model Financial Regulations and Small Authorities Audit 17/18 Onwards

BR reported WALC was advising all Parish Councils not to opt out of the SAAA (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointment).

14. Finance and Accounts for Payment

Current Account: £268.21 Deposit Account: £4,362.51

Totals reflect a £2,200.00 transfer from the current account into the deposit account.

Income for the period

Transparency Fund Grant £967.90

HMRC Refund £871.24

Village Hall Committee £580.00

Invoices were presented, approved and cheques signed for:

Clerk's February / March Salary £178.20

15. **District Councillor's Report**

- i. SDC's Chief Executive Paul Lancaster will leave at the end of March as part of a cost saving initiative.
- ii. Stratford District Council has spent over £2 million on planning appeals in the last 3½ years

16. **County Councillor's Report**

CCllr Williams report is attached to these minutes.

17. **Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas:**

JP raised concern over telephone and broadband coverage. CW advised roll out was expected in July

Concern was raised over the newly erected fence at Quince Corner. Building Control will be contacted to see if Planning Permission is required.

Cik

18. **Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:**

Monday 23rd May 8.00pm Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.52 pm

Combroke Parish Council – 14th March 2016
County Councillor's Report

- 1. County Council Budget** – After a nine hour debate on Thursday 4th February, the Council set the Budget for next year's expenditure. This year's calculations were not as straightforward as normal. The Chancellor's statement regarding the Budget settlement figure was the cause of the lengthy debate. WCC has to find an extra £12 million from reserves over the next 2 years. By using £5 million of reserves, this year's Budget will remain more or less as planned. However, next year we will have to find the full £12 million. (Our total budget is in the order of £350 million.) Most of the budget (over 50%) goes on providing Adult Social Care. The government has agreed that a special year on year levy of 2% on the Council Tax can be raised to help towards the cost of Adult Social Care. This will hardly cover the new Minimum Working Wage and leaves the additional pressures of increasing numbers to be funded. We are also working with the Health Authorities to maximise savings and efficiency through more joint working especially with respect to Hospital discharges and subsequent care in the community. Following the meeting on 4th February a further Budget setting meeting was held on 23rd February. This meeting was to decide how additional funds of £6 million would be allocated over the next two years. After a meaningful four hour debate it was decided that £2 million would be used to supplement our depleted reserves and the remainder would be used to maintain services over the next two years..

There is also continued pressure on the Children's Services and the establishment of a Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as the number of reported child abuse cases continues to increase. These cases now have to be investigated immediately regardless of their credibility. (More time, more Staff, more money). The overall outcome is that 2016/17 Budget will be tight but manageable with a total Council Tax rise of 3.9% with further cuts a real prospect for 2017/18.

- 2. Combined Authority** - Warwickshire County Council is still opposing joining any form of Combined Authority with Birmingham and the West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities. I can see no advantage in joining one and although not being sold as a political union, like the EU, I believe it will be seen as one eventually. An Elected Mayor seems to be a prerequisite. I do not believe our not joining would lead to less capital investment in Warwickshire but has the potential for more housing as the Metropolitan areas, Birmingham and Coventry try to meet their housing targets.
- 3. Unitary Authority** – The current financial position with central government significantly reducing settlement allowances to authorities does mean that the County Council is having to re-evaluate the cost savings produced by having a Unitary Authority for Warwickshire. A cross-party group of Members will carry out this evaluation and report back to the Council at the end of the summer. The Labour Party is proposing two Unitary Authorities for Warwickshire, one in the north and one in the south. The Conservative and LibDems do not support this proposal since the size of each authority would not reach minimum sizes of population. The guideline at present for Unitary Authorities requires a minimum population of 500,000. I will keep the Parish Council advised of any developments that take place.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton Division – WCC
13.03.2016.