

COMBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 23 January 2017 at 8.00pm
at the Village Hall, Combroke**

Present

Stephanie Connah (SC)

DCllr Chris Mills (CM)

Tim Goodhead (TG)

CCllr Chris Williams (CW)

Jo Price (JP)

Brenda Rayson (BR), Chairman

Georgina Lowe (Clk), Clerk

Members of the Public 2

1. Apologies

None.

2. Acceptance of Apologies from Parish Councillors

None.

3. Declaration of Interests

SC - Agenda item 7.2

4. Public Representation

None.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st November 2016 had been circulated. Proposed JP, seconded SC and

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

6. Chairman's Report and Other Reports for Information Only

i. Chairman:

The Chairman gave a brief overview of the following WCC Consultations:
Consultation School Term and Holiday Dates – Academic Year 2018/19
Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan 2017 – 2020

ii. Clerk:

No report.

7. Planning

7.1 Consultation for 9 Combroke 17/00074/VARY

Removal of condition 7 of planning approval 14/01669/FUL

Following a brief presentation of the scheme it was identified that previously the drive gates had opened across the verge because the drive sloped upwards.

The plans for 14/01669/FUL had adopted the same arrangement and no concerns had been raised by County Highways. However in their decision letter the SDC Planning Case Officer had incorporated condition 7 requiring the gates to open inward.

It was noted that with the proposed gates opening outwards no obstruction was caused to the lane itself; for these reasons the Parish Council unanimously agreed to raise no objection to the proposal.

*BR /
Clk*

7.2 Pending 14 Combroke 16/03108/FUL

Temporary use of ancillary outbuilding as a separate dwelling for a period of 12 months.

This application was submitted across the Christmas / New Year period giving insufficient time to convene and give proper notice of an extraordinary meeting. Under the Parish Council's powers of delegation the Clerk submitted a representation on behalf of the Council. The proposed representation had been circulated to all Councillors' for comment. The Chairman invited the Council to formally ratify the representation which had been submitted; all agreed.

There followed further discussion about this and items 7.5 & 7.6; it was noted that some greater clarity is required as to how any of this deals with the breach of planning permission on this site.

*BR /
Cik*

7.3 Pending 5 Combrook 16/04053/TREE

T1 – Apple Tree - Fell

It was agreed the Council will support the Tree Officer's decision.

7.4 Granted 11 Combrook 16/03710/FUL

Fence and gate (relocation of existing fence)

This application was received at the beginning of December. The Chairman had suggested to all Councillors by email that, in relation to the Council's submission for the previous application about this fence, it would be consistent to defer to the Conservation Officer's decision. In light of Councillors' comments and under the Clerk's powers of delegation such a response had been duly submitted and the Conservation Officer was now satisfied that no harm would be caused by the proposal.

7.5 Withdrawn 14 Combrook 16/03397/FUL

Relocation of vehicular access

7.6 Withdrawn 14 Combrook 16/03909/LBC

Construction of a stone boundary wall

7.7 C E Gilbert Site Update

The Clerk reported that the minor amendments to include a gateway from plots 1 and 4 into the paddock had been agreed and that Enforcement was hopeful that the developer would implement the paddock fencing / hedging to remedy the breach of conditions by the end of January.

Cik

BR reported Severn Trent had confirmed the development's sewer connection to the main public sewer was illegal; Severn Trent is currently waiting for an application from the developer to rectify the situation.

8. To consider the development of a Neighbourhood Plan

Information had been circulated prior to the meeting; after a brief discussion it was agreed to invite Matthew Neal to attend the next meeting to give the Parish Council the pros and cons of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Cik

9. Financial Administration

9.1 To consider payments to be made:

Current Account: £1,902.18

Deposit Account: £4,764.56

Cheques raised since last meeting as agreed:

Combroke Church grant towards cutting / strimming the grass £600.00

Zurich Village Hall contents insurance £320.72

Unpresented Cheques:

CPRE annual donation £36.00

Combroke Church and Zurich (as above)

Combroke Village Hall Committee annual grant £608.00 (on hold pending purchase of dishwasher)

Invoices were presented , approved and cheques signed for :

Clerk's Dec / Jan Salary £201.38 (includes £10 Vodafone top up voucher)

9.2 2017/18 Precept

Following last month's discussion no further questions were raised, it was therefore unanimously agreed to increase the precept by 2% raising it to £4,139.00.

*Clk***10 Village Hall and Green**

The Clerk reported she had renewed the Village Hall contents insurance policy. The premium had increased by approximately 3.5% on last year from £309.94 to £320.72.

11. The Leys Project Update

It was reported that during the period of a burst water pipe on the top field opposite the wood / Leys, the ditch on the Leys running down the north boundary with the wood, received nearly all of the water. The ditch had worked well with no overflow southwards towards homes. Tribute was paid to the work done by Jim Blenkinsop to keep the ditch clear and running.

12. Lanes and Drainage:**12.1 County Highways Repair and Improvement**

Following the last meeting TG reported a very successful walk round with the County Highways Officer. A number of works were agreed and some have already been completed. The works agreed include: installing another gully to better capture the flow of water on the lane from Compton Fields; ensuring the road drains on Spring Lane are fully cleaned; dealing with the flooding at the junction with the Kineton Road and infilling some of the road edges which have become too steep.

There was also a discussion about the flooding that can occur in the centre of the village in extreme rains - and the actions of the old underground culverts including that between Wheelwright and No 14.

12.2 Leys Drainage Flood Grant

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the contractor that had quoted on the work and was awaiting an updated quotation.

*Clk***13. Village Lanes Update**

BR reported that further contact had been made with OS to see when the updated changes to the mapping will show; a response is currently awaited.

*BR***14. Website Re-development Project**

BR reported it would be possible for the Parish Council to consider taking over ownership of the current website. Hosting and domain costs would be under £100.

BR indicated that whilst it appears to work well, especially as a community website, some further work was needed to test whether it had sufficient capability to meet all the future reporting needs of the Council.

*Clk /
BR***15. Village Broadband**

BR reported the CSW Broadband Project had confirmed that work to bring a fibre cabinet to Combrook was currently on track for delivery within 12 months.

At the beginning of December TG & BR had managed to join a site visit with the contractor planning the proposed cabinet location. It proved a useful meeting and alternative sites closer to the village were now being considered as well as the initial location opposite the top of the Leys. The final decision will be dependent on further technical matters.

16. District Councillor's Report

- i. Stratford District still in the top ten recyclers – Residents in Stratford District are still some of the best recyclers in England, as the District reaches 7th in the top ten Councils for recycling and composting.
- ii. New funding available to update old boilers and fight fuel poverty – Stratford-on-Avon District Council is working with its partners Act on Energy, an energy advice company based in the District, and the fuel poverty charity National Energy Action who are producing funding to replace or introduce a central heating system for households who are struggling to heat their home. For more information including full eligibility criteria contact

Act on Energy 0800 988 2881.

- iii. Write Offs – Every year the Council makes provision for uncollectable debts. At the end of December £191,920.50 had been written off in Business Rates and £149,881.90 in Council Tax.

17. **County Councillor's Report**

CCllr Williams report is attached to these minutes.

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

SC raised concern over textiles being collected with landfill waste; CM to speak with Streetscene.

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

Monday 20th March 2017 at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 9.47pm

Combroke Parish Council – 23rd January 2017 County Councillor's Report

1. Personnel – Jim Graham, the Chief Executive of Warwickshire County Council, has announced his retirement to take effect on 5th February 2017, three days after the Budget setting process. There will be no replacement until after the May 2017 elections for County Councillors and whichever party has the majority will select the new Chief Executive to the County Council.

2. County Council Finance

The Conservative Group at the County Council has published their Budget proposals. Overall it is proposed that in the future Warwickshire invests in the future so that the economy is vibrant and the proceeds will ensure that our most vulnerable citizens are safe. The Council will help those residents who want to help themselves. This is the new model of care and is reflected in the continued investment in communities and the third sector. It forms the beginning of a new conversation with our residents to fund local solutions. Where specialist services are still required we will ensure delivery is carried out in a cost effective manner.

Among the Budget proposals are:

- (i) 40 additional Children's Social Workers plus additional support capacity to reduce case loads and provide greater support for our most vulnerable children.
- (ii) Invest in the education system for our most vulnerable learners
- (iii) Protect our elderly by investing in extra care housing and raising the levy for Adult Social Care to fund additional demand.
- (iv) Generate additional capital so that we can invest in the infrastructure of Warwickshire County.
- (v) There are no proposals for reducing the number of Fire Stations or the number of personnel who work in the Fire Service.
- (vi) Council Tax will be increased by just under 2% but there might be an additional 2% levy for Adult Social Care similar to that carried out last year.
- (vii) Continue with the £2 million a year allocation for Members to use on local highway priorities that can make a real difference to communities.

The County Council will debate the Budget setting process on 2nd February and I will report the outcome of the debate at your next meeting.

3. Health Issues

At a meeting of the Cabinet in January the proposal by NHS Warwickshire to introduce certain restructuring agendas was rejected principally because the NHS had not consulted Warwickshire before introducing their proposals which included closing the George Eliot Hospital in Nuneaton as well as other significant cost saving measures that would have a significant impact upon all residents of Warwickshire.

**Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton Division - WCC
22.01.2017**