

COMBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18 September 2017 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Combroke

Present

Tim Goodhead (TG)

DCllr Chris Mills (CM)

Jo Price (JP)

CCllr Williams (CW)

Brenda Rayson (BR), Chairman

Georgina Lowe (Clk), Clerk

Members of the Public 2

1. Apologies

Cllr Stephanie Connah (SC)

2. Acceptance of Apologies from Parish Councillors

Cllr Connah; it was unanimously agreed that the apology be accepted.

3. Declaration of Interests

None.

4. Public Representation

None.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th July 2017 had been circulated. Proposed JP, seconded TG 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

a. Chairman:

The Chairman began by proposing the decision notice for no 14 be considered under agenda item 7.

b. Clerk:

No report.

7. Planning Update

7.1 Refused 14 Combroom 17/01463/FUL

Use of outbuilding as ancillary residential accommodation. Installation of 2no. air source heat pumps and works to level ground. (Retrospective)

BR and TG both spoke with regards to their concerns about the contents of the Decision Notice (Officer's Report) and its potential implications. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that further clarification should be sought from the District Council particularly with regards to which plans had been approved.

BR

7.2 Application Withdrawn 14 Combroom 16/03108/FUL

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

7.3 Dead / Dangerous Tree Notification Church Corner House, 3 Combroom 17/02705/DDT

T1 – Apple – Fell (Dead); T2 – Plum – Fell (Mostly Dead)

7.4 Granted Chestnut House 17/01817/TREE

T1 – Birch – Fell; T2 Conifer x 2 - Fell

7.5 Granted Quince Corner, 11 Combroom 17/01511/LBC

Re-thatch with a like for like material and change the existing ornamental block ridge to a simple flush gable style

7.6 Granted Beggars Roost, 5 Combroom 17/02167/TREE

T1 – Ash - Fell

7.7 CE Gilbert Site Update

BR advised there continued to be some good progress made on the outstanding surface water drainage and foul drainage issues. Surface water drainage to the stream had been installed just before the end of August and progress was being made on the adoption of the foul sewers by Severn Trent. Arrangements for the maintenance of the water supplies and surface water drain were also progressing.

BR

BR went on to report that she intended to contact building control to discuss on behalf of the residents involved the failure in process which has led to this happening.

*BR /
Clk*

The Clerk reported that Enforcement had confirmed they would carry out a site visit to identify whether or not the required visibility splay at the lane was compromised by the growth of the hedge.

7.8 For Consideration Touchdown, Spring Lane 17/02797/TREE

G1 – Leyland Cypress x 10 – Reduce in height to 10ft; G2 – Leyland Cypress x 6, Ash x 2 and Elder x 3 – Reduce in height to 10ft; T1 – Laburnum – Fell

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

Clk

8. To Consider a Request for Traffic Calming within the Village

The email from a local resident had been circulated prior to the meeting. There followed a full discussion at the end of which it was unanimously agreed that traffic calming measures could not be justified at the current time.

9. Dog Fouling Update

No report.

10. Fly Tipping Update

BR was disappointed to report that the SDC officer with whom the Parish Council had been working had not been able to progress the matter.

BR went onto report that she was still looking into what else could be done including the possibility of a small claim to bring the suspected perpetrator to account. CM to follow up with the SDC officer to obtain further clarification.

*BR /
CM*

11. Telephone Box

BR reported that the repair to the telephone box door had been completed. Thanks were again recorded to TG for repairing, repainting and rehangng the door.

12. The Leys Project Update

BR reported that the meadow grass had been cut and baled. Thanks were recorded to Nick Gasson.

BR went onto report that at last September's Parish Council meeting concern was first raised about the large Ash tree's roots at the top of the Leys deflecting water away from the ditch. Jim Blenkinsop had kindly cut around the roots in an attempt to resolve the matter. Its effectiveness was now being questioned and it had been requested that the tree officer consider an application to fell the tree. The application awaits validation.

*BR /
Clk*

13. Lanes and Drainage

13.1 County Highways Repair and Improvement

The Clerk confirmed an email had been sent to Patch Byrne to see when work was likely to be scheduled for the new drain by Compton Fields. TG had raised a resident's concern at the last meeting that overtaking on the Fosse in the area of the junction with Combrook was possible, given the normal lane markings, but that visibility was compromised due to the gradient on the Fosse southwest from the junction. It was agreed to obtain the contact for whoever is responsible for deciding road markings and that TG should accompany the County Officer to show them the area of concern.

*TG /
Clk*

13.2 Leys Drainage Flood Grant – RS Plant Hire has agreed to honour its previous quotation. Paperwork to be completed and sent.

Clk

14. **Village Lanes Update**
The Clerk had made contact with Liz Taylor, Spatial Information Officer at SDC and would set up a meeting where the road name issue could be discussed and her advice sought. *BR / Clk*

15. **Village Broadband**
BR reported that the CSW Broadband Project website suggests that the 2016 contracts are now running to the end of 2017. Work is therefore still scheduled and on target to be completed by the end of the year.

16. **Financial Administration** - To consider payments to be made:

Current Account: £142.65 Deposit Account: £5,566.29

Invoices were presented , approved and cheques signed for :

Clerk's August / September Salary £195.77

N. Gasson £462.00

Royal British Legion £40

BR reported that she had received a request for the unpaid rental increase on the Village Hall to be brought up to date (£687.50). After discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk contact the Diocesan Board to arrange this and future payments. *Clk*

The Clerk also reported that the Annual Audit had now been completed; the External Auditor Certificate would be added to the website together with the Notice of Conclusion. *BR*

17. **Home to School Consultation**
BR provided an overview of the Consultation. The consultation is open to all local residents and will close on the 2nd of November. Full details can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ask

18. **District Councillor's Report**

- i. New Cabinet Minister appointed at Stratford-on-Avon District Council – The Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Cllr Chris Saint has appointed Tony Jefferson (Welcombe) as Health and Community Safety Portfolio on Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet.
- ii. Council application for Planning Enforcement Order successful – Stratford-on-Avon District Council has been told by magistrates that they can take enforcement action against a couple in Long Itchington who concealed the use of a garage as a residential dwelling.
- iii. Council receives cash windfall – Stratford-on-Avon District Council has received a windfall payment thanks to the legal agreement surrounding the transfer of housing stock. This extra cash has come from Orbit Homes, from the 50 per cent share of the proceeds from the sale of derelict garage sites across the District. The District Council is looking to invest this extra cash into affordable housing by ring-fencing the money whilst the Affordable Housing Working Group (AHWG) work up a strategic options report to decide where it can have the most benefit for residents.
- iv. Joint news release: Fresh hearing granted in Horton case – A judge has ruled in favour of Cherwell District Council, South Northamptonshire Council, Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Banbury Town Council as they fight against the proposed downgrades to services at the Horton General Hospital.

The Councils are seeking a judicial review into the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's (OCCG) consultation on changes to services including maternity, critical care and hospital bed use. The council's argue that the consultation was inadequate, fundamentally flawed and confusing for people who wanted to have their say on the future of their local hospital.

19. **County Councillor's Report**
CCllr Williams report is attached to these minutes.

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

BR reported that Tim Greenway had been in touch to enquire whether the village had a defibrillator and was willing to make arrangements for a presentation with the Ettington CFR team.

After discussion it was proposed to invite to the November meeting.

BR reported that she had endeavoured to complete WCC's Children's Centre Consultation but had met with significant problems with the online questionnaire that had prevented her from completing it. BR had also spoken with others that shared her frustration, she would now follow up in writing to the Leader of the Council.

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

Tuesday 14th November 7.30pm Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.34 pm

**Combroke Parish Council – 18th September 2017
County Councillor's Report**

1. **Finance** – Now that the summer vacations are behind us, work on all fronts proceeds with preparing the budget. This report has to be drafted by December and the issues concerning allocation of funding from central government still has to be resolved. As far as Children's Centres are concerned, to date the consultation has generated a significant number of responses (over 1,000) and we anticipate more in the final days before the consultation ends next week. Clearly the Council will need to ensure that sufficient time is given to a full and careful analysis of all the responses before any proposals are put forward. These responses will be considered for proposals to be made by the Cabinet at their meeting on 9th November 2017. This meeting will be a month later than that originally proposed. There has been a series of meetings throughout the county for local people to put their views forward and, of course, all of these responses will have to be considered when preparing our final proposals.
2. **Community Grant Scheme** – This scheme is to provide small sums of money to any organization which would benefit from this scheme. I must stress that it is not appropriate for Parish Councils to make claims under this scheme.
3. **Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service** – At the full meeting of Warwickshire County Council on 18th July, the Council approved the Integrated Management Plan for the years 2017 – 2020. Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service is slightly unusual in that it is a department of Warwickshire County Council, rather than a stand-alone Fire & Rescue Service. Over the last 18 months with the pressures imposed on all departments in the County to save costs, the Service has continued to be recognised as one of the pace setters for the quality of service and innovation. I can state now that there are no plans to reduce the number of Fire Stations, or fire engines in the foreseeable future. Interestingly, there has been a fall in the number of fires but an increase in the number of occasions that they have been asked to attend. Road traffic accidents are the single largest occasion when the Fire & Rescue Service has been asked to attend.

Two new Fire Stations have been built, one at Gaydon and the other at Southam. There is a move to reduce the size of fire engines from the large six man vehicles to the smaller and faster four man rescue vehicles. A new Fire & Rescue Headquarters will be constructed on a refurbished site at Leamington Spa.
4. **Public Health** – The Director of Public Health has issued a report to local people about the health of their community. The report tells us that Health and Wellbeing in our district is generally reported as good. This is to be celebrated. However, the report identifies significant variations in different areas across the county. Below is an extract from the Director's report.

"Health and wellbeing is generally reported as good compared to England. This is to be celebrated - however it does mask significant variation in different areas across the county (see pages 8, 9, 10 of the report).

There have been some improvements in core areas:

- Health and wellbeing is generally reported as good compared to England. This is to be celebrated - however it does mask significant variation in different areas across the county.
- There have been some improvements in core areas:
 - The rate of teenage conceptions continues to fall from 22.9% in 2014 to 19.5% in 2015
 - Physical inactivity in adults has reduced from one in three down to one in four
- However, there are areas where health outcomes have deteriorated; for example hospital admissions as a result of injuries in childhood (0 to 14 years) are at a higher level than the national figure.
- Life expectancy has been rising - but while it is good that we are living longer, much of the additional time is spent in poor health - around 12 years for men and 16 years for women. Years spent in poor health impact on families and workplaces, and increase pressure on health and especially social care services”.

The full report can be found at warwickshire.gov.uk/publichealthannualreport

5. **Double White Lines** – I noticed from the minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council that a request was made to investigate the introduction of double white lines on the Fosse Way at the exit from the village. I did support your request but the Highways Department use the following guidance from government. However, having spoken to them they are prepared to re-evaluate your request applying the criteria supplied by the government. In the circumstances, I am not really confident that your request will be acted upon but as soon as I received the decision, I will let the Clerk know.

“Double white lines are laid on a highway solely to prohibit overtaking in places where the forward visibility distance for drivers falls below a given level. The forward distance visibility level varies with the overall traffic speed on the road - the higher the speed, the greater the forward visibility distance needed for drivers to judge whether overtaking is advisable. The forward visibility distance at the above location will not meet the required distance. It should also be noted that we will not consider marking double white lines on short or isolated sections of road. To do so would lead to the situation where some lengths of road had double white lines whereas other with similar visibility restrictions did not. This could lead some drivers to believe that overtaking was feasible on the latter lengths”.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton & Red Horse Division – WCC
16.09.17.