

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the extra-ordinary Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 3 February 2014 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Members present:	Miss A Bacon (Chairman)	Mr S Moffat ^(SM)
Councillors:	Mr R Elleray ^(RE)	Mr T Scott ^(TS)
	Mr H Griffiths ^(HG)	Mr N Taylor ^(NT)
	Mr A Hollick ^(AH)	Miss C Westgarth ^(CW)
	Dr J McCabe ^(JM)	

In attendance: 19 members of the public and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Preston, Pemberton and Crossley.

1.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda

Cllr Griffiths declared an interest as a resident of Barrons Way which opens on to West Street.

Cllr Taylor declared an interest as a resident of West Street.

1.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

None.

1.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None.

Comments & observations from members of the public and County and District Councillor reports

A number of residents expressed concerns about the serious problems of sewage overflowing into Swaynes Lane and Bush Close, and questioned whether the pumping station at Bush Close was working. Some residents who had complained had received personal visits from Anglian Water, who had upgraded the pump but were now running tankers round the clock until further notice to increase capacity. It was reported that sewage in back gardens had now been cleared and toilets were working. Doubts were expressed about the ability of the system to cope if another 90+ houses were built. Anglian Water were said to be giving the problem higher priority now and investigating the possible ingress of surface water into the pipes between Toft and Comberton. A meeting with residents had taken place, attended by representatives from the District and County Councils and Andrew Lansley MP, who had undertaken to write to Anglian Water.

Cllr Elleray left the meeting briefly during this discussion.

The Parish Council was asked whether the proposal for 90 houses had been approved. It was confirmed that this was still under consultation and that whilst the Council was commenting on amendments to the plan, it had opposed the plan at all stages.

A resident asked on what evidence the developer had queried the need for improved recreational facilities or additional car parking for Comberton Village College. Maps illustrating the original and revised proposals were circulated. It was explained that, if there was no need for the pitch or car parking, the developer wanted these removed from the plan, or the whole Local Plan could be deemed invalid. The Parish Council explained that it had already invested several thousand pounds in improving the recreational facilities in recent years, and understood that Toft were interested in shared access to the Comberton facilities rather than additional facilities of their own. No written evidence of need was known to have been provided by residents to SCDC. The Parish Council had, however, noted and complained about the problems with parking around the Village College.

It was observed that removal of the recreational facilities and car parking from the plan would leave an increased area available for development. A question was asked about the proposed mix of housing on the site.

2. **Bennell Farm – To consider correspondence from David Roberts, Principal Planning Policy Officer, South Cambridgeshire District Council, the report from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman on their meeting with representatives of Toft Parish Council, and any recommendations from the Council’s LDP Vision Working Group**

Cllr Elleray provided the background to the item. The response to the second consultation, to which both Comberton and Toft had objected, was outlined. It was noted that neither Comberton nor Toft Parish Councils had discussed the issues of the football pitch and car park with the developer.

Members reported on the meeting between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with representatives of Toft Parish Council as circulated.

The proposed response to SCDC was discussed. Cllr Moffat left the meeting briefly at 8.27 and returned a few minutes later.

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Working Group and its recommendation that seven additional requirements should be included in the response.

The Parish Council reiterated its objection to any further development beyond the current Group Village status, to any erosion of the green belt, and its opposition to the development proposed at Bennell Farm.

RESOLVED to make a number of agreed amendments to the draft and to amend the principal response to SCDC as appended to these minutes. ^(Prop RE, 2nd CW)

RESOLVED unanimously that should the decision go against the Parish Council’s proposal, adequate mitigation should be sought from the developers and SCDC, as set out under the bullet points above, to alleviate the concerns of parishioners; and that these points should be submitted to SCDC as part of the Parish Council’s response, as appended to these minutes. ^(Prop RE, 2nd SM)

RESOLVED to delegate the submission of the Parish Council’s response to SCDC to Cllr Elleray. ^(Prop AB, 2nd TS)

Thanks were extended to Cllr Elleray and the Working Group for all their hard work.

3. **Closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.17 pm.

SignedChairmandate