

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Wednesday 11 February 2015 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1.1 To receive written apologies for absence and reasons

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Pemberton.

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

Cllr Moffat declared an interest in Item 3.4 a Trustee of the Comberton Playground Project. Cllr Griffiths declared an interest in Item 5.4 as his wife was a Library Visitor.

1.3 To receive written requests for dispensations for interests (if any)

None.

1.4 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Mark Bennett, a former member of the Parish Council, who had died.

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

Mr Oates updated the Parish Council on the newsletter article concerning BT Broadband, which had resulted in six people contacting him. Those people presently with lines from the exchange can be connected to a new box some time in 2015. Mr Oates was thanked for his efforts.

Cllr Taylor spoke on behalf of Anthony Bateman regarding the works at Normandy Close. It was observed that the weeding and spraying was still outstanding and CGM had also been given the contract for the hedge planting and tree work to be completed by the end of February. A complaint is to be submitted to the contractor as works had not been completed.

A resident complained that litter was being left behind after refuse collections had taken place.

The previously circulated report from the County Councillor was taken as read.

Cllr Higman arrived at 7.45 pm.

District Cllr Scott spoke to his written report, which covered the gate by the Churchyard, parking on the pavements, and the fish and chip van in Harbour Avenue.

Cllr Higman provided an update on her discussions with the Royal Mail regarding the parking outside the Post Office.

2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 14 January 2015, and also the confidential minutes of the October and November meetings

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting on 14 January be approved ^(Prop AB, 2nd HG, carried with 2 abstentions) and signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED that the confidential minutes of the October and November 2014 meetings be approved ^(Prop AG, 2nd HG) and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising or carried forward from the meeting or a previous meeting for discussion or decision and to note the Clerk's report

The Clerk's report, which included background to items on the agenda and matters arising, was noted.

3.1 (3.2) Shrubs planted on Parish Council land

RESOLVED as it was not known who had planted the shrubs to write to the six homes in the vicinity of 30 Hillfield Road that the Parish Council has noted shrubs have been planted on Parish Council land, and in view of the consequent maintenance costs to the Council, which would set a precedent, they will need to be removed to facilitate grass cutting and maintenance. The resident concerned may reclaim the shrubs and plant them on their own land within 28 days.

RESOLVED unanimously to write to CGM expressing the Parish Council's concerns at the lack of maintenance to the landscaping areas. (Prop NT, 2nd SH)

3.2 (3.3) Pitch maintenance – to consider quotations for fertiliser, weed treatment and grass rust

Deferred to the next meeting.

3.3 (4.2) Annual review of electricity prices

RESOLVED to stay with E.On on a one-year contract but to delegate to the Clerk to see whether the price can be negotiated lower. (Prop RE, 2nd JM)

3.4 Phase 3 play equipment project request from the Comberton Playground Project that the Parish Council covers the shortfall itself

RESOLVED to give Comberton Playground Project the option either to modify the project to match the money or they must continue to fundraise. The Parish Council hopes that they will be successful.

4. Finance, procedure & risk assessment

4.1 To receive the financial report and to approve the payment of bills

RESOLVED to receive the financial report and that this be checked against the invoices and statements before the cheques are signed at the end of the meeting.

RESOLVED (Prop AB, 2nd BP) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus Greenhams (Cricket Club tables) £126.18.

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| Salaries | £287.47 |
| Cambridge Water (Pavilion water) | £284.57 |
| CGM (Hedge pruning) | £151.20 |
| JS Electrical (Immersion heater timer) | £130.00 |
| LGS Services (Admin support) | £1510.58 |

Credits, including bank interest and pitch hire fees, were noted.

4.2 Update on the Option to Tax

RESOLVED to note that HMRC had written and required more information and that the Clerk will work with the FBWG on this matter.

5. To receive reports and recommendations from committees, working groups and members

5.1 Planning Committee report

The Planning report as circulated was taken as read. The Council was pleased with SCDC's new policy of informing Parish Councils.

5.2 RWG report

The RWG report as circulated was taken as read. A MUGA will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

5.3 Transport Working Group

5.3.1 Minor Improvement Scheme outcome and proposal that the Parish Council considers how this could be funded

RESOLVED to note that the application had not been successful and that an estimate of costs, should the Parish Council carry out the work itself, would be in the region of £17-25,000.

RESOLVED that the TWG should find out from County Cllr Frost why the Parish Council had not been successful when other parish councils had obtained funding for the same project.

5.4 Comberton Library

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Griffiths verbal report and written correspondence both indicating that the future of the Library is under threat and to place an article in Contact.

6. To consider matters arising out of correspondence/communications received

6.1 SCDC consultation on use of Article 4 directions to help retain village pubs and Campaign for Real Ale – re SCDC protection of public houses

RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council fully supports the use of Article 4 directions to help retain village pubs.

6.2 Seetec- Community work placements programme

RESOLVED that members should consider this and let the Clerk know if they have any suggestions so that this could be considered further at a future meeting.

6.3 Comberton Village College – request to establish orienteering course on Recreation Ground for school and public use

RESOLVED that Cllr Preston will speak to the College to obtain further details.

6.4 Draft A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme Development Consent Order

Noted.

7. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 9.05 pm.

SignedChairmandate