

**Minutes of Comberton Annual Parish Meeting
on Wednesday 6 May 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: 9 parishioners including Parish Council members

In attendance: Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Cllr Miss Amanda Bacon presided.

The written reports from the meeting are appended in full to the master minutes and are available from the Clerk on request.

Apologies for absence were received from: Mr Hywel Griffiths, Mr Robert and Mrs Penny Cook, and Mr Richard Elleray.

1. Approval & signing of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 30 April 2014

The minutes were approved by the meeting ^(Prop N Taylor, 2nd A Hollick) and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

3. Report of the Parish Council for the year from Cllr Amanda Bacon, Chairman¹

The report, appended in full to these minutes, covered: Parish Council membership; the Recreation Ground extension; new playground equipment; the Connections Youth Bus; the Christmas Lights event; the Council's support of village groups via S137 grants; and problems with street lights. The outcome of the Local Development Framework enquiry was awaited. Thanks were expressed to Councillors, the Clerk and residents.

4. Report from Gail Stoehr, Responsible Financial Officer, on the Parish Council's finances including the presentation of audited accounts²

Gail Stoehr, Responsible Financial Officer, presented the Audited Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2014. She invited inspection of the accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2015, which were to be presented to the Parish Council for approval next week, and explained the audit procedure. Large items of spending included the Recreation Ground extension, the Connections Bus and play equipment. Details would be in the Annual Report to be circulated shortly to all homes in the village.

5. Report by District Cllr T Scott on District Council Matters³

Cllr Scott spoke to his written report (appended in full), covering: Council finances, demographics, planning, transport, housing, and environmental services, including refuse collection changes and savings. The background to the Local Development Framework and the process involved were outlined. The Inspector might require additional housing to be provided. However, if the Local Development Plan was thrown out it would represent a major risk for the village with regards to Bennell Court. The report covered the City Deal and the implications over 5 years, with £500M received for infrastructure. There was a possibility of the Madingley Road Park and Ride having houses built on it.

A resident queried why refuse had not been collected despite a complaint being made and commented that no special effort had been made to collect as the bin was overflowing. Another resident spoke in support of SCDC, in that they had quickly collected her bin when it had been missed.

A resident opposed the development at Bennell Farm, stating that the area was subject to flooding.

Cllr Scott responded that it was unfortunate that the District Councillor and Toft Parish Council had supported the development and planning application at Waterbeach. The Inspector had looked at the housing supply and decided that SCDC had not built enough housing. Due to building in the City at Great Kneighton, SCDC had a housing shortfall. Large housing developments took a long time due to the lack of infrastructure. However, Bennell Farm had the infrastructure but the precept would go to Toft; the S106 money would come to Comberton as this was the fairest outcome.

Another resident indicated that while she sympathised she felt the development was rubber stamped years ago. Cllr Scott was thanked for what he had done.

The comment was made that Bennell Farm would cause parking problems in the village.

Cllr Scott explained that other sites had been put forward. If Bennell Farm was not in the Local Plan those other sites might be put forward again for development.

6. Report by County Cllr S Frost on County Council Matters

No report was received.

7. Report on the work and activities of groups and organisations including those who have either received a grant from the Parish Council or which have Parish Council appointees on their charity or organisation including:

7.1 Herringland Charity (trustees appointed by the Parish Council)

There was no formal report. Some money had been donated to the project on the Recreation Ground. Rent had been paid by the tenant.

7.2 Comberton Village Institute (trustees appointed by the Parish Council)⁴

Dr Malcolm Wright spoke to his written report (appended in full). The Hall was well used for groups and events and the Trustees ensured that it was run in a professional manner. The Hall had recently been decorated inside and out. Thanks were extended to the Trustees for their hard work.

7.3 Comberton Playground Project (trustee appointed by the Parish Council)⁵

The report (appended) covered the opening of the sandpit, which was well used and had improved access; fundraising and finance; and forthcoming repairs to the safety surface.

7.4 St Mary's Church (Grant)

Miss Chris Westgarth reported that the Church was grateful for the grant received.

7.4 Meridian Primary School PTA (grant)⁶

The report (appended) provided an update on funding. The shelving and furniture have been ordered and is to be installed in the summer holiday.

7.5 Questions on any of the above reports

None.

8. Reports from other village groups and organisations on their activities

8.1 WI

Mrs Sandra Hyde reported on the outside benches celebrating 75 years of Comberton WI and 100 years of the national WI.

8.2 Antiquarians

It was reported that the numbers were up

8.3 Wine Club

Membership had fallen.

- 8.4 Film Club
The Film Club was doing well. A fee is charged for showing films. A successful pancake race had been held.
- 8.5 Comberton Contact⁷
Mrs Anne Horler's report (appended) covered receipt of the Cambridge Building Society Community Magazines Award, contributions, advertising income and promotion of local events. Thanks were extended to all involved.
A resident stated a preference for the advertising fee to be increased rather than the number of advertisements.
- 8.6 Meridian School
Apologies were received from Ms Glennis Virgo, who will be retiring at the end of August. A new Head Teacher had been appointed from September. The meeting expressed regret at losing Ms Virgo, who had moved the School on.
- 8.7 Comberton Allotments and Gardens Association⁸
Appended. All plots are rented. Forthcoming events include a plant sale in May, a Barbecue in July, and a show in September. A successful coach trip was held in October.
9. **Questions on any of the above reports**
None.
10. **To consider resolutions of which advance notice has been given**
None.
11. **Any other Parish Matters**
Village Sign – concerns were expressed that the refurbishment of the sign, which was designed by Mr Carter years ago, had taken so long.
Many concerns were raised about issues relating to street lighting and the recent programme of installing new columns.
A resident commented that the men working on the water works in Long Road had been very courteous. A leak had occurred opposite Foxes Way where they had finished working.
A resident stated that two Canada geese occupying the pond needed to be removed.
It was felt that the Annual Parish Meeting event should be publicised more widely.
Only six members of the Parish Council had attended.
Nick King of AmeyCespa is to be invited to next year's meeting to give a talk on recycling.
It was observed that night time work by BT in Barton Road was very noisy.
It was noted that the nine members of the Parish Council had been returned unopposed in the recent Parish Council elections.
Comberton Baptist Church was running a café. Residents were welcome to drop in for a coffee.
12. **Closure of meeting**
There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (date)

¹ Chairman's report

² Report of RFO and Audited Accounts

- ³ Report of District Councillor
- ⁴ Comberton Village Institute report
- ⁵ Comberton Playground Project report
- ⁶ Meridian School PTA library refurbishment report
- ⁷ Comberton Contact report
- ⁸ Comberton Allotments and Gardens Association

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