

**COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Wednesday 9 November 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Members present:	Mr H Griffiths (Chairman) <sup>(HG)</sup>	Ms L Tatnell <sup>(LT)</sup>
Councillors:	Ms J Feldman <sup>(JF)</sup>	Mr N Taylor <sup>(NT)</sup>
	Dr J McCabe <sup>(JM)</sup>	Mr M Tebbit <sup>(MT)</sup>
	Mr S Moffat <sup>(SM)</sup>	Ms C Urquhart <sup>(CU)</sup>
	Mr T Scott <sup>(TS)</sup>	Miss C Westgarth <sup>(CW)</sup>

In attendance: 6 members of the public including Dr Malcolm Wright (Village Hall Trustees), 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 Cllrs Preston (out of parish), Hollick (out of parish) and Barford (family circumstances). Apologies for anticipated lateness were received from Cllr Westgarth.

**1.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of any dispensations held**

None.

**2.3 To receive written requests for dispensations for interests and to grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate (if any)**

None.

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

Residents expressed concerns about the proposals to remove the cherry tree. The assistance of a tree surgeon was offered.

Cllr Westgarth arrived during this item at 7.40 pm.

Malcolm Wright spoke to his correspondence and the problems that would ensue if the parking spaces were not available for Village Hall users. The spaces had not just been used for dropping off but vehicles had been left there all day.

Mel Collins spoke with regard to the pond at 49 West Street. Photographs of the pond in 1964 were circulated and concerns were expressed at the apparent lowering of the water table along West Street. The Parish Council's help was sought with the problem.

A spate of burglaries in the village was noted. All residents were urged to be vigilant.

Cllr Scott, as District Councillor, spoke to his written report, which covered: devolution; boundary changes and the implications for Comberton with three district councillors serving eight villages; the Greenways consultation; the 5 year housing shortfall; the change in the status of Comberton and the risk of more developments; and the drying up of ponds in the village.

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 12 October 2016**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 12 September be approved and signed by the Chairman after correcting the date to 12 October. <sup>(Prop CW, 2nd NT, carried with 2 abstentions)</sup>

**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 (4.3) Hillfield Road cherry tree – to consider consultation responses

RESOLVED having considered the consultation responses with 10 in favour of retaining the tree and 2 having no objection to its removal, to retain the cherry tree. <sup>(Prop LT, 2nd CW, unanimous)</sup>

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business.

3.6 (8.1 of September 2016) Village Hall parking – The Trustees' response regarding parking spaces requesting that the ten spaces be used for parking by Village Hall users, the Commercial Centre employees plus clients and by parents dropping off their children at the Playgroup

The Clerk advised on the wording of the Lease.

RESOLVED to write to the Playgroup to ask that the car park only be used for dropping off or picking up children, and that this also be included in Contact. <sup>(Prop CW, 2nd NT, unanimous)</sup>

6.3 Resident – pond at 49 West Street

At 8.15 pm, on a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly suspended to allow Mrs Collins to speak. The Planning implications of any pond works will be considered by the Planning Committee. The meeting re-opened at 8.25 pm.

3.2 (4.4) Normandy Close weeds and landscaping – to consider quotes if received

RESOLVED, following consideration of the quotation from Buchans and the options, to accept the quotation for the treatment of turf at £164.00 plus VAT, the clearance of the hedge line at £153.00 plus VAT, and reinstatement of the gaps with two year old plants at £463.00 plus VAT. <sup>(Prop NT, 2nd TS, unanimous)</sup>

3.3 (4.5) Slide hand rail and dome timber edging – to consider quotations if received

RESOLVED to seek additional quotations.

3.4 (6.1) Request for a storage container – to consider report and recommendations

On a proposition by the Chairman, at 8.44 pm it was agreed to adjourn the meeting to allow a member of the Football Club to comment on the difficulty of storing the goals. It was reported that the Cricket Club did not wish to contribute to the cost. The container would need to be 24 feet long to accommodate the goals.

RESOLVED that the RWG should submit a fully costed proposal to the budget meeting if it wishes the Parish Council to consider this further when it sets its budget.

3.5 (7.2) Proposal that the Parish Council writes to Anglian Water and the Planning Officers regarding flooding issues and the implications of planning applications

RESOLVED to write highlighting the ongoing issues including the fact that one day of heavy rainfall resulted in tankers removing sewage from Bush Close for three days, despite the recent work undertaken by Anglian Water. <sup>(Prop SM, 2nd NT, unanimous)</sup>

3.6 (8.1 of September 2016) Village Hall parking

Taken earlier.

**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 <sup>(Prop NT, 2nd LT, unanimous)</sup> that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus Peter Oakes (tree work Harbour Ave) £504.00, BT (telephone) £31.20, TJ Austin (flail of recreation ground hedge) £240.00, RPM (RoSPA repairs) £1389.60, Cambridge Outdoor Living (bridge and bollards) £864.00.

Peter Oakes (tree works)	£420.00
RPM (safety surfacing)	£588.00
Salary	£294.51
LGS Services (admin support)	£1488.16

RESOLVED that the The Direct Debit authority in favour of NEST be signed <sup>(Prop HG, 2nd NT unanimous)</sup>

4.2 Clerk's report on any use of delegated powers  
None.

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

5.1 Transport Working Group (TWG)

5.1.1 Proposal that the Parish Council hands out hot chocolate and pastries to children on the way to school to celebrate the zebra crossing  
Deferred to the December meeting.

5.1.2 Proposal that the Parish Council writes to the MoD to request that they kindly allow the permissive path to cross their land and to seek the support of Coton Parish Council and Heidi Allen MP

RESOLVED that Cllr Barford should draft a letter to be sent by the Clerk to the MOD. <sup>(Prop JM, 2nd NT, unanimous)</sup>

Cllr Moffat left the meeting at 9.00 pm.

5.2 Proposal that the Parish Council considers if the Speedwatch equipment should be insured

RESOLVED to obtain insurance cover for the Speedwatch equipment and that Cllr Tatnell should submit a risk assessment. <sup>(Prop LT, 2nd JM, unanimous)</sup>

5.3 Fitness equipment problems

RESOLVED to ask Fresh Air Fitness to visit and rectify the problem as the Parish Council believes the equipment should be under warranty. <sup>(Prop CW, 2nd TS, unanimous)</sup>

5.0.1 Thanks were expressed to volunteers from the Tree Group for work carried out at Watts Wood at the weekend.

5.0.2 RESOLVED that Cllr Taylor should arrange the assets walk. The Assets Review is to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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

6.1 Connections Bus Service – provision of youth services for 2017-2018 financial year

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting and to ask the Connections Bus Service the cost for 20 sessions.

6.2 Resident – suggestion that the village pond base be repaired by “puddling in” some clay

RESOLVED that the Parish Council did not feel that the water was escaping.

RESOLVED as another resident had reported that rats are still a problem at the pond “Feeding of the ducks and rats” is to be agenda items for the next meeting. It was noted that the garage had cleared an area of the pond.

6.3 Resident – pond at 49 West Street

Taken earlier.

6.4 CCC Winter gritting routes

RESOLVED to write expressing concerns at the cuts in gritting coverage, making the roads dangerous for residents. <sup>(Prop HG, 2nd TS, unanimous)</sup>

6.5 CCC Minerals and Waste consultation

Noted.

6.6 SCDC – Review of polling districts consultation

Noted.

6.7 SCDC – Local green space designation

RESOLVED to respond that the green spaces form a green lung through the village in a conservation area and represent a protected village amenity, being adjacent to a historic footpath, with public access on 3 of 4 sides, and as such provide tranquility and a site for wildlife. The land referred to as garden at no 36 should be retained as Local Green Area as a larger area has greater benefit to the community and the dwelling at no 36 would retain a garden and curtilage.

7. Closure of meeting

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

Signed .....Chairman .....date

