

**COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Wednesday 13 September 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Members present:	Mr H Griffiths (Chairman) <sup>(HG)</sup>	Mrs 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>	Miss C Westgarth <sup>(CW)</sup>
	Mr T Scott <sup>(TS)</sup>	

In attendance: 2 members of the public, County Cllr Lina Joseph and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

**1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

1.1 To receive written apologies for absence and reasons

Cllrs Hollick and Urquhart.

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

None.

1.3 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**

Ian Sollom introduced himself as the prospective candidate for the District Council next year, attending the meeting to observe.

A resident of Kentings highlighted problems with the ditch between Kentings and the Village College, which had again become overgrown with vegetation, despite being cleared out last year. He expressed concerns that the water would overflow the top of the ditch and affect residents' properties. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Cllr Westgarth spoke as a member of the public and asked for the removal of numerous "For Sale" boards, which had been screwed to road signs to advertise an event in Hardwick and not taken down afterwards. The estate agents will be asked to remove the signs.

County Cllr Lina Joseph reported on:

- A meeting with Stephen Munday of CVC including a discussion on children's mental health and the provision of appropriate training.
- Flooding – A flood awareness and training event is to take place. It was suggested that the Parish Council could put together a flood emergency plan.
- Preparation of the CCC budget for next year. CCC are looking for alternative ways of working to deliver services, rather than reducing them.

It was observed that the flood risk, particularly in Swaynes Lane, was likely to get worse when 90 additional houses were built in the village, and that flooding and sewage affected the roads at times of heavy rainfall.

Cllr Scott, as District Councillor, reported on:

- The SCDC Planning Committee meeting to consider the second outline planning application for Bennell Farm. There will be a public consultation in November.
- The options for the Park and Ride site had now been reduced to two, namely Scotland Farm and a site at the top of Long Road

- The two route options under consideration for the Cambourne to Cambridge busway. The need for the route to be future proofed, given the anticipated new developments to the west, was noted.
- Greenways – a consultation will take place for the Comberton area later this year.
- The concept of rural transport hubs

Cllr Taylor arrived during this item at 7.56 pm and apologised for lateness.

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 12 July be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop CW, 2nd JM, unanimous)

**3. Co-option to fill casual vacancy – to consider any applications received**

None.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 6.2 next.

**6.2 Proposal that the Council considers Cllr Joseph's correspondence about setting up a flooding team and a flooding emergency plan**

Cllrs Hollick and Taylor were already involved in discussions with Anglian Water. RESOLVED that a flooding working group be set up with the membership of Cllrs Taylor, Feldman and Hollick, and to notify CCC of the Parish Council's interest, and to book places on the forthcoming Environment Agency training for all three members. (Prop HG, 2nd NT, unanimous)

**4. 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.

**4.1 (4.4) Herringland Charity request that the bench at the corner of Harbour Avenue is tidied up – to consider quotation if received**

RESOLVED, given that no quotations had yet been received, to continue to pursue them and defer this item to the next meeting.

**4.2 (4.6) Old railway carriage at Watts Wood – to consider response from Comberton Allotments and Gardens Association and invitation for the Parish Council to take over ownership**

RESOLVED on a proposition by the Chairman that this item be taken together with item 6.5.

**6.5 Proposal that the Council considers the problem of anti-social behaviour, broken glass and litter at Watts Wood**

It was reported that youngsters had been gathering in groups at Watts Wood and litter and broken glass had been left lying around. The Police had been called out and the PCSO will visit CVC to talk to the youths.

RESOLVED to write to the Allotments and Gardens Association and ask them to remove the railway carriage. (Prop HG, 2nd SM, unanimous)

RESOLVED to invite the PCSO to attend the next meeting to discuss the issue of anti-social behaviour and advise on the way forward. (Prop HG, 2nd SM, unanimous)

**4.3 (6.1.2) Pavilion shower room ceilings – to consider quotation if received**

No quotations had been received. Cllr Taylor will follow up calls received from contractors.

**4.4 To consider the tree works survey**

RESOLVED that the Tree Group should discuss the survey in more detail and consider prioritising the work and zones in the village, and report back to the next meeting. (Prop LT, 2nd HG, unanimous)

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Peter Oakes for £250.00 plus VAT for emergency work to remove the horse chestnut tree in Long Road for safety reasons. This is the same tree as in item 6.6. (Prop HG, 2nd LT, unanimous)

4.5 To consider quotes for the Causeway

No further quotations had been received. There was some uncertainty about the ownership of the Causeway. RESOLVED to defer consideration of this matter to the next meeting.

5. **Finance, procedure & risk assessment**

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take item 5.3 next.

5.3 To consider insurance quotations and if to take a one or three year agreement

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Inspire and to enter into a three year agreement at an annual premium of £1298.57 via Came and Co Insurance Brokers. (Prop HG, 2nd CW, unanimous)

5.1 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 HG, 2nd CW, unanimous) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus Came & Company (Insurance renewal) £1298.57, Acacia Tree Surgery (Tree survey) £1740.00, Comberton Baptist Church (Youth work) £511.75, Huntingdonshire District Council (Tree course) £52.00 and Buchans (grass cutting) £892.29.

MAGPAS (S137)	£75.00
Salary	£131.15
Salary	£131.15
HMRC (PAYE)	£18.20
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1576.90
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1509.73
Alarm Maintenance (Alarm service)	£132.00
RPM (Play equipment repairs)	£3276.00
Buchans (Grass cutting)	£1666.86
Algar Signcraft (Rec signs)	£129.60
P Oakes (Tree works – Long Road)	£288.00
Cambridge Water (Pavilion water)	£245.20

5.2 Clerk's report on any use of delegated powers

The Clerk reported on the use of her delegated powers to

The Clerk used her delegated powers to:

- contract Peter Oakes to clear a fallen limb from a horse chestnut tree in Long Road at a cost of £240.00 plus VAT for safety reasons.
- Following consultation with the Tree Group, granted permission to a resident in St Thomas's Close to trim a cherry tree.

A tree which had fallen onto the "Safer routes to School" path has been removed by Cllr Taylor.

RESOLVED to note that the Cricket Club were removing the old fridge and putting in a good second hand one which had been tested and checked by them.

5.3 To consider insurance quotations and if to take a one or three year agreement

Taken earlier.

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

6.1 Proposal that the Council considers if work additional to the contract is required for the encroachment of vegetation/hedge adjacent to the Meridian School

Cllr Taylor reported that the path needed to be cut further back to enable the contractors to keep it under control. A quotation for £125.00 plus VAT had been received for this work and another for £255.00 plus VAT for the southern boundary hedge on the recreation ground.

RESOLVED that Cllr Taylor will seek clarification from Buchans and report back to the Clerk who is authorised to use her delegated powers regarding these quotations.

6.2 Proposal that the Council considers Cllr Joseph's correspondence about setting up a flooding team and a flooding emergency plan

Taken earlier.

6.3 Proposal that the Council considers how to deal with ragwort in Jubilee Wood

RESOLVED following a lengthy discussion to accept the advice of the Tree Group and take no further action at this time.

RESOLVED that Cllr Tatnell should draft a statement from the Parish Council explaining the reasoning why the Council is not controlling the ragwort in this area for consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Scott and Tebbit should look at the area and report back to the next meeting. (Prop HG, 2nd JM, unanimous)

6.4 Proposal that the Council reassesses the provision of bins on the Recreation Ground

RESOLVED that Cllr Feldman will inform a resident that people may put dog waste in a litter bin if the dog bins are full.

RESOLVED to ask SCDC to replace the broken dog bin on the Recreation Ground at the entrance to the rec extension, and the bin on the Barton Road footpath leading through to Milner Road.

6.5 Proposal that the Council considers the problem of anti-social behaviour, broken glass and litter at Watts Wood

Taken earlier.

6.6 Proposal that the Council considers the second part of Peter Oakes's quote for the horse chestnut tree in Long Road

Taken earlier.

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

7.1 Resident – southern side of boundary fence, Comberton Recreation Ground

RESOLVED that the Clerk should clarify who has legal responsibility for the fence.

7.2 Resident – broken boundary fencing, Thornbury

RESOLVED to check with the Land Registry on the responsibility for the fence and then reply to the resident accordingly. (Prop HG, 2nd JF, unanimous)

7.3 CCC Invitation to bid for LHI funding 2018/19

RESOLVED that Cllr Taylor will liaise with Anna Barford about progressing the application for the 20 mph limit.

**8. Closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 9.32 pm.

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