

**COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Wednesday 10 October 2019 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

Members present: Mr H Griffiths (Chairman) <sup>(HG)</sup> Ms L Tatnell <sup>(LT)</sup>  
 Councillors: Dr J McCabe <sup>(JMcC)</sup> Miss C Westgarth <sup>(CW)</sup>  
 Mr S Moffat <sup>(SM)</sup>

Not present: Ms J Feldman  
 Ms J Martin  
 Mr T Scott  
 Mr A Hollick

In attendance: 5 members of the public, District Cllr I Sollom, and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

1. **To receive apologies for absence and reasons**  
 Apologies were received from Cllrs Feldman, Martin (family commitment) and Scott (unwell).
2. **To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of any dispensations held**  
 None.
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**

A representative of the WI referred to the article in Contact and said that the WI members had been thinking of providing a defibrillator and raising funds, and would be willing to support the Parish Council in its efforts.

A resident enquired about the development behind 40 West Street. This is in the hands of SCDC.

Suggestions were made for dog fouling signage around the village, including South Street, the path to the Church, the Drift and the Recreation Ground extension. He reported that the fouling resulted from both large and small dogs so there was not just one offender. He suggested an audit was suggested before the signs were erected.

Representatives of the Bowls Club spoke about the trees behind the Club and explained that they were not the Bowls Club's trees, but they had taken remedial action and cut the roots in a trench three metres from the trees. A request was made that the canopy be reduced on the trees.

District Cllr Ian Sollom reported on:

- An increase in member allowances approved at a full council meeting
- The new CEO had started in post
- The East West Rail report with recommendations for the route was expected before Christmas. According to hearsay they were looking at a route via Cambourne. The CamBed Rail link was considering a judicial review if the route did not incorporate the northern settlements of Northstowe and Waterbeach and if need be support for this would be welcomed.

**4. To consider application for co-option to fill casual vacancy – Caroline Abraham, 12 Swaynes Lane**

RESOLVED Caroline Abraham be co-opted as a member of the Parish Council in her absence. (Prop CW, 2nd JMcC, unanimous) Mrs Abraham is to sign her Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the start of the next meeting.

**5. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 11 September 2019**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 11 September 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop CW, 2nd LT, carried with 1 abstention)

**6. 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.

**6.1 (Open) Dog Fouling – to consider signage and provision of dog waste bags**

RESOLVED that dog fouling signs should be erected on the Recreation Ground as a matter of urgency and that the Recreation Ground Co-ordinator should ensure that the unsuitable posts are returned and replacement posts ordered urgently.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly adjourned at 7.51 pm to enable a resident to make a suggestion, and was re-opened at 7.53pm.

RESOLVED that having considered the resident's information on self-designed signs that the Handyman should order signs asking owners to pick up their dogs' waste or flick it into the undergrowth, for installation on The Drift path where it meets Swaynes Lane and also by the Watts Wood path, subject to prior confirmation of the wording and locations for these signs with Cllr Westgarth.

RESOLVED, having considered dog fouling in the rest of the village, that the Handyman should also order and erect "No dog fouling" signs, at the following locations: The Causeway; on South Street near the allotments; on the Meridian School path; and by the Hillfield Road bridge.

**6.2 (5.1) To consider a Community Defibrillator**

RESOLVED having considered the quote for defibrillators received from the Community Heartbeat Trust to approach the Village Hall and WI with a view to submitting a joint application to the National Lottery Fund for the funding of a new defibrillator, the Parish Council's preferred location being the wall of the Commercial Centre. As community support is required for a grant it was hoped that the project would be driven by the village groups.

On a proposition by the Chairman the order of business was changed to take item 9.1.1 next.

**9.1.1 Report and recommendation on trees by the Bowls Club**

RESOLVED having noted that only one of the trees was tagged and on the Council's trees list to accept responsibility for the two ash and maple trees and add these to the list.

RESOLVED to delegate to the Clerk and Cllr Tatnell together to source and accept a quotation for works to the trees subject to the advice of the tree surgeon on the removal of the maple. (prop)

RESOLVED to note the Bowls Club had agreed to take responsibility for the other smaller self set small ash tree in future.

**6.3 (8.1.2) Pond tree removal and autumn replacements – to consider costed proposal**

Cllr McCabe declared an interest and left the meeting at 8.07 pm and returned at 8.08pm.

RESOLVED to delegate to Cllr Tatnell and the Clerk together the power to purchase replacement trees to the approximate value of £150-£200 which are to be planted by

volunteers or the Tree Group. The principle of accepting donations for trees in the past is to continue unchanged. (Prop HG, 2nd CW, unanimous)

RESOLVED to note the project report which is to be circulated to all members.

6.4 (8.3) Problems with .org email address

RESOLVED to refer the issue back to the Webmaster.

**7. Planning matters**

7.1 Resident – Pre-application discussion on land adjoining 69 Long Road including resident’s comments on traffic calming

RESOLVED to note that the Planning Committee had given informal feedback on development in the Green Belt.

RESOLVED that the Planning Committee should speak to the Planning Officer to understand his position of support on this and other large applications emerging in Comberton.

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

8.1 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.

RESOLVED that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus Fresh Air Fitness (Maintenance contract) £498.02 and Travis Perkins (Play bark) £679.68. (Prop CW, 2nd LT, unanimous)

Salaries	£794.25
PKF Littlejohn LLP (Audit)	£360.00
Command Pest Control (Pest control)	£42.00
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£1039.99
BT (Pavilion phone) (DD)	£33.00
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1265.39

Credits including an insurance claim, pitch hire fees, a VAT reclaim and receipt of the precept, were noted.

8.2 Clerk’s report on any use of delegated powers and action taken due to risk

None.

8.3 Recreation Ground Co-ordinator/Handyman’s report on any use of delegated powers

RESOLVED to note the report. Problems with anti-social behaviour have been reported to the Police and the Police presence is to be increased. Cllr Martin is to report this to Comberton Village College. There has been a fire damage to the new picnic bench which it was hoped the Handyman could disguise so there was no need for an insurance claim. Fertiliser is to be applied and the hedge cut.

8.3.1 Pitch maintenance and Crusaders request to be reimbursed for soil that they have purchased

RESOLVED to note that the Crusaders had not purchased any soil and that the Crusaders may use the soil pile already on site. The Recreation Ground Co-ordinator to buy a large bag to replace this when used.

8.4 To consider any urgent works required because of risk or health and safety

None.

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

9.1 Tree Group

9.1.1 Report and recommendation on trees behind the Bowls Club green

Taken earlier.

9.2 Recreation Ground Working Group

9.2.1 Proposal that the Parish Council adopts Rules of Use of Comberton Parish Council facilities for all Clubs

RESOLVED that the rules be adopted. (Prop LT, 2nd SM, unanimous)

RESOLVED United is to set up at standing order and make its first instalment on this year's fees by 1 January 2020.

RESOLVED the Clerk is to write and inform United and the other clubs. (Prop HG)

9.2.2 Proposal that the Council arranges a deep clean of the Pavilion

RESOLVED that the Recreation Ground Co-ordinator should arrange a deep clean. (Prop HG, 2nd LT, unanimous)

9.2.3 (5.6) Comberton United request for expenditure and provision of replacement/ additional keys – to receive report and recommendation from RWG

RESOLVED as indicated in the new rules replacement key sets resulting from lost keys will be charged at £150.00. (Prop SM, 2nd LT, unanimous)

9.2.4 Recommendation on rabbit management at the Recreation Ground

RESOLVED that it is not feasible to install rabbit fencing but dogs should be a good deterrent.

9.3 Proposal that the Parish Council co-opts Cllr Moffat to the Budget/Finance Working Group

RESOLVED that Cllr Moffat be co-opted to the Finance and Budget Working Group. (Prop LT, 2nd CW, unanimous)

9.4 Proposal that the Parish Council considers the SCDC Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting when Cllr Martin should be present.

9.4.1 Proposal that consideration is given to the Bizz bike commuter bike service

RESOLVED the Parish Council regards this as an interesting scheme.

9.5 Community Payback materials

RESOLVED Pavilion users are to be asked if they have moved the paint as this is required by Community Payback.

RESOLVED if the paint is not located to order replacement paint to paint the bunker, with delivery to Cllr Feldman if she is willing to accept them. (Prop LT, 2nd CW, unanimous)

9.6 Proposal that the Council installs "No cycling" signs for each end of the alleyway between Barron's Way and South Street

RESOLVED to report the problem to CCC and ask them to erect "No cycling" signage, but if they are not willing the Parish Council will pay.

RESOLVED Cllr Martin would raise this with Comberton Village College. (Prop LT, 2nd HG, unanimous)

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

10.1 SCDC – Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory and 5 year housing land supply consultation

Noted.

10.2 Cambridgeshire Climate Emergency – request for liaison meeting

RESOLVED, noting that no Parish Council members held the role, to place a note in Contact.

10.3 Cambridge City Council consultation on Making Space for People: Central Cambridge Vision, Aims and Objectives and Strategies

Noted.

11. **Closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 8.53 pm.

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

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APPROVED