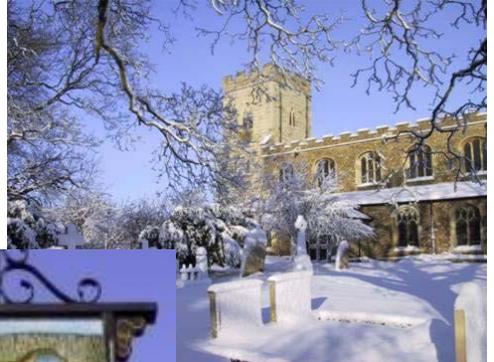


COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2014



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01954 210241**

Chairman's Report

I know I start the Chairman's report every year like this but I ask myself Is it really a year since I wrote the last one of these, either I am getting older or the time flies by or maybe it is a bit of both.

There have been good and challenging times this year for the Parish Council and Comberton.

We have welcomed Sophie Higman on to the Parish Council this year and we look forward to working with her in the future. We also have a new Cambridgeshire County Councillor and a new South Cambridgeshire District Councillor.

Regarding The South Cambridgeshire District Councils Local Development Framework, on the 13th March 2014 South Cambridgeshire Councillors voted to submit the plan as a whole (which included the new development at Bennells Farm) to the Secretary of State. This will be submitted around the end of March and then the Secretary of State will appoint an independent planning inspector to carry out an examination of it. This will include holding a series of public hearings, which are anticipated later this year. So please keep your eyes and ears open to these. I am grateful for the LDF working group for all their hard work putting together our various responses.

We once again have had trouble with flooding and sewage in the Village with 24 hour pumping in Bush Close/Swaynes Lane.

We are progressing (thanks to grants being awarded to us) with the Recreation Ground Extension and through a lot of hard work with the Comberton Playground Project Phase 1 of the new Playground is completed.

The Christmas lights switch on took place again this year but not without a small hitch which was verified before hand.

You can read more about our interesting year through the various reports in this booklet.

My thanks go to my fellow Councillors who give up their time voluntarily, the Clerk Mrs Gail Stoehr without whom the Parish Council could not manage, and most of all I thank you the residents of Comberton for your input and feedback which is helpful.

Amanda Bacon, Chairman

Members' reports

Footpaths – Parish Path Partnership (P3)

All public rights of way (PRoW) have numbers and different definitions, Footpath, Bridleway and Byway. Annual maintenance of The Causeway (Footpath 8), an ancient cobbled pathway that leads to the church, has taken place. The permissive pathways linking The Drift (Byway 7) with The Causeway (Footpath 8.) continue to be well used. We are grateful to the landowner and this does indeed make a delightful edition to the areas for walking and enjoyment. As with all rights of way and permissive paths, walkers are reminded to show consideration for nature and wildlife and to ensure they do not leave litter and clean up after their dogs. The last stretch of this link path crosses the new church yard, walkers are asked to respect this area and keep dogs on leads.

The hedging on the western boundary of Byway 7 (Herringfield Drift) was coppiced and cleared last year and this has increased the width of the byway. 4 x 4 users are reminded not to use the full width and to leave the western side for use by others. The deep ruts on the byway (Drift) were leveled and drainage installed at the wettest points. This improved the surface dramatically. However it did not remain in a usable state for long as 30+ off road scrambling bikes used it. While this activity is not illegal it really doesn't show respect for other users of the byway. The next phase of improvement works will see road planings spread on rutted areas.

Tree Group

Most of the Group's work involves commenting on planning applications for work on trees in the Conservation area or those with Preservation orders. It also deals with damage to or concerns about trees that belong to the Parish Council.

Last Autumn the Parish Council commissioned an Arboriculturalist Report to help plan any necessary work over the next 5 years and inform budgeting for this. The Tree Group will be considering the recommended work, most of which was routine maintenance, in its regular reviews of the Parish Council's trees.

Members of the Group also met with representatives of Thornbury Residents to obtain their views on the management of the public open space there.

Flooding Group

"I think that this year Comberton has come off quite lightly compared with other places.

Anglia Water is taking our flooding issue quite seriously, and has tankers on standby. They are also investigating the sewage drains between

Toft and Comberton with guided cameras to see whether there is any ingress of surface rain water into the sewage/foul water drains. New pumps have been installed at the Bush Close station on a flow meter, but it is interesting to note that the new pumps still could not cope with the amount of water during this wet winter.

This resulted in 20 sewage tankers per day taking the surplus water away during the period over Christmas and well into the New Year.

There have been a few serious environmental health issues with sewage

overflowing into residents' gardens. An improved infrastructure may have to take place to cope with the imminent housing development. A representative from Anglia Water have been asked to come to a Parish Council meeting in order to answer questions and concerns about these issues.

The awarded ditches have coped reasonably well during the year which has

meant that there has been no serious flooding in the village. The ditches are still due for their annual clearance of vegetation."

Recreation Ground Working Group

This has been a busy year for the Recreation Working Group!

With the participation of Comberton Playground Development committee, we have been seeking grants and donations from Cambridgeshire Community Fund, WREN and the Betty Lawes Foundation for the renewal of the children's play equipment at the recreation ground. Comberton residents have also generously supported the project.

In March, the contractors went in to complete Phase 1 of the project, removing old equipment and installing the climbing dome and zip wire. Phase 2 – the installation of play equipment for younger children will follow shortly.

We have been successful in obtaining grants from Sport England, Cambridgeshire Community Fund and South Cambridgeshire District Council for the development of the recreation ground extension. The work involved in developing the area as football pitches will get under way as soon as weather permits and we expect it to be completed by the end of June.

We are now exploring what funding is available for the redevelopment of the pavilion as a further improvement of the village's sports facilities.

We have been working jointly with the team who run the Connections bus to provide facilities for teenagers.

We are fortunate in Comberton to have a wide range of recreation amenities – Watts Wood, the Jubilee Wood as well as the recreation ground. If you have any ideas about how we can make the most of these facilities for the benefit of the village, please let us know.

Transport Working Group

1. Comberton Parish Council were successful in their 2013 Local Highways Improvements (LHI) scheme bid for speed platforms on Barton Road at the Harbour Avenue junction. However, the raised platforms would not have been suitable for this location, so 20mph school time signs were installed instead as the only viable alternative.
2. The PC were unsuccessful in their 2014 LHI bid for 40mph buffer zones on the northern (Long Rd/Geen End) and southern (Royston Lane) approaches to the village. The main reason given was that there had been no approval given by the police. The TWG will contact the police to see if the scheme can be implemented in future.
3. Comberton-Coton cycle route. Comberton PC will continue to try to get this route established.
4. Grit Bins. Comberton PC installed a number of grit bins around the village to enable better gritting of the village paths.

Local Development Framework Working Group

This working group was setup in June 2012 to prepare a response on behalf of the Village to the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) LDF consultation. The Working Group included other residents of Comberton who volunteered time and expertise. Members have attended SCDC LDF planning meetings and briefed the Parish Council accordingly.

Since the summer of 2013 there has been another round of consultations on the proposed SCDC Local Plan which now includes only the Bennell Farm development of up to 90 houses. All other sites in/around Comberton were excluded following objections, including a new one comprising the two fields between Barton Road and Watt's Wood to the east of Thornbury.

The site at Bennell Farm has some criteria which will underpin the Development Brief that SCDC will prepare for the site should the Local Plan be approved. This may involve, for example, Comberton PC agreeing that Toft sports clubs may use its Recreation Ground facilities if the developer provides an extension (or new) Sports Pavilion on the Recreation Ground to accommodate this increased use.

- Residential development will be located to the east of the access road running through the site and be at a low density of to take account of the character of this part of Comberton;
- Will be required to incorporate a full size football pitch and changing facilities for Toft village;
- Will be required to provide community car parking that is also available for overspill parking for Comberton Village College;
- The affordable housing provision to meet the affordable housing needs of the villages of Toft and Comberton, proportionate to the level of need in each village

On 28 March 2014, the SCDC Local Plan and its supporting documents were submitted for independent examination to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government via the Planning Inspectorate. Where the independent Inspector considers that more information is needed, he/she will hold a series of examination hearings. It is anticipated that these hearings will be held in Summer/Autumn 2014. The Inspector's Report is expected in Spring 2015 and could be adopted at that point by SCDC.

Affordable Housing Working Group

The Affordable Housing Working Group is still concerned with monitoring AH provision in the village but we have been unable to progress with any actions this last year due to the consultation on the Local Development Plan.

The outcome of the LDP will influence the future direction of the Affordable Housing Working Group.

Who and what is the Parish Council?

The Parish Council comprises of 13 councillors who serve for a term of 4 years and represent an electorate of approx. 2227.

The Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month except August with additional Planning Committee meetings being held as necessary. The agenda is displayed on notice board in South Street.

All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the public and at the beginning of the meeting there is a short period on the agenda when residents may speak with the Council. During the rest of the meeting however members of the public may listen to but not take part in the discussion of the Council's business. Meetings take place in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) usually starting at 7.30 pm and finishing by approximately 9.30 pm. Planning Committee meetings are advertised on the parish notice board.

Anyone wishing to raise a matter for consideration by the Council should write to the Clerk. Any letter received by the day before a Parish Council meeting will be reported to that meeting. If information is readily available the Council may decide its action right away. If not then the item will be dealt with at the next meeting. Members will be available in the Village Hall for a short period before the start of the meetings to talk to residents about any Comberton Parish Council related matters.

The Parish Council has representatives on other bodies outside the Parish Council and Councillors attend meetings on the Council's behalf.

Each member of the Council either serves on a committee or working group or has an area of responsibility. Many members have multiple responsibilities

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council. If anyone is interested in standing for co-option, please contact the Clerk.

Budget for the FY 2014 & 2015 (R&P)

PAYMENTS	Budget 2014	Actual Mar-14	Budget 2015
Advertising	550	600.00	550
Agency Services (Parish Paths & CCC Verges)	880	666.00	1074
General Admin	16057	14799.26	15772
Salaries	3700	3777.21	3850
S137 Grants/Donations	2000		1950
St Mary's Churchyard Maintenance		750.00	
CCC Summer Reading Challenge		40.00	
Village & Assets Maintenance	20200	20994.47	17450
Special Projects			
Village Events (Christmas lights)	100		100
Rec. Ground	12500		12500
TWG – Interactive signs & road markings	10000		15000
Youth Projects	6000	8796.05	11270
Footway Lighting	200		220
2013 Projects	7500	1290.87	2185
Jubilee Project	0		0
Contingency Fund	3950		5200
TOTAL PAYMENTS	83637	51713.86	87121

Any under spend on the budget headings is considered by the Parish Council and as appropriate may be carried forward in an earmarked fund or is released into general reserves.

RECEIPTS	Budget 2014	Actual Mar-14	Budget 2015
Precept	58000	55590	57000
Interest		1349.41	
Agency Services (CCC Verges)	900	964.66	
Lands, Rec Ground & Pavilion Income	3200	1423.4	3200
Reserves Release	12017		15000
2013 Projects Reserves Release	9520		10850
Misc Receipts		2732.16	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	83637	62059.63	86050

RESERVES (R&P)	Balance B/F	Payments	Receipts	Balance C/F
P3 grant	1179.13	1679.13	500.00	0.00
Recreation ground preparation fund	2500.00			2500.00
Village Hall insurance	0.00	1754.36	1754.36	0.00
Leach Homes development (S106 funds)	41685.83			41685.83
65-67 Long Road S106 (recreation ground)	4258.90			4258.90
The Valley S106	12153.00			12153.00
Longuet-Higgins (donation Recreation Ground)	397.40			397.40
3 Long Road S106 (play equipment)	0.00		4313.85	4313.85
3 Long Road S106 (indoor community)	0.00		712.92	712.92
Northfield Farm S106 (off-site provision and future maintenance)	0.00		4280.67	4280.67
Northfield Farm S106 (indoors community facilities)	0.00		703.84	703.84
25 green End S106 (off-site provision and future maintenance)	0.00		3276.05	3276.05
Play Equipment Phase 1	0.00	2800.00	46291.25	43491.25
General fund	117933.62			128080.77
Total	180107.88	6233.49	61832.94	245854.48

Please note the budget figures above do not include VAT

Bank Reconciliation

BROUGHT FORWARD

NS&I	101386.04
SANTANDER	79272.20
O/S 2012	<u>-550.36</u>
	180107.88

RECEIPTS	130053.27
	<u>310161.15</u>

CARRY FORWARD

NS&I	102735.45
SANTANDER	149814.20
O/S FY2013	<u>-6695.17</u>
	245854.48

PAYMENTS	64306.67
	<u>310161.15</u>

Summary income and expenditure accounts

2012/2013

2013/2014

Assets

101386.04
79272.20
-550.36
0.00
<u>180107.88</u>
2321.34
792.45
0.00

NS&I
Santander
O/S at bank
Cash in hand

102735.45
149814.20
-6695.17
0.00
<u>245854.48</u>

180107.88

245854.48

2321.34
792.45
0.00

Debtors
VAT recoverable
Payments in advance

2036.66
991.07
0.00

3113.79

3027.73

0.00

Income in advance

0.00

183221.67

Total Assets

248882.21

-1816.00

Creditors

-60713.69

181405.67

Total Assets less

188168.52

Liabilities

0.00

Long term liabilities
Provision for doubtful
debts

0.00

0.00

0.00

181405.67

Net Assets

188168.52

Please note the above accounts are in draft.

Contact Details

<u>Parish Councillors</u>		(01223)
Miss Amanda Bacon (Chairman)	92B Swaynes Lane	264711
Mr Hywel Griffiths (Vice Chairman)	18 Barrons Way	263390
Mr Peter Crossley	59 Barrons Way	262517
Mr Richard Elleray	30 Green End	262433
Ms Sophie Higman	7 West Street	264624
Mr Andrew Hollick	73 Swaynes Lane	263089
Dr Janet McCabe	3 Westcroft	263387
Mr Simon Moffat	86 Swaynes Lane	
Mr Ben Pemberton	35 West Street	262445
Mrs Jill Preston	45 Long Road	262445
Mr Tim Scott	65 Green End	263077
Mr Nick Taylor	41 West Street	263419
Miss Chris Westgarth	85 Barton Road	263242

Email: initial followed by surname @comberton.org.uk, eg
abacon@comberton.org.uk.

Parish Clerk

Mrs Gail Stoehr

30 West Drive, Highfields Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7NY

Tel: 01954 210241

Email: parishclerk@comberton.org.uk

Website: www.comberton.org.uk

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

will be held on

Wednesday 30 April 2014 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Approval & signing of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 03 May 2013
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Report of the Parish Council for the year from Cllr Amanda Bacon, Chairman
4. Report from Gail Stoehr, Responsible Financial Officer, and presentation of the last audited accounts
5. District Council report
6. County Council report
7. Reports on the work and activities of groups and organisations including those which have either received a grant from the Parish Council or which have Parish Council appointees on their charity or organisation including:
 - Herringland Charity (trustees appointed by the Parish Council)
 - Comberton Village Institute (trustees appointed by the Parish Council)
 - Comberton Play Equipment Project (trustee appointed by the Parish Council)
 - St Mary's Church (grant)
 - CCC Library Services (grant)Questions on any of the above reports
8. Reports from other village groups and organisations on their activities
9. To consider resolutions of which advance notice has been given (*If you have an item or resolution for the meeting to consider please let the Clerk know before the meeting*)
10. Any other parish matters)
11. Closure of meeting

This meeting is open to all residents and electors of Comberton who may by Law discuss all parish affairs, ask questions, put forward views and pass resolutions at the meeting.