

**Minutes of Comberton Annual Parish Meeting
on Wednesday 30 April 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: 10 parishioners including Parish Council members, speakers and members of the public, and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Cllr Miss Chris Westgarth presided. The written reports from the meeting are appended in full to these minutes.

1. Approval & signing of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 1 May 2007

The minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as a true record after the following minor amendment:

- Item: 7e the word 'hopefully' should be added after 'air conditioning'.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

Nothing that will not be discussed later this evening.

3. Report of the Parish Council for the year 2007-2008 from Chris Westgarth, Chairman.

The Council's Annual report for 2008¹ was handed out. The report is appended in full to these minutes.

4. Report from Gail Stoehr, Responsible Financial Officer, on the Parish Council's finances past & future including the presentation of audited accounts from year ending 2007.

The RFO presented the audited financial statement of the Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2007^{2,3}.

5. Report by Cllr S. Harangozo on District Council Matters

Cllr Harangozo was not present at this point of the meeting.

6. Report by Cllr D Baldwin on County Council Matters⁴

Cllr D Baldwin's report was read in his absence and is appended to these minutes.

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

7a Herringland Charity (trustees appointed by the Parish Council)

It was noted that there was an article in Contact in 2007 which was not read. The Chairman summarised the history of the charity. Don Fisher highlighted he has a document detailing the history. It was agreed to ask Dr Hoskins to write an article again in Contact on the history of the charity.

7b Comberton Village Institute (trustees appointed by the Parish Council)

Brian Cook reported on the village hall⁵ and presented the accounts and forecast for the year which are appended in full to these minutes. The following points were noted:

- Proposals for improvements,
- Achievements during the year,
- Need for a caretaker – plans to appoint a permanent part time caretaker,
- Hearing Loop – Complaints. The Parish Council has used the downstairs hearing loop,
- Vacancy on the Trustees board – they are looking for someone involved with young children,

Cllr Mrs Hyde on behalf of the Parish Council and the village thanked Mr & Mrs Cook for all their efforts. It was noted that there are no problems at WI. The group sympathised with the complainant but it was noted that is not feasible. Thanks were expressed to Mr Cook and Mr Fisher for all their efforts with the hearing loop.

7c Comberton Village Help Scheme (grant)⁶
Dr Janet McCabe reported.

It was agreed to vary the order of business.

Comberton Village College

Diana Cook CVC Community Education + Youth Worker reported that there will be an information meeting on 8th May 2008 on the new proposed developments including introducing a 6th form. Government predictions state there will be a need for 2000 6th form places and that other 6th forms can't meet the need. Other schools, high quality schools and vocational schools have been invited to bid. It is predicted to go ahead.

School expansion – There are currently 1286 pupils and this is predicted to rise to 1500 by September 2009. With the growth of the Cambourne development and a 6th form this will increase to a maximum of 1850. In the long term a school will be built at Cambourne and a transport plan will be required. There will be more consultations about 6th formers and access to the village. It was highlighted that the 6th form will be self contained and it will not be compulsory to attend the 6th form. The College is achieving trust status and are bringing in more partners to help run and manage the school. This will enable CVC to apply for running of secondary and primary school at Cambourne. This is the longer term vision. Information is on the college website. The floor was then opened up to questions:

Q – Where will the extra teachers be housed?

A - Perhaps at Cambourne?

Q – How will the 6th formers be monitored?

A – Via the transport plan - additional parking will be needed.

Q – Where will the parking go?

A – This is an important issue and will need to be resolved. CVC has a parking policy which parents at a meeting expressed concerns about. It was suggested there be a ban on 6th formers bringing their own vehicles to college.

Diana Cook confirmed that she would convey the issues back to the college.

Q – About timetabling.

A - Timetabling may be put together based on bus transport.

Q – There is concern at the speed buses travel through the village.

Diana Cook agreed to take this back to the college.

Q – No funding provided by CCC for traffic calming i don't feel that the impact of growth is taken into account to see what benefit the village could/should get from expansion.

7d St Mary's Church (grant)

- The PCC are grateful for the grant which covers ½ the cost of the tree work.
- The Church is used by a large proportion of the village.
- There have been 5 thefts of lead so far.
- Construction of toilet and north door - £126k for a modern standards toilet on a grade 1 listed building.

The meeting gave thanks to Don for maintenance of the Church yard and all his efforts.

7 e CCC Library Services (grant)

Richard Young Children Services Manager explained the Summer Reading Challenge. It was reported that there is a children picture book recognition scheme in partnership with Meridian Primary School.

7f Comberton Scouts (grant)⁷

Brian Worrall gave a report which is appended in full to these minutes.

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

8.0 Peter Milton Twinning Association⁸

It was noted that there is a new head at the Meridian who is very interested in the twinning association. The college exchange did not take place this year. It was noted that the first language is now Spanish and not French.

It was agreed to vary the order of reference to take item: 5 next.

5. Report by Cllr S. Harangozo on District Council Matters

Cllr Harangozo reflected on 'can the quality of village life be maintained'.

- SCDC have supported various initiatives in the past; village hall, skateboard park etc.
- CVC will have a development manager as the Community Development Department at SCDC are hardly experts.
- Maintaining housing stock – SCDC are actively pursuing a large scale voluntary transfer of housing stock to the housing association.
- The Valley housing application – there are implications for quality of life for residents in the Janes estate.
- Comberton has special pressures – neighbouring villages + NATS flight paths and stacking.
 - Tesco town Hamley Grange
 - Runway at Stanstead.
 - Northstowe development.

8.1 The following reports were noted

- Playgroup⁹ - read by the Chairman.
- Comberton and District Ex-Serviceman's Club¹⁰.
- Old School House¹¹.
- Connections Bus¹².
- Comberton Contact¹³.
- Allotment and Gardeners Association¹⁴.
- Police¹⁵.
- WI¹⁶ – Sandra Hyde reported.

9. To consider resolutions of which advance notice has been given.

None.

10. Any other Parish Matters

Disappointment was expressed at the low attendance.

11. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (date)

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- ¹ Chairman's report
 - ² Audit report
 - ³ Financial report
 - ⁴ Report from Cllr Baldwin on County Council Matters
 - ⁵ Village Hall report
 - ⁶ Report from Comberton Village Help Scheme
 - ⁷ Scouts report
 - ⁸ Twinning Association report
 - ⁹ Playgroup report
 - ¹⁰ Comberton and District Ex-Serviceman's Club report
 - ¹¹ Old School House report
 - ¹² Connections Bus report
 - ¹³ Comberton Contact report
 - ¹⁴ Allotment and Gardeners Association report
 - ¹⁵ Police report.
 - ¹⁶ WI report