

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 April 2008
in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Members present:	Dr C Chambers	Mr D Charge
Councillors:	Mr A Hollick	Mrs J Horne
	Mrs S Hyde	Dr J McCabe
	Mrs D Morison	Dr R Rintoul
	Dr H Roscoe	Mr R Rowlands
	Mr J Walsh	Miss C Westgarth (Chairman)

In attendance: Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk), 9 members of the public including representations from the Scouts and the Village Hall Committee and 2 new PCSO's Jackie King and Stuart Ison.

Comments & observations from members of the public

Mr Cole expanded on his email to the Parish Council and expressed concerns at children playing games in The Valley. The PCSO's offered to patrol the area on foot and talk to the children. Another resident explained his perspective having young children and the benefits to parents and children of playing on the green areas in safety and in the vicinity of their home.

Two representatives from 1st Comberton Scout Group Committee expanded on their letter to the Council and answered questions.

A resident who had attended in response to the article in Contact about the use of the recreation ground suggested that part of the recreation ground could be used for a BMX track. He was invited to join the Recreation Ground Working Group.

1. To approve apologies for absence and declarations of interest

- 1.0.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Denzil Baldwin.
- 1.0.2 Dr Chambers and Dr Rintoul both declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 5.2 as their children directly benefit from the Reading Challenge.
- 1.0.3 Miss Westgarth declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 6.2 planning report as she is a member of the Parochial Church Council the planning applicant.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 12 March 2008

Mr Walsh proposed that the amendment recorded at the last meeting be amended to read 'the minute 5.2 of the meeting of 13 February be amended to fully record the decision taken with respect to the Scouts S137 application, namely that they should receive the grant applied for, but be advised that, as they do not satisfy all of the Council's S137 criteria, they would not receive any such grant in future.' This was not seconded.

On a proposition by Mrs Morison, seconded by Mrs Horne the minutes of 12 March 2008 were approved as a true record after one amendment in item 7.4.1 the words 'and the Parish Council' to be inserted after 'and the trust'. The vote was recorded as 9 for and 2 abstentions.

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 6.6 here.

6.6 Antisocial behaviour

Concern was expressed about the incidents that took place on Monday 1 April and Tuesday 2 April 2008. Both incidents were linked and are listed in the Police incident reports. The incidents had included

- Damage to property in The Valley and Green End

- Damage to Harbour Avenue road name sign
- Car windows broken in Green End
- Uprooting of one tree in The Valley

It was also noted that the telephone box had been vandalised a few weeks ago.

3. Matters arising or carried forward from the meeting or a previous meeting for discussion or decision

3.1 (5.2) CCC Summer Reading Challenge - request for financial support¹

Dr Chambers and Dr Rintoul both having declared interests in this item left whilst the matter was discussed. The request form CCC for financial support for the Summer Reading Challenge 2008 was considered.

On a proposition by Mrs Horne and seconded by Mrs Morison that in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council donate £40 to CCC for the Summer Reading Challenge which, in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants, was carried unanimously.

Dr Chambers and Dr Rintoul re-joined the meeting.

3.2 (5.3) EDF Lease – hedge removal

On a proposition by Miss Westgarth, seconded by Dr McCabe it was agreed that the section adjacent to the path to Green End is to be removed by EDF to allow them access for the cable work. The dog bin is to be moved and relocated to adjacent to waste bin.

3.3 (5.4) Connections Bus contract²

It was noted that Connections Bus had increased its fee slightly and that the new contract up to September would cost approximately £90 extra.

3.4 (7.5) NATS – Air traffic consultation³

It was agreed that this matter is to be carried forward to allow the planning committee time to look at the documents and allow time for another article in Comberton Contact.

Action – Planning Committee – next meeting

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to vary the order of business and take items 7.1 and 7.2 next.

7.1 Mr Cole – Ball games in The Valley

The e-mail dated 19 March 2008 from Mr Cole⁴ regarding ball games in The Valley was considered. On a proposition by Miss Westgarth, seconded by Mrs Hyde it was agreed that an article is to be placed in Contact reminding parents that children aged 10 years and over should be encouraged to use the recreation ground and inviting comments and views on this matter.

7.2 Comberton Scouts – Bonfire & Fireworks Field

The letter from the Comberton Scouts⁵ about possible problems with holding the annual bonfire and fireworks event was considered. On a proposition by Dr Roscoe, seconded by Mr Hollick it was unanimously agreed to accept the proposals in principal and if necessary the Parish Council will offer a contingency and find a way to make it happen this year.

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports & questions

Cllr Baldwin's report for the APM was noted.

5. Finance, procedure & risk assessment⁶

5.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

The financial report was received and considered and checked by a member against the invoices and statements before the cheques were signed. On a proposition by Miss Westgarth, seconded by Mrs Horne it was agreed that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid:

CCC (streetlights)	£223.37
Roger Abraham (handy man)	£214.50
MD Landscapes (maintenance)	£622.75
Ridgeons (handyman materials)	£16.92
LGS Services (admin support)	£803.86
SCDC (rates)	£129.00
CPRE (affiliation fee)	£27.00
Allianz Cornhill (insurance)	£1559.92
LG Stoehr (salary)	£144.69
A Marsh (pavilion cleaning)	£150.00

5.2 Appointment of internal auditor

The work of the internal auditor was reviewed and on a proposition by Mrs Morison, seconded by Dr Chambers it was agreed to appoint Lesley Chambers for another year.

5.3 Leach Homes transfer - update

The following was noted:

- The transfer documents have been received and as already agreed several months ago have now been signed by two members.
- The funds which come from this transfer will be earmarked in the Council's accounts when received.

6. To receive reports and members items and consider recommendations contained therein

6.1 Planning Committee

Dr Rintoul, Mrs. Hyde and Mrs. Morison all declared a personal interest in the application for the Church as they regularly attend the church. Miss Westgarth having declared a personal and prejudicial interest left the meeting whilst the matter was discussed. In Miss Westgarth's absence Dr McCabe chaired the meeting.

The Planning Committee's report⁷ was noted.

Miss Westgarth re-joined the meeting.

6.1.1 Proposed removal of BT phone box in Harbour Avenue⁸

Concern was expressed at the proposal by BT to remove the last telephone kiosk in the center of the village. It was agreed to object to its removal and to seek information on its usage in the last 12 months. If BT still wish to remove because of repeated vandalism then it is to be suggested that it is replaced with a coinless system as there is no other phone box in the village.

6.2 Recreation Ground Working Group – Management Committee update

The Recreation Working Group's update/report⁹ written by Dr Rowlands and Mrs Horne was noted. The Working Group members requested more support. Complaints about the recent invoices in particular regarding the apportioning of the utility bills was considered. It was noted that the current apportioning had been in place for in excess of six years. On a proposition by Dr Chambers, seconded by Dr Rintoul it was agreed that the utilities had to be received in full however the Parish Council does not mind how the apportioning is done as long as the total is paid. The working group was asked to liaise with the sports clubs about this and Dr Chambers offered to assist. The vote was recorded as 9 for and 2 abstentions.

Action: RRow(convenor), JH, CC

6.3 Affordable Housing Working Group

6.3.0 Dr McCabe reported that Mike Sugden of Circle Anglia had replied that he is in discussions with the landowner. Replies from Flagship and Granta Homes expressing interest in working with the Parish Council were noted. Mr Drummond-Hay had

replied that he has noted the revised policy and is interested in meeting. No reply has been received from Nigel Blazeby to date.

On a proposition by Dr McCabe, seconded by Dr Chambers it was agreed that the Working Group should meet with Nigel Blazeby and Simon Drummond-Hay. The vote was recorded as 9 for and 2 abstentions.

Action: Affordable Housing Working Group – next meeting

6.4 Parish Plan Working Group

The Physical Village Structure report¹⁰ and the Public Services Section report¹¹ were noted.

6.4.0 Physical Village Structure report

On a proposition by Miss Westgarth, seconded by Dr Roscoe it was unanimously agreed to accept the first nine recommendations in Dr Chambers report. Task 10 highway matters and task 11 pelican crossing were deferred to the Transport Working Group (TWG) which was asked to bring a recommendation to the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: TWG – next meeting

6.4.1 Public Services Section report

On a proposition by Mrs. Morison, seconded by Dr Roscoe it was agreed to accept the recommendations with one amendment task 152 should be abandoned. It was agreed that when other reports are received the Parish Council will look at how to implement recommendations and when the Parish Council next undertake a parish plan it needs to be realistic.

6.4.2 Recreation Section

Mr. Rowlands verbally reported on his review of the recreation ground section. The following was noted:

- The successful development of the new village hall
- The purchase of the land extension
- All other matters are still outstanding.

6.5 A428 signage - complaint from B Chapman

The Clerk's report on A428 signage¹² was noted along with the Highways Agency Policy for signing. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Highways Agency requesting a direction sign to Comberton on the A428 from the Hardwick junction.

Mr Walsh left the meeting at this point.

6.6 Antisocial behaviour

This item was taken earlier.

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

7.1 Mr Cole – Ball games in The Valley

This item was taken earlier.

7.2 Comberton Scouts – Bonfire & Fireworks Field

This item was taken earlier.

7.3 CCC – Post Office closures

The letter from CCC dated 31 March 2008¹³ about Post Office closures in Cambridgeshire was considered. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting until more information is known.

7.4 SCDC Electoral Arrangements Committee: City / District Boundary Review 16/04/08

It was noted that there is no impact on Comberton.

- 7.5 ACRE Community awards
It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting and to place an article in Comberton Contact inviting a co-ordinator.
- 7.6 A letter from a resident thanking the Parish Council for the reduction in Precept and their financial management of the Council was noted.
- 8. Closure of meeting**
- 8.0 Dr Rintoul and the Clerk sent their apologies for the next meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

SignedChairmandate

NB:

- Unless indicated otherwise all actions arising from the Council's decisions in these minutes will be carried out by the Clerk as Proper Officer on the Parish Council's behalf as part of her normal duties.
- These documents below are listed as background information to the correspondence and documents that the Council considered and do not form part of the minutes.

¹ CCC Summer Reading Challenge - request for financial support

² Connections Bus contract

³ NATS – Air traffic consultation

⁴ E-mail dated 19/3/08 from Nick Cole re: The Valley – ball games

⁵ Letter from Comberton Scouts re: Bonfire & Fireworks Field

⁶ Finance, procedure & risk assessment

⁷ Planning Committee report

⁸ Proposed removal of BT phone box in Harbour Avenue

⁹ Recreation Ground Working Group – Management Committee update

¹⁰ Physical Village Structure report

¹¹ Public Services Section report

¹² Clerk's report on A428 signage

¹³ Letter dated 31/3/08 from CCC re: Post Office closures in Cambridgeshire