

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 8 October 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Five members of the public and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk).

Comments & observations from members of the public

The following were noted:

- Despite a three-ton weight limit in South Street it was noted that heavy vehicles, including school buses, were still using the road, perhaps because signage was sited too late for drivers to re-route. A letter is to be sent to the County Council asking it to take this up with the bus companies.
- Concern was expressed at traffic speed in Barton Road. A member of the public (Tom Serby) enquired about the work of the Transport Working Group and the possibility of assisting the group. It was noted that the Parish Council has lobbied the County Council and applied for bids to no avail and that the Working Group could co-opt others to join the Group. Mr Serby was invited to contact Dr Rintoul to discuss his involvement further.
- The bottle bank in Toft is overfull and a mattress has been dumped
- Concern was expressed at foliage overhanging the road outside the pub at the corner of Swaynes Lane and South Street. This will be passed to the Highways Department. A hedgerow near the butchers is very close to the road. An article will be placed in Contact regarding overhanging vegetation
- The notice boards are very full and there is no room for short-term notices about events.

1. To approve apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were noted from Dr Chambers, Mr Charge and also from Cllr Harangozo. Mrs Morison's apology that she would be late was noted. It was noted that Dr Roscoe has resigned due to personal commitments.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 10 September 2008

On a proposition by Mr Walsh, seconded by Dr McCabe, the minutes of the previous meeting on 10 September 2008 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

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

3.1 (3.1) CVC Sixth Form proposals – correspondence received

A letter of reply from CVC dated 24 September 2008¹ listed details of notice given of the College's plans during the consultation period, which was extended to include an Information Evening on 8 May. The plans for the College were approved by the DCFS and LEA in May and June, but the full number of places may not ultimately be required if a new secondary school is built at Cambourne. The Principal has offered to discuss with the Parish Council ways in which the impact could be reduced. On a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by Mrs Horne, it was agreed to invite Mr Munday to come to the November meeting (7 pm start), or failing that in December.

Two further letters received from the Deputy Principal, Mr P Evans², and the Principal, Mr S Munday³, respectively, assured the Parish Council that the swimming pool at the College would not be removed, and that there were no plans for removal since, as a specialist sports college, CVC regarded swimming as important.

3.2 (5.4) Garage Roof Quotation

Of four quotations requested, two had been received. The Chair proposed, seconded by Mrs Horne, that the quote from Jason Moore for £780 plus VAT be accepted. It was further proposed by Mr Hollick, seconded by Mrs Horne, that a camber to the roof to allow run-off be requested.

3.3 (6.6) Minor Improvement Scheme

On a proposition by Dr Rintoul, seconded by Mrs Hyde, it was agreed that Dr Rintoul should liaise with other members of the Transport Working Group to complete the two bids for works within the village. It was agreed that if successful the Parish Council would contribute £1 per elector towards the cost.

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports & questions

The County Councillor and District Councillor were not present and no reports had been received.

5. Finance, procedure & risk assessment

5.1 To receive the financial report and to approve the payment of bills⁴

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 Hyde, it was agreed that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, along with four additional payments.

SCDC (rates)	£129.00
Buchans (grass cutting)	£223.34
Roger Abraham (handy man)	£220.20
Greenhams (cleaning products)	£29.69
Grounds by Rounds (grass cutting)	£495.15
LG Stoehr (salary)	£144.69
LGS services (admin support)	£1221.95
A Marsh (cleaning)	£120.00
P Round (grass cutting)	£495.10
Buchans (grass cutting)	£97.53

Credits received from the recreation ground/pavilion and the precept were noted.

The current banking crisis was noted and it was agreed that the Clerk could transfer funds between the accounts to lessen the risk to the Council.

On a proposal by Miss Westgarth, seconded by Mrs Hyde, approval was given for two cheques approved at the last meeting to be reissued to Peter Round as they had been lost in the post and cancelled at the bank.

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

6.1 Planning Committee

The report was taken as read⁵.

6.1.1 Minerals and Waste Consultation

The Parish Council noted that two sites have potential impact on Comberton Parish. Barrington Quarry – The Parish Council supported the plan for this site with the proviso that the following measures are appropriately managed:

- Noise and dust from extra extraction
- Protection of SSI

- Protection of PROW in and adjacent to the site South of Addenbrookes Access, Trumpington – The Parish Council supported the plan for this site and had no additional comments to make.

Mrs Morison arrived during this item.

6.1.2 Northern Affordable Homes

Mrs Morison having declared an ongoing personal and prejudicial interest in this matter as a resident of The Valley left the meeting while this was discussed.

Correspondence from both John Koch⁶, SCDC and also the Planning Inspectorate⁷ indicating that the Northern Affordable Homes application would not be considered at a hearing or Inquiry only by written representations only. The Parish Council's representative could only go on site with the landowners' permission.

It was proposed by Dr Rintoul, seconded by Dr McCabe and carried with nine votes in favour and one vote against that the Parish Council recommend to SCDC that the application S1592/08/F Northern Affordable Homes should be approved with the following comments:

- The Parish Council notes that this application is for 11 dwellings and that this is a considerable reduction in the proposed number of dwellings as the first application was for 26 dwellings.
- Given this and mindful of the identified need for affordable housing in Comberton the Parish Council supports in principle the application. It welcomes in particular the provision of 2 parking spaces per dwelling and the additional parking spaces that will be provided for residents of The Valley to use. Further clarification is required on the exact number that will be enabled via the access road. The Parish Council has some concern at the small size of the rooms in the properties and recommends that the housing should meet environmental targets in terms of the size of the rooms, their heating and insulation. The Parish Council has expressed concern regarding drainage at the site before and reiterates this concern.
- If approved by the District Council the permission should be subject to a S106 Agreement and the Parish Council wishes to be a co-signatory on this. As is usual the Parish Council expects that all its reasonable legal costs associated with the S106 agreement should be covered by the applicant.
- The S106 should ensure the homes are in perpetuity for those with strong connections to Comberton and are to remain affordable. The mix of housing is also important and the District Council needs to ensure that the homes are the correct mix of both rental and also shared equity as identified in the recent housing needs survey undertaken by Cambs ACRE in partnership with the Parish Council.
- While it is expected that the housing association which will take on the housing will also take on responsibility for the public open space and play equipment provided by the applicant the Parish Council expects the S106 to include a sum of money to be spent at the Parish Council's discretion for recreation provision elsewhere in the village.
- Arrangements need to be made for the street lighting on site. Care should be taken with the type allowed as this site is adjacent to open countryside and also arrangements need to be secured with CCC to take on ownership & ongoing maintenance responsibilities.
- The Parish Council reserves the right to name the roads within the development.

Mr Hollick asked that it be recorded that he had voted against the motion. Mrs Morison rejoined the meeting.

6.2 Affordable Housing Working Group⁸

Mrs Horne declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the West Street part of the matter as adjacent resident and left the meeting while the matter was discussed. Dr Rintoul declared a personal interest as he lives in West Street. Mr Halford declared a personal and prejudicial interest as he lives in Swaynes Lane and left the meeting.

The Working Group's report on discussions with Mike Sugden of Circle Anglia on 12 September was considered. It was proposed by Dr McCabe, seconded by Mrs Hyde to invite Mike Sugden to a public meeting at the end of January.

It was noted that Cllr Corney would attend a meeting on 22 October to discuss the SCDC Chairman's Delegation Meeting procedure.

Mr Halford and Mrs Horne rejoined the meeting.

6.3 Recreation Ground Working Group⁹

Mr Rowlands reported on a the recent meeting and that Tim Saunders would attend the next meeting to update the Council on the Group's proposed constitution and outline the vision the Group has for the recreation ground and the pavilion.

In response to the request that the Group be allowed to hold its meetings in the village hall it was noted that as the Group is a working group of the Parish Council it could use the village hall if available.

In response to requests for copies of the architect's plans for the pavilion it was noted that these would be subject to copyright and that his permission to pass them on to the working group would need to be obtained.

6.4 Tree Group

The Group has not met but Mrs Morison reported that the condition of the horse chestnuts and cherry and walnut trees near the Harbour Avenue and Long Road junction are being monitored. It was also noted that SCDC had given permission for work to trees without consulting first with the Parish Council and there was a need for monitoring as this was the second case of the procedure not being followed correctly.

6.5 Transport Working Group - Physical Traffic Calming Measures

This has already been discussed under item 3.3 above.

6.6 Focus Group – notice board

This item will feed into the budget working group.

6.7 Village Hall

It was reported that the next meeting would take place on Monday and that the last meeting was poorly attended.

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

7.1 In response to the request from the Comberton Players requested the use of the Village Hall¹⁰ for their pantomime dress rehearsal on a proposal by Mrs Horne, seconded by Dr Rintoul, it was agreed to accede to the request for this occasion and meet at the Meridian School instead.

7.2 Communities and Local Government – the making and enforcement of Bylaws Consultation. Carried forward to the next meeting.

7.3 Cambridgeshire Together – Engaging Parish Councils. A meeting will take place on Wednesday 19 November from 5 – 7 pm. Mr Halford and Mr Hollick volunteered to attend.

7.4 Quality Council Status

The Parish Council was pleased to hear that it had been awarded Quality Council Status. CPALC's congratulations were noted. A logo will appear in the letterhead.

8. Closure of meeting

8.1 Dr McCabe advised that she would be organising a review of Parish Council assets shortly.

8.2 A photograph of Mrs Hyde and Mrs Morison presenting Reading Challenge medals at CVC was circulated.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

SignedChairmandate

¹ Reply CVC dated 24 Sept

² Deputy Principal, Mr P Evans re swimming pool

³ Principal, Mr S Munday re swimming pool

⁴ Finance report

⁵ Planning Committee report

⁶ John Koch email clarifying the Northern Affordable Homes appeal process

⁷ Planning Inspectorate re. the Northern Affordable Homes appeal process

⁸ Affordable Housing Working Group

⁹ Recreation Ground Working Group

¹⁰ Comberton Players requested the use of the Village Hall