

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 12 November 2008 in the Village Hall at 7pm

Members present:	Dr C Chambers	Mr E Halford
Councillors:	Mr A Hollick	Mrs J Horne
	Mrs S Hyde	Dr J McCabe (Chair)
	Dr R Rintoul	Mr R Rowlands
	Mr J Walsh	

In attendance: Mr Stephen Munday, Principal, Comberton Village College: 14 members of the public including Mr Tim Saunders, Chairman of the Recreation Group: Cllr Steve Harangozo; The Chairman of Toft Parish Council and representative.

Comments & observations from members of the public

Mr Munday was welcomed to the meeting and he explained that he welcomed the invitation and opportunity to share developments at the College. He gave apologies on behalf of Carol Handley who was incapacitated after a fall.

Mr Munday reported on the current building programme which should be completed in September 2009. He also outlined the invitation the school had received to develop a 6th form at Comberton Village College (CVC) and also the establishment of an Educational Trust and its involvement in the third primary school at Cambourne.

He outlined the negotiations that were under way for a proposed secondary school at Cambourne and CVC's discussions with the Learning Skills Council, the County Council and the other bodies regarding the CVC's involvement in this.

In response to concerns expressed about the lack of direct consultation with the village, Mr Munday apologised if this had seemed to be the case and that it had not been CVC's intention at all.

It was acknowledged that the community provision for CB3 should be affordable, sustainable and also widely used. Mr Munday assured the meeting that there was no intention to remove either the swimming pool or the squash courts as these were integral to both the community and also to the CVC's Sports School status.

Concerns about 6th form students bringing cars to College and also going off-site during the day were explored and solutions discussed.

Mr Munday explained that the next few months would be important and if the outcome was favourable and the proposed new secondary school became a branch of CVC under the umbrella of CVC, then that would be the start of a period of developing more detailed plans. He urged the Parish Council and village to support the proposed new secondary school at Cambourne as it would help mitigate the impact of further growth at CVC and reduce pressure on village infrastructure by looking at issues surrounding parking and transport in the travel plan that would need to be developed.

Mr Munday was thanked for attending and it was stressed that the Parish Council wanted to be kept informed. He was also asked for further information when known, together with details of any opportunities for further input into the proposals.

Residents from The Valley enquired why the Parish Council was backing the Northern Affordable Homes development of 11 homes in The Valley. In response, they were advised that the reasons were detailed in Contact, and each application was based on merit. No decision had been made on other sites and the thinking behind the whole process was explained.

Mrs Morison declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a resident of The Valley, and spoke as a member of the public, outlining the background to the Valley development and its growth to its present size.

Mr Tim Saunders, Chair of the Recreation Working Group was welcomed to the meeting. Mr Halford expanded on his report. Support for a proposed consultation in the New Year was sought and feedback was invited on the draft constitution.

1. To approve apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were noted from Miss Westgarth (out of parish), and Mr Charge (out of parish).

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 8 October 2008

On a proposition by Mrs Morison, seconded by Mrs Hyde, the minutes of the previous meeting on 8 October 2008 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman after the following amendments:

- item 3.3: line 2 to read “Transport Working Group”
- item 6.1.2, paragraph 2, line 2, the word “there” be deleted
- item 7.3, line 2, the date to read “Wednesday 19 November”.

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

3.1 Co-option to fill casual vacancy

As there had been no applicants another article is to be put in Contact and this is to be carried forward to the next meeting.

3.2 Meeting with Cllr Corney on 22 October¹

Noted.

3.3 Reply SCDC re Parish Council Complaint – Wootens Farm²

The response from David Jones, SCDC, was noted, and it was agreed that no further action is required. There was a consensus that the synchronisation of the full and conservation area applications should be encouraged. The planning committee is to follow up on the response on 133 Green End from the Enforcement Officer.

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports & questions

Cllr Harangozo reported that the Westfield Farm application would be going to the planning committee and encouraged the Parish Council to attend and make representations. Mr Halford volunteered to attend.

The County Council is looking at extending the bus service. Cllr Harangozo will circulate the agenda.

5. Finance, procedure & risk assessment

5.1 To receive the financial report and to approve the payment of bills³

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 Mrs Hyde, seconded by Dr McCabe, it was agreed that the payments as listed in the financial report for November should be paid.

SCDC (planning fee)	£167.50
Land Registry (pond registration)	£45.00
Westside Joinery (bin lids)	£96.35
Alarm Maintenance (pavilion alarm)	£136.30
BT (pavilion phone)	£57.00
A Marsh (Pavilion cleaning)	£120.00
LGS services (admin support)	£822.07
LG Stoehr (salary)	£144.69
Buchans (grass cutting)	£537.66

EON (electricity)	£156.36
Grounds by Rounds (grass cutting)	£489.39
SCDC (rates)	£129.00

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

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

6.1 Planning Committee

The report was taken as read⁴.

6.2 Affordable Housing Working Group⁵

In response to the invitation from SCDC to attend a housing panel meeting Mr Halford is to attend.

6.3 Recreation Ground Working Group⁶

The report was taken earlier. The constitution is to be an agenda item for the next meeting. It was agreed that the information detailed in 6.2.3 of the meeting of 11 June is to be brought to the next meeting.

6.4 Transport Working Group

It was noted that the Minor Improvements Scheme form had been completed, recommending a speed reduction “Twenty’s Plenty” scheme near the Meridian School.

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

7.1 Communities and Local Government – the making and enforcement of Byelaws Consultation⁷

Concern was expressed at the lack of back up and enforcement, and the fear of retribution. This is to be the response.

7.2 Communities and Local Government – Code of Conduct for local authority members and employees consultation⁸

Carried forward to the next meeting.

7.3 Cambridge and Peterborough Association of Local Councils agenda for AGM on 6 December 2008⁹

No one was available to attend the meeting. CPALC affiliation was carried forward to the next meeting.

7.4 Arts Development plan for Comberton Patch¹⁰

The letter from the Arts Development Officer was considered and it was noted that the Recreation Ground Working Group should look into this further.

7.5 SCDC – Removal of plastic bottle recycling banks for Comberton Recreation Centre

Noted. It was thought that the date should read 2008 rather than 2009.

7.6 Speedwatch¹¹

In response to the information received from the police it was proposed by Dr McCabe, seconded by Mrs Horne, to express an interest in knowing more and this will be discussed further.

8. Closure of meeting

8.1 Dr McCabe will co-ordinate the Christmas Lights pre-arrangements and Mrs Hyde and Mrs Horne’s offer to make some mince pies was gratefully accepted.

8.2 Get well wishes are to be sent to Mr Westgarth and the Council’s best wishes are to be extended to Miss Westgarth.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.45 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 Notes on meeting with Cllr Corney

² Reply SCDC re Parish Council Complaint – Wootens Farm

³ Finance report

⁴ Planning Committee report

⁵ Affordable Housing Working Group

⁶ Recreation Ground Working Group

⁷ Communities and Local Government – the making and enforcement of Byelaws Consultation

⁸ Communities and Local Government – Code of Conduct for local authority members and employees consultation

⁹ Cambridge and Peterborough Association of Local Councils agenda for AGM on 6 December 2008

¹⁰ Arts Development plan for Comberton Patch

¹¹ Speedwatch