

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 14 January 2009 in the Meridian School at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Cllr Fiona Whelan, Cllr S Harangozo (part of the meeting) and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Comments & observations from members of the public

None.

1. To approve apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1.0 Apologies were received from Dr Rintoul. Cllr Whelan gave her belated apologies for the last meeting as she was unable to attend due to illness. Mrs Morison's apologies for being late were also noted.

1.1 Declarations of interest were received as follows:

- Dr McCabe declared an interest in the 'Help Scheme' application as its Chairman.
- Miss Westgarth declared:
 - A personal and prejudicial interest in item: 6.1 Planning Committee Report as Chair of the Governors of Meridian School.
 - A personal interest in any items relating to St Mary's Church including its grant application.
- Dr Chambers declared a personal interest in 6.1 Planning Committee Report as a partner of a Meridian School Governor.

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

On a proposition by Mr Walsh, seconded by Dr Chambers, the minutes of the previous meeting on 10 December 2008 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman after a change in item 2 (heading) to read '12 November 2008'.

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

3.1 (3.1) Co-option to fill casual vacancy – It was noted that Mr Serby had accepted the co-option, signed his declaration. He was welcomed to his first meeting.

3.2 (3.4) Chair Delegation Meeting Policy – A letter has been sent to Cllr Wright and at time of writing no reply had been received.

3.3 (7.1) Sustainable Communities Act – The reply¹ via Cllr Harangozo that the District Council had adopted the Act was noted.

3.4 Pond Registration – Land Registry had indicated that the statutory declaration provided does not substantiate the Parish Councils claim to the land. It is hoped that the historic title to the land via the Inclosure Award will suffice.

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports & questions

Cllr Whelan's report included road and cyclepath gritting, the Sustainable Communities Act, Sure Start, the Guided Busway, bus timetables and the CVC expansion. It was noted that she is to meet with Mr Munday to discuss traffic

management and that she is going out with the Police on Friday evening to undertake speed checks and number plate recognition checks.

Cllr Whelan was asked to pursue the outstanding complaint of school buses using South Street and also the lack of Comberton signage off the A428 westbound. The Parish Council raised the lack of public transport to Caldecote which will need to be improved if the scheme is to be successful for Comberton residents. She was also asked to help resolve the long standing concern about the speed of traffic in Barton Road of which the County Council was well aware from the numerous discussions which had taken place.

Cllr Harangozo written report was noted². He reported that:

- He has joined the Shadow Housing Board.
- Cllr Harangozo asked that he be allowed to give a brief 10-15 minute presentation at the next meeting on climate change. This was agreed.

5. **Finance, procedure & risk assessment**

5.1 **To receive the financial report and to approve the payment of bills**³

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 Horne, seconded by Dr McCabe, it was agreed that the payments as listed in the financial report for November should be paid, plus: A Marsh (pavilion cleaning & play equipment inspections) £120.00, Information Commissioner (DPA registration) £35.00, CCC (Inclosure Award printing) £7.50, Connections Bus £1,255.67, S Hyde (mince pies reimbursement) £27.00

A credit of £42115.83 from Leach Homes (S106 funds) which is in the savings account was noted.

RT Abraham (handyman)	£67.64
Algar Signcraft (dog fouling signs)	£69.92
SLCC (affiliation fee)	£209.00
LG Stoehr (salary)	£144.69
LGS Services (admin support)	£825.41

Mr Marsh's invoices are to be checked to see if they include weeks when the pavilion is not in use.

The internal audit is to take place next week.

5.2 **To review budget for FY 2009**⁴

The report from the working group and the supporting breakdown of agreed budget v receipts and payments to date was considered and noted. In particular that:

- The general reserves at the yearend are expected to be adequate.
- The following special projects are to be put in hand by 31 March 08 or dropped altogether:
 - Additional litter bins & benches £600.
 - Finger post at the crossroads – to be funded by business sponsorship £0
 - Watts Wood notice board/interpretation board – (a grant application is made to SCDC seed funding is taken from the reserves if necessary at the time) £0.
 - TWG £3000.
- Other reserves and special project funds will carry forward as earmarked reserves and the projects will be started and or completed in FY2010.

5.3 **To approve budget for 2010 and to set precept**

The working group report and recommendations were reviewed and on a proposition by Mrs Hyde, seconded by Mrs Horne the budget for FY 2010 was approved. The following was noted/agreed:

- Expenditure FY2010 baseline budget (existing contracts & regular expenditure) plus:
 - An increase in S137 donations to £4710.
 - A Parish Plan being started to assess the current needs and desires of the village and to provide strategic direction to the Council (total budget £5000 = £1000 in current reserves, £500 grant funding & £3500 from 2010 budget).
 - A Recreation Ground report/survey being undertaken £1000.
 - £5000 for youth projects.
 - Support for the Village Hall's air conditioning project by donating £1,500 and granting a £4,500 interest free loan repayable over two years.
 - A small reduction in the contingency fund.
- Income
 - This year's under spend on the contingency being used to support the FY2010 budget.
 - Use £2000 from what will be the year end recreation ground fund (i.e. £7200 b/f + £5000 from this year - £2000 leaving £10200 approx in recreation ground earmarked reserves next year).

On a proposition by Mrs Hyde and seconded by Mrs Horne it was agreed to set and demand the precept from SCDC for the sum of £57,826.00.

Thanks were expressed to the Clerk and Budget Working Group for all their hard effort and work.

5.4 P3 scheme FY 2009 work review and FY 2009 grant application

The P3 FY 2009 work was reviewed and it was agreed to focus on FP5 Swaynes Lane to Barton Road in the forthcoming year. A grant of £500 - £600 is to be requested to cover this.

It was noted that Mrs Morison arrived.

Cllr Whelan kindly offered to help resolve the problems with the permissive path by the Church. Miss Westgarth is to let her have the information.

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

6.1 Planning Committee⁵

The report was taken as read. Miss Westgarth having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item left the meeting whilst the report was discussed. The additional applications and updates were noted along with 49 Long Road.

Miss Westgarth rejoined the meeting.

6.2 Affordable Housing Working Group

Cllr Harangozo was asked to help obtaining the notes of the Housing Panel meeting on Northern Affordable Homes that Cllr Halford attended last year as these still had not been received.

It was noted that the Northern Affordable Homes appeal had been dismissed by the Planning Inspector.

6.3 Transport Working Group

The Group has not met. On a proposition by Miss Westgarth, seconded by Mrs Hyde Mr Serby was appointed to the group.

6.4 Tree Group –

It was reported that the group have received a request to have a tree pollarded in Harbour Avenue and are looking into this.

7. **To consider matters arising out of correspondence/communications received**7.1 SCDC - aims, approaches and actions for 2009/10 consultation⁶

In response it was agreed that the Parish Council would like the elected members to take on more responsibility for planning applications rather than delegating to officers as had already been raised with Cllr Nick Wright. Also that more resources should be provided to the trees officer; again as previously raised.

7.2 Haslingfield disused railway bridge demolition

The delay to the work was noted.

7.3 SCDC Parish Forum meeting

Mr Halford is to attend the meeting on 19 January and represent the Parish Council.

8. **Closure of meeting**

8.0 Members were reminded that a public meeting is being held on 28 January 2009 to discuss the Exception Site in Comberton. All members were urged to attend.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

SignedChairmandate

¹ Sustainable Communities Act –District Council reply

² District Cllr's Report

³ Finance Report

⁴ Budget Review

⁵ Planning Report

⁶ SCDC - aims, approaches and actions for 2009/10 consultation