

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 11 February 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Cllr S Harangozo, 15 members of the public and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Comments & observations from members of the public

A resident commented on the request from the Twinning Association for financial support and suggested that in the current economic climate the Parish Council should support its residents rather than any overseas interests.

Most residents were in attendance for item 6.2.1 Circle Anglia Bush Close proposals. The Chairman read out the e-mail from Mike Sugden of Circle Anglia which indicated that given the response at the public meeting he would not be pursuing his Bush Close proposal any further. A resident reported that he had approached Carters who own the land opposite the Drift and that he was awaiting a reply.

Cllr Harangozo gave a short presentation on Climate Change and explained that the District Council had appointed an office to work with and train community energy champions to support, educate and raise residents awareness and to also tap into funding. An invitation was extended to the Parish Council to send members to a discussion day in March. It was agreed that members should attend if they were interested.

1. To approve apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1.0 Apologies were received from Dr Rintoul. Mr Charge's resignation due to work commitments was noted. The casual vacancy will be advertised.

1.1 Declarations of interest were received as follows:

- Mrs Horne declared a personal interest in item 6.2.1 Circle Anglia West Street.
- Mrs Hyde, Miss Westgarth, Mr Hollick, Dr Chambers and Dr McCabe all declared a personal interest in item 7.2 Twinning Committee as members. Mrs Morison declared a personal, and prejudicial interest in item 7.2 as Treasurer.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 14 January 2009 and to approve the summary of 28 January 2009 public meeting

On a proposition by Dr Chambers, seconded by Dr McCabe, the minutes of the previous meeting on 14 January 2009 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman after an amendment in item 3.3 the number '1' is to be deleted.

On a proposition by Dr Chambers, seconded by Dr McCabe, the summary of 28 January 2009 public meeting was approved as a true record. After the following additions:

- The mixed messages from SCDC that it would over-rule Parish Councils on exception sites.
- The problems of providing affordable housing is the lack of smaller homes attributed to SCDC's policy of allowing homes to be extended.

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

3.1 (5.3) Budget 2010

It was noted that the budget and precept was based on the assumption that the sports club fees are increased by 50% for current financial year and 50% for the next financial year. This was not specifically discussed when the budget was discussed. On a proposition by Miss Westgarth, seconded by Dr Chambers it was proposed to increase the sports clubs fees by 50% this current financial year and 50% the next year. The vote was recorded as 5 for and 4 against and the motion was carried. All clubs are to be notified.

The Clerk was asked to provide clarification on the Code of Conduct with regards to personal and prejudicial interest for members of the public present.

3.2 (7.3) Parish Forum Meeting

Mr Halford reported on the Parish Forum meeting and that a large part of the meeting was a discussing about leaving parish councils out of decision making in planning delegations, to Officers. Mr Rush was asked to check on why the speed of deliberations would be impeded by a Parish Council representative being present? There was also a presentation from the Tree Officers.

3.3 Other:

(5.1) Andy Marsh – It was noted that in addition to pavilion cleaning he is also contracted for litter picking and playground checks. When his contract was written the Pavilion was used a lot more but the use has recently dropped. On a proposition by Miss Westgarth, seconded by Dr McCabe it was agreed that his contract should be reviewed with him and that Dr Chamber and Mr Walsh should undertake this and meet with him and bring a recommendation to a future meeting.

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports & questions

Cllr Whelan's written report was noted¹.

Cllr Harangozo report included the Sustainable Communities Act, tenants meeting Nursery Way, consultation on transfer to RSL of South Cambridgeshire Homes and congestion charging. Cllr Harangozo confirmed he will obtain a copy of the Housing Panel Meeting notes. An invitation to attend 19 March 2009 event on climate change was noted. It was noted that the Northern Affordable Homes had not as yet found a Registered Social Landlord.

5. Finance, procedure & risk assessment

5.1 To receive the financial report and to approve the payment of bills²

It was noted that the financial report should read '09'. 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: Mackays (Groundsman materials) £36.73, P Round (hedge work) £172.50, CCC (street lights) £362.08 and EON (pavilion electricity) £317.99.

Caxton Consultancy Ltd (internal audit)	£60.00
Cambs Countryside Watch (affiliation)	£30.00
RT Abraham (handyman)	£38.50
CPRE (affiliation fee)	£29.00
ACRE (affiliation fee)	£25.00
A Marsh (pavilion cleaning)	£150.00
LG Stoehr (salary)	£144.69
LGS Services (admin support)	£888.00
Stuart Tunstall (xmas lights)	£21.17

Mrs Hyde reported that Countryside Watch. Represent good value for money and provides a valuable service as she has recently been receiving weekly calls regarding burglaries.

On a proposition by Miss Westgarth, seconded by Dr Chambers it was agreed to join ACRE Playing Fields at £10 as this would provide a valuable resource to the Recreation Ground Working Group.

5.2 Old goal posts on the recreation ground

On a proposition by Mrs Hyde, seconded by Mr Hollick, it was agreed that the old goals should be moved to the land extension so that they could be used once the Planning Officer had granted permission.

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

6.1 Planning Committee³

The Parish Council's own application for the Recreation Ground extension is being consulted up on.

6.2 Affordable Housing Working Group

6.2.1 Circle Anglia – Bush Close West Street sites & resident letter

Correspondence from Mike Sugden at Circle Anglia⁴, Cllr Harangozo⁵ and residents⁶ regarding the proposed Bush Close and West Street sites.

Cllr Harangozo was asked to seek clarification from SCDC on the following:

- The mixed messages from SCDC regarding the Parish Council's role in exception sites.
- The problems of providing affordable housing is the lack of smaller homes attributed to SCDC's policy of allowing homes to be extended.
- Toft's involvement in the proposed West St site and who would get the allocations and the precept etc.

On a proposition by Miss Westgarth, seconded by Mr. Hollick it was agreed to reply to Circle Anglia highlighting that the Parish Council is pleased they are no longer considering Bush Close however 18 homes at West Street does not meet the Parish Council's policy which is to be re-iterated. The vote was recorded as 7 for and 2 abstentions. The Parish Council agreed it is willing to meet with Mr Sugden, however it is not willing to indicate at this time if there should be a development on this site or that it is not acceptable.

6.3 Transport Working Group

It was agreed that of this Group is to be an agenda item for the next meeting to appoint a convenor and to extend the membership..

6.4 Tree Group

Peter Oakes is to be asked to quote for work to the tree outside 54 Harbour Avenue. Agenda item for the next meeting.

6.5 Police Enforcemen

The Chairman reported that she had been assured that the PCSO would attend and expressed her disappointment that they were not present. The PCSO is to be asked to attend to deal with inappropriate parking in the village at the following locations; Barton Road, West Street, Bush Close, Milner Way, Hillfield Road and Milner Road. An article is to be placed in Contact.

Cllr Whelan gave her report at this point in the meeting and she reported that she had not as yet had an opportunity to do anything about the A428 signage.

Cllr Whelan was asked to arrange the removal of the old redundant signage in Barton Road. as when the interactive sign was put in the County council had given its assurance that all redundant signs would be removed including the 'new road layout' sign.

Road Gritting Green End – It was noted that Dennis Vacher has replied indicating that he will add this to the schedule review. An article in the Cambridge Evening News detailing roads to be gritted omitted Long Road.

Road name sign South Street Royston Road – the sign by the bends has been damaged. Cllr Harangozo was asked to report this.

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

7.1 M Tyler – The Valley Site⁷

The email from Mr. Tyler was considered. The Parish council found the accusation that members had taken a back hander offensive and a reply is to be sent and reiterating the information contained in the Contact Article last year detailing the reasons the Parish council had supported the 11 dwellings at the Valley. An article is to go in Contact.

Mr David Rush's reply regarding parish benefit from new dwellings did not explain the detail of the policy such as when the Council would receive the money. Clarification is to be sought.

7.2 Twinning Committee request for S137 donation

Mrs. Morison having declared a prejudicial interest left the meeting whilst the matter was discussed. Mrs. Hyde also left the meeting. Dr Chambers excused himself and left the meeting and he did not return.

Miss Westgarth proposed a donation of £250 plus the loan of the red, white and blue bunting and that additional info is request on how the money is spent. This was seconded by Dr McCabe. The vote was recorded as 3 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

Mrs Morison and Mrs. Hyde rejoined the meeting.

Mrs. Horne left the meeting.

7.3 Cambridge & Peterborough - Minerals and Waste – Consultation⁸

This was delegated to the Planning Committee to reply before the 9 March 2009.

7.4 Cambridgeshire Transport Commission – Consultation⁹

Members are to respond individually is they wished to do so. An article is to be placed in Contact.

7.5 Communities in Control – Real Power: Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity – Consultation¹⁰

Noted.

7.6 The Connections Bus Project – Termly Report¹¹

Noted along with the request that the Parish Council be a referee for the Connections Bus grant application. The Parish Council agreed that the Chairman on behalf of the Council is to be the referee

8. Closure of meeting

8.0 It was highlighted that there is a potential flood risk at the brook. It was agreed to ask Pat Matthews to clear out the watercourses.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

Signed Chairman date

¹ District Cllr's Report

² Finance Report

³ Planning Report

⁴ Email Mike Sugden Circle Anglia re Bush Close West Street

⁵ Email from Cllr Harangozo re Bush Close West Street

⁶ Residents' letters re Bush Close West Street

⁷ Email M Tyler re: The Valley Site

⁸ Cambridge & Peterborough - Minerals and Waste – Consultation

⁹ Cambridgeshire Transport Commission – Consultation

¹⁰ Communities in Control – Real Power: Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity Consultation

¹¹ The Connections Bus Project – Termly Report

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