

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 9 September 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: 6 members of the public plus Mr R Cook (Tree Warden) Ms J Winney (Tree Group) Mr B Worrall (Scout Group); Cllr S Harangozo (District Councillor) and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk)

Comments & observations from members of the public

Revd Joyce requested more information when items were discussed so that those attending could follow the discussion.

Mr Worrall requested permission for Comberton Scouts to use the land extension for a small bonfire and fireworks.

PCSO support in Bush Close between 10 pm and 1 am was requested following a break in.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations on interest

Apologies were received from Cllr Whelan (County Councillor).

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 10 June 2009

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman ^(Prop AB, 2nd JMcC).

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 6.5 next.

6.5 Tree group including report from Robert Cook

Mr Robert Cook was invited to report on the tree survey carried out by the Tree Group.¹ Mr Cook and the Tree Group were thanked for the tremendous amount of work carried out mapping all the trees. The Tree Group is to consider inclusion of trees or groups of trees of merit in the treescape. A list of trees with Tree Preservation Orders is to be passed to Mr Cook. Mr Cook and Mrs Winney were thanked for attending.

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

No written applications had been received.

3.2 Leach Homes have cleared the Public Open Space. Photographs from Cllr Whelan are awaited to enable to the Tree Group to look into the management of the tree belt and Mr Morgan has been kept informed.

On a proposition by the Chairman the order of business was varied.

6.11 Request from the Scouts to use the recreation ground for bonfire and fireworks

The Scouts' request to use the land extension for a small bonfire and fireworks should Mr Baker's field not be available was approved with one abstention subject to the Parish Council's insurance company being satisfied and any detritus being removed.

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports & questions

Cllr Harangozo reported that meetings have taken place at SCDC about the affordable housing land in The Valley and the scheme may be re-designed but with no increase in numbers.

Cllr Whelan's report² covered Safer Routes to School, caravan site signage, Comberton signage and also community transport (SCDC initiative). It was agreed that the Parish Council would take the lack of sign to Comberton on the A428 directly with Andrew Lansley MP,

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to allow Mr Hall to address the meeting to request permission to store building materials on land adjacent to the public open space. Mr Hall was thanked for his courtesy in asking and the request was agreed ^(Prop CW, 2nd SH). CCC is responsible for skip permissions on the highway.

5. Finance and procedure

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

The financial report³ was received and considered and checked by a member against the invoices and statements before the cheques were signed. It was agreed^(CW, JM) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid plus: LGS Services (admin support) £806.43, LG Stoehr (salary) £164.84, A Marsh (cleaning) £150.00, CGM £172.50, Alarm Maintenance £63.25, Greenham £46.94, P Round (grasscutting) £363.53 and SLCC (Membership and Clerk training) £15.00.

SCDC (rates)	£135.00
Buchans (grass cutting)	£81.88
Glassworld	£313.95
Cambridge Water (water bill)	£221.54
Peter Round (grass cutting)	£609.78
Connections Bus Project (Youth Bus)	£1228.68
EoN (Electricity)	£99.39
Alarm Maintenance (Alarm service)	£79.35
RT Abraham (Handyman)	£70.10
A Marsh (Cleaning)	£120.00
Moore Stephens (Audit)	£649.75
Buchans (grass cutting)	£61.38
Cambs Fire & Rescue (Redcare)	£88.70
LGS Services (Admin support)	£936.91
Lexis Nexis (Charles Arnold Baker)	£59.05
LG Stoehr (Salary)	£164.84
Allianz Cornhill (Insurance)	£109.77

It was agreed to amend the minutes of the May 2009 meeting so that the minutes record those actually approved as listed in the May 2009 finance report rather than those at the April meeting, ie:

SCDC (rates)	£135.00
Roger Abraham (Handyman)	£136.50
Comberton Scouts (S137)	£300.00
St Mary's Church (S137)	£750.00
Comberton Village Help Scheme (S137)	£1500.00
Cambs County Council (Reading Challenge)	£40.00
LG Stoehr (Salary)	£144.69
LGS Services (Admin Support)	£972.34
Open Spaces Society (Affiliation fee)	£40.00
Peter Round (Grass cutting)	£363.53
A Marsh (Cleaning)	£120.00
LGS Services (Admin Support)	£345.00

Plus:

LG Stoehr (Salary) -£127.00

Allianz (Insurance) -£1740.66

5.2 Annual Audit Conclusion

It was noted that the Audit by Moore Stephens had all been concluded and found to be in order.

5.3 Police Neighbourhood Panel Meeting – appoint representative to attend

Mr Robert Cook was appointed as the Parish Council's representative if he is willing to attend. ^(Prop CW, 2nd JM)

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

6.1 Planning Committee including

Mr Halford reported on the decisions taken at the last meeting and the SCDC decision notices, and the meeting to the agent regarding 64 Barton Road.

6.2 SCDC Chairman's Delegation & exception site policies & Planning Forum meeting

Mr Halford's report was considered on the recent Portfolio Holder's meeting. The SCDC Planning Committee will next consider the matter.⁴

6.3 Affordable Housing Working Group

Dr McCabe reported on the Affordable Housing Report.⁵

6.4 Transport Working Group

Mr Serby reported that he had met with Sustrans and Eversden Parish Council to discuss a possible cycle route from the Eversdens to Comberton Village College. This is to be discussed further with Cllr Whelan, Patrick Joyce of CCC and Comberton Village College via the transport plan.

6.6 Parish Plan Working Group

Carried forward.

6.7 Recreation Ground Working Group

Dr Chambers expanded on his report.⁶ Mr Serby declared a personal interest in any negotiations with the sports clubs as an occasional cricket player and his son plays for Comberton Crusaders. It was agreed that the Recreation Ground Working Group will meet with Mr Roger Abraham to discuss his involvement with the pitch bookings, etc. It was unanimously agreed ^(Prop CC, 2nd AH) that the Chairman will contact the former landowner to take up his verbal offer to install drainage on the land extension.

6.8 Sustainable Energy Partnership

Dr McCabe reported. Disappointment was expressed that there had been no response to the Contact article encouraging people to join a group and therefore the Parish Council withdrew from the Partnership at this time.

Any concerns about doorstep callers should be reported to Trading Standards.

6.9 Comberton Library – Summer Reading Challenge

Mrs Morison reported that the presentation is to take place on Monday 14 September.

6.10 CVC May and July meetings

Miss Westgarth reported on her attendance at the July meeting and the minutes from a County Council organized meeting about CVC's the travel plan were considered.⁷ There was concern at the information on the travel plan seen to date and the credibility of the proposals and the Parish Council expressed a wish to work with the other parties to arrive at a suitable solution for the benefit of all parties including the residents of Comberton.

6.11 The contractor is to be asked to deal with weeds on the path near the Doctors' and Green End without delay as the route is difficult.

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

7.1 Connections Bus – summer term report

It was agreed to contract the Connections youth bus and e for 6 months at a cost of £2500 and to enquire further into the CCC free bus.

7.2 Cambridge Water application for utilities box siting

The request from Cambridge Water to retain their green box on Parish Council land in the Drift and their apologies were considered. It was agreed to open negotiations for a wayleave payment.

8. Closure of meeting

It was noted that a cinema would run on 7 October in the Village Hall.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.07 pm.

Signed Chairmandate

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 reports that the Council considered and do not form part of the minutes.

¹ Tree survey by the Tree Group

² Report from County Councillor Fiona Whelan

³ Financial report

⁴ Report of Planning Officer to the Portfolio Holder

⁵ Affordable Housing report

⁶ Recreation Ground report

⁷ Letter from CVC and CCC regarding travel plan