

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 14 October 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 T Serby	Miss C Westgarth (Chairman)

In attendance: 5 members of the public plus Mr John Cornell, County Councillor Fiona Whelan and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk)

Comments & observations from members of the public

Mrs Hyde, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee requested a signpost in the centre of the village pointing to the Village Hall. Cllr Whelan kindly offered to make enquiries with the County Council.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Mr Jock Walsh (out of parish) and also from Cllr Steve Harangozo.

Miss Bacon declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item in the District Cllr's report about overgrown hedges in Swaynes Lane at the southern boundary of Thornbury.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 9 September 2009

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

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

Mr John Cornell had submitted an application for the vacancy just prior to the start of the meeting. He was invited to introduce himself. It was unanimously agreed that Mr Cornell of 16 Barrons Way should be co-opted to the Parish Council with effect from the November meeting. The declaration of acceptance of office is to be signed before the next meeting and the member's interest form is to be completed within 28 days. ^(Prop AH, 2nd EH)

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports & questions

Cllr Fiona Whelan read her report¹ which covered Safer Routes to School, Affordable Housing in The Valley, potholes, community transport, buses, CVC expansion, Transport Innovation Fund, gritting and the Gypsy and Traveller consultation. The Transport Working Group is to work with Cllr Whelan on cycle paths.

Dr Chambers declared a personal interest in matters relating to CVC as he has a child going to CVC next year.

Mr Serby arrived during this item.

District Councillor Steve Harangozo's report² was taken in his absence, and including hedge cutting, the proposed new recycling service, footpath maintenance, SCDC budgets, the CVC sixth form and parking, SCDC Chairman's Delegation, the energy partnership and village energy fair, and concerns regarding the lack of people willing to stand as councillors.

It was noted that any changes to the existing verges grass cutting contract would require the Parish Council's agreement. Dennis Vacher has been asked to clarify the additional funding for any additional areas.

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^(SH,CC) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid plus: Buchans (grasscutting) £121.57 and A Marsh (Cleaning) £120.00.

SCDC (rates)	£135.00
Five Star Pest Control (Wasps' nest)	£46.00
Roger Abraham (Handy man)	£42.00
Grounds By Rounds (Grass cutting)	£410.42
BT (Telephone)	£57.00
Buchans (Grass cutting)	£157.67
LG Stoehr (Salary)	£164.84
LGS Services (Admin support)	£883.48

5.2 To consider quotations received for work to the slide steps

Four quotations had been requested but only two received. It was agreed to clarify whether the quote from CGM was for hardwood materials and it was agreed^(Prop CC, 2nd CW) that the quote should be accepted if it related to hardwood and if not, to obtain a further quotation specifying hardwood.

5.3 Grant funding for Interpretation board at Watts Wood

It was noted that SCDC had offered 50% of the cost of an interpretation board and it was agreed to apply for a £500 grant from the Forestry Commission. The Focus Group and Tree Group are to pursue the project as identified in the Parish Council's 2010 budget..

5.4 Request from the Bowls Club for hedge cutting – carried forward to the next meeting for the Recreation Group to consider and make a recommendation.

5.5 The Valuation Office's rateable value for recreation ground facilities including the bowls rinks and buildings and tennis courts was noted. The Recreation Group is to bring a recommendation to the next meeting.

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

6.1 Planning Committee⁴

The minutes of the last meeting were noted.

6.2 SCDC Chairman's Delegation & exception site policies

Mr Halford reported on the planning meeting of 7 October, which had voted to abolish the Chairman's Delegation procedure. It was agreed to lobby other Parish Councils and SCDC to adopt automatic referral to the Planning Committee when the Parish Council and Planning Officer differ on controversial applications. ^(Prop EH, 2nd AB and carried) The letter drafted by Mr Halford is to be sent to all District Council members.

It was noted that the Ancient Shepherds allotments in South Street have been sold to a property investor. Dr McCabe declared an interest as an allotment holder. The Parish Council is to monitor the situation.

6.3 Affordable Housing Working Group

Dr McCabe reported that a meeting is to be held regarding Affordable Housing with Schuyler Newstead next week. Mrs Hyde and Mr Halford are to attend with Dr McCabe.

Mrs Morison arrived.

- 6.4 Transport Working Group including co-option of Robert Rintoul
It was agreed that Dr Rintoul should be co-opted to the Transport Working Group. (Prop AH, 2nd SH)
- 6.5 Tree Group
The Tree Group had considered an application for a tree subject to a Preservation Order in Swaynes Lane. Jane Winney had attended the Tree Warden training event. Free trees and hedging are available if the Parish Council wish to take this up. The Tree Group is to look into Mr Morgan's complaint – carried forward.
- 6.6 Parish Plan Working Group
Carried forward. Members are to bring their reports for discussion at the next meeting with a view to finalising the questionnaire.
- 6.7 Recreation Ground Working Group
Mr Halford reported that the last meeting took place on 3 September. The next meeting will consider the proposed questionnaire. Roger Abraham had verbally indicated that he was interested in assisting with the pitch bookings etc and the Recreation Group will discuss this further with him. CVC had applied to use the football pitch but as the Parish Council had no goal posts they had not played. It was agreed that the Parish Council is keen to maintain a good working relationship with CVC for its future use of the recreation ground.

Miss Westgarth declared an interest in any discussions regarding the Primary School. She reported that no reply had yet been received to the letter sent to Tom Banks. No response has been received to the Contact article inviting suggestions for the use of the land.
8. Closure of meeting
It was noted that the cinema held on 7 October in the Village Hall was a success. The Village Hall representatives report is to be added as an item for the next agenda.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.05 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 reports that the Council considered and do not form part of the minutes.

¹ Report of County Councillor Fiona Whelan

² Report of District Councillor Steve Harangozo

³ Financial report

⁴ Planning Committee