

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 11 November 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Members present:	Dr C Chambers	Mr J Cornell
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: 5 members of the public, District Councillor Steve Harangozo, County Councillor Fiona Whelan and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk)

The meeting opened with a period of reflection for Armistice Day and also in memory of Brian Cook who had been instrumental in the development of the Village Hall.

Comments & observations from members of the public

A query was raised about Footpath 5. The Parish Council are trying to have it restored and hope that this will be completed soon.

A comment was made that the car park at Comberton Village College was full and parked vehicles were overflowing onto Barton Road at 3.30 pm on two afternoons recently.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Miss Amanda Bacon (out of parish).

Dr McCabe declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 7.2, the discussion on the Mobile Warden Scheme.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 14 October 2009

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

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

3.1 Appointment of John Cornell to committees and/or working groups

Mr John Cornell completed the relevant paperwork including the declaration of acceptance of office. His appointment to the Transport Working Group and the Recreation Ground Working Group was agreed. ^(Prop CC, 2nd EH)

3.2 Village Hall signage

It was agreed ^(Prop SH, 2nd CC) to accept the quote of £125 from Cambridgeshire County Council for the provision of a sign to be located at the crossroads near the design shop.

3.3 Bowls Club Hedge – request for Parish Council to cut or for financial support

Mr Halford reported that the Recreation Working Group had considered the matter and noted that the hedge had been planted by the Bowls Club. It was agreed that the Bowls Club should cut the hedge. ^(Prop EH, 2nd SM, carried with 2 abstentions)

3.4 (5.2) Quotations received for work to the slide steps

The principles of fair tender were considered and it was agreed to allow a late quotation. A proposal ^(EH) to accept the lowest quote from CGM was not seconded. It was agreed to accept the quote from Jason Moore for £610. ^(Prop AH, 2nd SH and carried with 8 votes in favour and 1 against)

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports & questions

Cllr Fiona Whelan read her report¹ which covered:

- Community Transport
- changes to Stagecoach and Citi 4 bus services
- a small meeting for residents and others on the impact of the CVC proposals; a larger public meeting will follow when plans are finalised
- the shortfall in school places; it was agreed^(Prop JM, 2nd CC) that Mr Moffat and Mr Serby would represent the Parish Council on a Focus group to work with Cllr Whelan and notes from the meeting will be circulated to the Parish Council.
- The A14 draft orders which may go to a public inquiry, and the borrowpits at Madingley
- A bid under the Transport Innovation Fund for improvements to Chesterton Sidings for the transport of materials
- Community grants – Cllr Whelan will circulate information.
- Affordable housing and a site in Barton Road subject to dispute
- The Sure Start Scheme has been approved.
- The overspend in the CCC Social care budget

Mrs Morison arrived.

It was noted that the Land Registry has confirmed that the south boundary hedging is owned by each of the individual houses. The CCC officer has written to all the residents asking them to maintain the hedge or he will carry this out under his powers and invoice them.

District Councillor Steve Harangozo presented his report² which included:

- The SCDC financial situation and staffing implications. Grounds maintenance, sheltered housing, hedge and grass cutting will be affected.
- The Valley exception site will be reported on later under item 6.3.
- The Climate Change Charter and sustainable energy
- Footpath access from Hillfield Road – to be reviewed when the Assets Walk is carried out.
- A dog bin in the Valley was requested.
- Clarification was sought on lighting being left on all night at the housing development. Cllr Whelan is to take up.
- The windfarm at Balsham
- Thanks were extended to SCDC for work on the awarded watercourse.

Mr Cornell was appointed as the Parish Council's representative at the forthcoming meeting at 8 pm Friday 6 Kentings John Cornell^(CW, AH)

5. Finance and procedure

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

Mr Cornell left the meeting during this item.

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^(CC, AH) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid.

SCDC (rates)	£135.00
EON (Electricity)	£114.77
Jason Moore (Notice Boards)	£902.75
LG Stoehr (Salary)	£164.84
RT Abraham (Handyman)	£28.00

A Marsh (Cleaning)	£150.00
LGS Services (Admin support)	£847.42
Complete Weed Control (Ragwort spray)	£276.00

Buchans are to do a second application of spraying at the Causeway

Credits received since the previous meeting were noted:

It was agreed ^(Prop CW, 2nd SM) to accept a cheque for £150.00 from Cambs Water in respect of the utilities box installed without Parish Council permission. ^(EH,CC)

5.2 Budget working group membership and Terms of Reference

Agreed ^(CC,CW) Membership is to include Mr Walsh, Mrs Morison, Dr Chambers, Miss Westgarth.

The working group is to prepare a recommendation to the next Parish Council meeting on the budget for 2010. The working group is asked to take the baseline budget which will be prepared by the Clerk and consider this against the agreed principles and add any special projects etc to it before making recommendation to the Council.

The following basic principles were adopted by the Parish Council in 2006/7 to be applied to its budgets was agreed after the following proposals:

A proposal ^(DM) to delete the words "recreation ground" in the third bullet point was carried ^(4 in favour, 3 against, 5 abstentions)

A proposal ^(Prop RR, 2nd EH) to remove the rest of the third bullet point was not carried. ^(4 in favour, 5 against and 2 abstentions)

- The Council will continue to look for other sources of funding apart from the Precept to fund its budget
- There should be strategic benefit
- The Council should endeavour to make the the pavilion run at as near to, if not at, nil cost
- Support should be given to other village groups and organisations which benefit the village.

Mr Cornell rejoined the meeting.

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

6.1 Planning Committee including SCDC LDF Public Participation & Statement of Community Involvement & Supplementary Planning Documents⁴

It was agreed ^(Prop CC, 2nd JM) to delegate this to the Planning Committee to respond by the deadline date. Mr Cornell rejoined the meeting during this item.

6.2 SCDC Chairman's Delegation & exception site policies

Mr Halford reported on the outcome of the Planning meeting, namely that the Chairman's Delegation Procedure had been abolished and that SCDC had postponed its date for considering a replacement procedure to its December meeting.

6.3 Affordable Housing Working Group

Dr McCabe reported on a meeting on 20 October held to discuss the proposed site for Affordable Housing. Schuyler Newstead of SCDC had heard nothing further. Dr Chambers resigned from the Housing Group.

6.4 Transport Working Group

The Clerk is to write to CCC to move this matter forward.

6.5 Tree Group

The Tree Group had considered a proposal to remove a tree at 17 West Street and recommended refusal. A meeting is to take place on Tuesday.

6.6 Parish Plan Working Group

To be passed to the Clerk to format. Questions on parking hotspots are to be included.

6.7 Recreation Ground Working Group

Mr R Abraham is amenable to managing the Recreation Ground and Pavilion on an ad hoc basis. It was agreed ^(Prop EH, 2nd CC) to extend the voluntary role to include pitch bookings and other duties as required. It was agreed ^(Prop EH, 2nd CC) notify the club of the rate re-evaluation includes additional areas and the potential cost to the parish and indicate that the Parish Council is considering how these costs might be funded and seek to move towards an agreement with the clubs for the management of the recreation ground and pavilion for mutual benefit. Mr Abraham's attendance is to be at the Working Group's discretion.

6.8 Village Hall Representatives

Mrs Hyde and Mr Hollick reported on the recent meeting. The October meeting had paid tribute to Margaret Cook who had recently died and to Brian Cook, the former Chairman, who had also died. The new Chairman is Malcolm Wright and the Vice-Chairman is John Collins. The workload is to be shared between members.

6.9 Village Maps

Dr McCabe proposed acceptance of the maps and the cost of installation. Thanks were expressed and a letter of thanks is to be sent. It was agreed to ask Roger Abraham to install the new maps and to seal the frame so that they are not damaged.

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

7.1 Comberton Scout Group – request for financial support

Dr Chambers declared an interest as parent of two children in the scout group. Mr Cornell and Mr Serby declared an interest as they have children in the scouts. It was noted that the Scouts were given a donation in May (although it was a late request). It was agreed to write informing them that this request will be taken into account when the budget prepared and will be formally considered in April/May 2010. ^(JW,DM)

7.2 Closure of the Mobile Warden Scheme

Dr McCabe reported. The AGM is to be held on 12 November.

7.3 HCV issues and Countrywide Advisory Freight Map

This will be circulated to the TWG so that they can make recommendation to the next meeting.

7.4 SCDC invitation to meet the Cabinet at 7.30 pm on 25 November 2009 (?)

Noted.

7.5 Camtad – Village Hall hearing loop

Quotes are to be obtained for two hand held microphones and four table top microphones to feed into the loop system.

7.6 Cambridgeshire Highways depot open day 16 December 2009

Noted.

7.7 SCDC Planning Forum 4.30 pm – 7 pm 10 December 2009

Mr Halford is to attend.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.00 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 report including SCDC LDF Public Participation & Statement of Community Involvement & Supplementary Planning Documents