

**COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The minutes of the Parish Council held on**  
**Wednesday 13 January 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

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

In attendance: Mr P Harney (Paul Harney Associates), Cllr F Whelan (County Councillor), Cllr S Harangozo (District Councillor) 16 members of the public and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

**Comments & observations from members of the public**

Mr P Harney was welcomed to the meeting. Dr McCabe outlined the background to the proposals for affordable housing in the village. A plan of the proposed development was displayed.

A discussion took place during which residents had the opportunity to ask questions. Areas covered included the loss of on-street parking; access to the site, particularly by emergency vehicles; the safety of children, especially during construction; the proposed future use of the green area on the top left of the plan and the potential total number of houses; the increase in contractors' vehicles and where they would park.

Mr Harney offered to provide five parking spaces for residents of the Valley at the expense of the developers, subject to conditions. Mr Harney will write formally to the Parish Council detailing his offer, which will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Mr Harney was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

A query was raised as to whether Comberton was considered by insurers to be at risk of flooding. This has been the case for some years.

Gutters are overflowing in The Valley in heavy rain, and a resident enquired whose responsibility this was. Cllr Harangozo and Cllr Whelan asked the resident to contact them so the position can be investigated.

A resident asked if the South Street allotments site is being sold. Dr McCabe declared an interest as an allotment holder and explained that whilst it was understood that land had been sold in the Autumn, nothing further had been heard.

**1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

Apologies were received from Mr Rowlands (personal commitment), Mr Cornell (personal commitment) and Mrs Hyde (personal commitment).  
 Dr C Chambers resignation was noted.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman <sup>(Prop EH, 2nd AB)</sup>, after the following amendments were made:

P 579 – the spelling of Moffat was corrected (one 't')

P 581, Item 6.8 amended to read "the trustees were working through the extra workload following the death of the Chairman, Brian Cook".

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

The Clerk's report<sup>1</sup> was noted.

- 3.1 Cllr Harangozo reply regarding reporting on specific District Council matters<sup>2</sup> in which he explained that it was not his intention to focus on other issues to the exclusion of District Council matters, but on occasion local issues were raised with him or there was nothing relevant to report from the District Council. Cllr Harangozo was asked to inform the Parish Council should this be the case.

Repairs to footpaths around the school – Cllr Harangozo is to liaise with Dennis Vacher about the possibility of using volunteers to spread road planings.

3.2 Dog litter bins

It was agreed to canvass the opinion of local dog walkers regarding the best location for an additional bin – carried forward.

3.3 Village Hall hearing loop

The email from Don Fisher<sup>3</sup> that the new system is being installed on 26 January. A quotation for additional microphones is still awaited.

3.4 (7.2) SCDC S106 Advice Notes – report following meeting and response to consultation

Mr Halford reported on the meeting he attended at SCDC.

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports and questions

Mrs Morison arrived during this item

Cllr Whelan reported on

- the CCC gritting review and grit bins and that she still is pressing for Green End to be gritted:
- Comberton Village College traffic and parking concerns. Cllr Whelan declared an interest as a parent of children at the College.
- The section of ditch at the back of the school.
- The Guided Bus – no information is available on the opening or the overspend.
- Secondary School in Cambourne – no funds have been allocated.
- Her offer to work with the members of the Transport Working Group and asked for suggested dates and requirements.

Cllr Whelan left the meeting.

Cllr Harangozo presented his report which included:

- Comberton Village College traffic and parking.
- South Street – street cleaning.
- The hedge at the back of Thornbury. Miss Bacon declared a personal interest..
- SCDC job cuts leading to loss of expertise and reduced support for community activities.
- A request that copies of Planning Committee reports be emailed to him.
- That he will report to the next meeting on the selective switching off of lights to save electricity.

5. Finance and procedure

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

Miss Westgarth and Dr McCabe declared a personal interest in the reimbursement of expenses for Christmas lights and chestnuts respectively.

The financial report<sup>4</sup> was received and considered and checked by a member against the invoices and statements before the cheques were signed. It was agreed<sup>(DM,JW)</sup> that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus Buchans £211.14, Information Commissioner £35.00, Connections Bus £1331.07 and A Marsh £90.00.

LG Stoehr (Salary)	£164.84
BT (Telephone)	£54.26

RT Abraham (Handyman)	£35.00
Cambs ACRE (Membership)	£25.00
SLCC (Affiliation fee)	£212.00
LGS Services (Admin support)	£840.60
J McCabe (reimburse chestnuts)	£6.00
C Westgarth (reimbursement lights)	£34.78

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

6.1 Planning Committee

It was reported that the application for 64 Barton Road had been rejected by SCDC.

6.2 Affordable Housing Working Group including land off The Valley

The meeting with Mr Harney is to be an agenda item for the next meeting. It was noted that there had been no developments regarding West Street.

6.3 Transport Working Group

Nothing to report.

6.4 Tree Group

It was noted that the agreed maintenance schedule for Watts Wood had been revised slightly with the Contractor.

6.5 Parish Plan working group including approval of the questionnaire

It was agreed <sup>(Prop JM, 2nd CW)</sup> to form a small working group, with membership composed of Dr McCabe, Mrs Morison and Messrs Cornell, Halford and Serby, to make minor modifications to the draft questionnaire and to bring the revised draft to the next Parish Council meeting for approval.

6.6 Recreation Ground Working Group

The Working Group reported that it was possible to set up a charitable trust separate from the Parish Council and that they were drawing up a draft constitution and lease. The minutes of the Group's meeting are to be circulated.

6.7 Village Hall representatives

It was reported that the audio-visual system will be installed on 26 January and the Treasurer had reported an approximate profit of £7,000. The Parish Council expressed its congratulations which are to be conveyed to the Village Hall Committee.

6.8 Budget working group – to consider the report and recommendations from the working group and to approve the budget for 2011 and to set and demand the precept

Mr Walsh apologised for the late receipt of the draft budget and accompanying notes<sup>5</sup>. It was noted that the business rate payable by the Pavilion could be reduced to zero if a charitable trust was formed to run it and income could be raised by hiring out pitches, etc.

It was agreed <sup>(Prop JW, 2nd AB)</sup> that the Parish Council adopt the budget as presented and to set and demand a precept of £56,987.88 from SCDC. <sup>(Carried by majority vote with 8 in favour and 1 abstention).</sup>

Mr Walsh and the budget working group were thanked for their time and hard work.

6.9 Appraisal Working Group – Clerk review

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take this item at the end of the meeting.

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

7.1 SCDC Community Facilities Audit

Noted.

7.2 SCDC Community Transport Strategy

Members of the Transport Working Group are to review the document and respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

7.3 CCC grit/salt bins provision

The Parish Council agreed in principle to purchase some salt bins. The Transport Working Group is to bring a recommendation to the next meeting proposing a number and locations. CCC is to be informed that the Parish Council will write again following the next meeting.

At 10.00 pm on a proposition by the Chairman, carried unopposed, in accordance with S1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that is, the Clerk’s review, the public were temporarily excluded from the meeting and were instructed to withdraw. The minutes secretary left the meeting and did not return. The meeting was declared reopened at 10.04pm.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

Signed .....Chairman .....date

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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.

<sup>1</sup> Clerk’s report

<sup>2</sup> Cllr Harangozo’s reply regarding reporting on specific District Council matters

<sup>3</sup> Village Hall hearing loop email from Don Fisher

<sup>4</sup> Financial report

<sup>5</sup> Budget Working Group’s draft budget and accompanying notes.