

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 10 February 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: 5 members of the public and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

Comments & observations from members of the public

Compliments were paid to Mr Halford on his presentation to the SCDC Planning Committee regarding the Comberton Village College application, and the resident expressed a lack of confidence in the process.

Another resident enquired about the overgrown state of the pavement from Swaynes Lane to Barton Road. It was noted that CCC was responsible for the pavement.

On behalf of a resident, Mrs Hyde asked whether the fish and chip van was no longer allowed to stop in Harbour Avenue. The Parish Council was not aware of any change.

Mr Rowlands arrived.

A resident observed that since the beginning of the new school year additional after school activities had resulted in a large increase in vehicle movements between 3.45 and 4.15 pm, as children were now collected by car rather than travelling on the bus. The Transport Working Group were asked to be mindful of this.

Mr Andy Marsh enquired whether the Parish Council had considered liaising with the Village College about the hiring of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground. This is under consideration.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Mr Serby, Mr Walsh (out of Parish). Apologies were also received from County Cllr Whelan and District Cllr Harangozo.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 13 January 2010

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman ^(Prop AB, 2nd EH). The confidential minutes were approved ^(Prop AH, 2nd AB) and signed by the Chairman after an amendment to note that Mr J Walsh left the meeting and was not present for this item.

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

The Clerk's report¹ was noted.

3.1 (3.2) Dog litter bins

It was agreed to put up more signs including replacing the broken ones in Barrons Way, and on the bend in Swaynes Lane, and to review the position in two months' time. Miss Westgarth undertook to place an article in Contact.

3.2 (6.5) Parish Plan

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to discuss this under item 6.5.

3.3 (4) Salt bins

Possible locations were discussed. Miss Westgarth declared a personal interest as Chair of Governors at Meridian School. It was agreed to buy one bin in the first instance as a trial measure, to be located at the Barton Road end of Harbour Avenue, subject to the agreement of CCC. (Prop SH, 2nd JMcC, carried with 8 in favour and 1 abstention).

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports and questions

Mrs Morison arrived during this item.

Cllrs Whelan's² and Harangozo's³ reports were both taken as read. Cllr Harangozo's request to discuss the selective switching off of lights to save electricity was carried forward to the next meeting.

5. Finance and procedure

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

The financial report⁴ was received and considered and checked by a member against the invoices and statements before the cheques were signed. It was agreed^(JMcC, EH) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus Buchans £663.25 and Ridgeons £159.20. Credits received between meetings were noted.

CPRE (Affiliation fee)	£29.00
LG Stoehr (Salary)	£164.84
LGS Services (Admin support)	£888.65
A Marsh (Cleaning)	£150.00
RT Abraham (Handyman)	£115.50
Cambridge Water (water bill)	£258.90
EON (Electricity)	£192.41
Countryside Watch (Affiliation fee)	£30.00

It was noted that Mrs Hyde was a member of Countryside Watch and a participant in the system of ringing round and passing on information.

5.2 Debtors report⁵

The background to the outstanding invoices was reviewed. Both the Football and the Cricket Club had queried the apportionment of the bills. Mr Marsh (Comberton Football Club) was invited by the Chairman to speak and he indicated that the Football Club would be happy to pay the outstanding bill immediately if the Parish Council gave a serious commitment to looking at and resolving the outstanding issues. Mr Halford is to talk to the clubs and endeavour to bring a recommendation to the next meeting – carried forward.

5.3 Public Open Space contribution for land west of 65-67 Long Road

A letter from SCDC regarding the Public Open Space contribution for land west of 65-67 Long Road, and the request for an indemnity was considered. It was unanimously agreed in light of the comments of the auditor^(Prop DM, 2nd AH) to accept the funds but not to execute the indemnity until it can be resolved that the funds can go into the Parish Council's account rather than a new one of SCDC's choice.

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

6.1 Planning Committee

Parking at the Village College was considered. Mr Halford reported on a personal telephone call from a local landowner offering to provide, at his expense, parking facilities of up to 200 cars in a field opposite the Village College, together with an affordable housing development with 100% shared equity, in return for favourable consideration from the Parish Council and planners on a small private development on his land to recover the costs. It was noted that the Parish Council had not received anything formally.

6.2 Affordable Housing Working Group including land off The Valley

Mr Harney has undertaken to write setting out his offer in time for the next meeting. Dr McCabe reported on a meeting about exception sites at SCDC.

6.3 Transport Working Group

Mr Moffat reported on a meeting with County Cllr Fiona Whelan, at which a number of issues were discussed, including the CVC expansion and a speed limit in the Horizon Park area. Letters have been sent to the CCC School Travel Co-ordinator and Divisional Traffic engineer respectively. It was noted that funds were not available but that the group would continue to press for speed limit reductions.

The email from Cllr Whelan regarding transport to Chesterton Community College⁶ and CCC's intention to tender for a new contract service, was noted.

6.4 Tree Group

Mrs Morison reported on the proposed Watts Wood interpretation board progress and Mrs Morison was appointed to progress the project with help from the Tree Group.

6.5 Parish Plan working group including approval of the questionnaire

The draft questionnaire was presented. The Chairman thanked the group for all the time and effort involved in producing the draft document. After lengthy discussion regarding which questions should be included, and the additional complexity of including multiple responses per household, the following was agreed:

- That the number of persons per household permitted to respond remain at 6 (Prop SM, 2nd SH, carried by majority vote with 6 in favour and 4 against).
- The working group is to meet again to review the document further and to bring the draft for approval to the next Parish Council meeting. The intention is to send the questionnaire out with the Annual Report at approximately the end of April.
- references to the precept money and expenditure on different areas should remain in the annual report, rather than in the questionnaire, subject to making it clear what parts of the report are referred to in the questionnaire. (Proposed CW, 2nd DM, 5 in favour, and 5 against – carried by Chairman's casting vote)

6.6 Recreation Ground Working Group

Covered earlier under item 5.2.

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

7.1 CCC Consultation on Third Local Transport Plan

Noted. The Transport Working Group is to respond.

7.2 Connections Bus report

The report was taken as read.

7.3 Parish Precept

The email from a resident, congratulating and thanking the Parish Council for achieving a reduction in the Parish Precept, was noted.

8. Closure of meeting

Clarification is to be provided on the Chairman's voting rights. There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.09 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 Clerk's report

² County Councillor Fiona Whelan's report

³ District Councillor Steve Harangozo's report

⁴ Financial report

⁵ Debtor's report (included in Clerk report)

⁶ Cllr Whelan regarding transport to Chesterton Community Colleg