

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

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

In attendance: Cllr F Whelan (County Councillor), Cllr S Harangozo (District Councillor), PCSO Karen Mahoney and PCSO Mani, 5 members of the public and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

Comments & observations from members of the public

The new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), Karen Mahoney, introduced herself and was welcomed to the meeting. Questions were invited. A resident raised the matter of lorry movements in Bush Close causing a potential hazard for children and PCSO Mahoney undertook to speak to the owner. It was noted that a speed trap in Long Road had resulted in several tickets being issued.

In response to an enquiry from a resident, it was confirmed that the position regarding casting votes had been checked and that the Chairman had acted correctly.

Mr Moffat reported that residents had requested the replacement of play equipment on the recreation ground. This is to be considered when funds are received from developers. Appreciation was expressed to Jason Moore for the repairs to the steps and the top of the slide.

A resident raised the condition of the footpath from Comberton to Toft, and overhanging hedgerows affecting the width of the footpath so that pedestrians have to step into the road to pass between Comberton Road and the Hardwick Turn. A request was made that the Parish Council raise this with the County Council (CCC) or Toft Parish Council. Concern was also expressed about flooding at the entrance to Kentings. The resident requested that priority be given to maintaining current amenities rather than providing new ones.

Mr Serby arrived.

Cllr Whelan reported that the footpath has been raised with Toft Parish Council and that the District Council (SCDC) is responsible for the maintenance of the ditches annually. Appreciation was expressed for Pat Matthews' work. It was noted that flooding arose at times of exceptionally heavy rain, exacerbated by rainwater entering the sewers and overloading the system.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Mr Cornell (out of Parish). Apologies for late arrival were also received from District Cllr Harangozo. There were no declarations of interest.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 10 February 2010

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman (Prop AH 2nd SH, carried with 4 in favour, 1 against and 5 abstentions).

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 (4.1) S Harangozo – the selective switching off of lights to save electricity

It was agreed to take this item under the District Councillor's report.

3.2 (8) Chairman's voting – clarification from the Clerk on procedure

It was noted that legislation permits an original vote from the Chairman and also in the case of a tied vote a second vote also.

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports and questions

Cllr Whelan's report² covered the guided busway, the Comberton Village College (CVC) Sixth Form places, the CCC budget, speed reduction, gritting and potholes. It was reported that the new pavement opposite Meridian School is breaking up.

Cllr Harangozo's report was noted.³ He urged the Parish Council to press CCC for action on potholes and urged members of the Transport Working Group to make representations to CVC about the Travel Plan. A resident had reported tree waste dumped in a ditch in Swaynes Lane. Ditches in Swaynes Lane and Kentings need to be cleared. Lighting – carried forward.

Mrs Morison arrived during this item.

5. Finance and procedure5.1 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, DM) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus approval was granted for the Village Hall insurance payment to be made when received between meetings. Credits received between meetings were noted.

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| Greenham (Cleaning equipment) | £122.94 |
| S Tunstall (Christmas lights) | £27.22 |
| Alarm Maintenance (Alarm service) | £64.63 |
| Jason Moore (Slide) | £1010.51 |
| PWLB (Loan) | £8432.70 |
| LG Stoehr (Salary) | £164.84 |
| RT Abraham (Handyman) | £63.00 |
| LGS Services (Admin support) | £1047.67 |

5.2 Connections Bus contract

It was agreed^(Prop SH, 2nd AH) to continue the contract until the end of September. This is to be an agenda item for the September meeting, when it will be reviewed again.

6. To receive reports and members items and consider recommendations contained therein6.1 P3 Grant Application

Miss Westgarth outlined the scheme and explained that this year's work was to focus on FP5 Swaynes Lane to Barton Road and FP8 The Causeway. A meeting with the FP5's landowner regarding the gate is to be arranged.

6.2 Litter pick

It was agreed to carry out a litter pick on the morning of Saturday 10 April. Mr Moffat agreed to place an article in Contact. Appreciation was expressed for the pub landlord's kind offer of coffee. Mr Serby offered to speak to the Cubs to enlist their help.

7. To receive reports from committees and working groups7.1 Planning Committee

Mr Halford was thanked for the minutes⁵ which were taken as read.

7.1.1 Bennell Farm parking and housing proposal

The copy of a letter from Mr Arnold to CVC⁶ received from Cllr Harangozo was noted. The Affordable Housing Working Group and the Transport Working Group are to meet to discuss the proposal and bring a recommendation to the next meeting. Mr Moffat is to be the convenor.

7.1.2 CCC Minerals and Waste Plan Consultation

It was agreed that Mr Halford would respond on the Parish Council's behalf, regarding the borrowpit at Madingley, based on the response previously made.

7.2 Affordable Housing Working Group

7.2.1 Mr P Harney offer of parking at The Valley

Nothing had been received from Mr Harney.

7.3 Transport Working Group

Mr Serby reported that the TWG had written to CCC regarding a) the cycle lane, for which CCC state no funds are available, and b) the proposed 40 mph speed limit in Barton Road, which will be reviewed in 2012.

7.4 Tree Group

7.4.1 Tree adjacent to 27 Thornbury

Mrs Morison reported. It was agreed to refer the resident back to the developer to determine whether work was needed.

7.4.2 Watts Wood Interpretation Board

Details of the interpretation board including costs for the board (Shelly Signs)⁷ and artwork (Michael Wood)⁸ were considered and approved. The Tree Group was thanked for its hard work and for progressing this project.

7.5 Parish Plan Working Group

Mr Halford proposed to arrange a special resolution to be submitted to the Clerk to rescind the decision made at the previous meeting to keep financial information in the annual report rather than in the questionnaire. It was observed that if any figures were quoted they should correctly relate to the precept, with other monies such as grant funding noted separately. Figures are to be checked with the Clerk. It was agreed ^(Prop AH, 2nd TS, carried with 5 in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions) that the draft be accepted, subject to alterations to ensure correct financial data, and subject to Parish Council approval of the resolution to reverse its previous decision and allow financial data to be included in the questionnaire.

7.6 Recreation Ground Working Group

7.6.1 Recommendation about the utilities in the Pavilion and apportionment of bills

Mr Halford's report⁹ was noted. In order to emphasise to the community the Parish Council's will to develop the recreational facilities in the village, the motion ^(Prop EH, 2nd RR) "that this council affirms its intention to develop the recreation ground extension and supporting facilities for the purpose for which the extension was purchased" was carried ^(6 in favour, 1 against, 4 abstentions). It was agreed that members of the Budget Working Group and the Recreation Ground Working Group should bring a recommendation to the next meeting on an all inclusive fee and what the fee is to cover. Mr Walsh is to be the convenor.

7.6.2 Pavilion car park potholes¹⁰

It was agreed unanimously ^(Prop CW, 2nd JMcC) to accept Mr Abraham's offer to fill the potholes.

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

8.1 CCC Enforcement Officer – highway verge adjacent to Village Hall in Green End

Noted.

8.2 Pond flooding and blocked outlet pipe

It was noted that emergency action had been required to clear a blockage at the pond. CCC's Highways department has also been asked to clear the road drains.

9. Clerk Contract and Appraisal

At 10.20 pm, the Chairman closed the meeting to the public to enable discussion of the confidential employment matter, namely the Clerk's contract and appraisal. Mr Walsh, members of the public and the Minutes Secretary left the meeting.

10. Closure of meeting

At 10.40pm the meeting was reopened to the public and the Minutes Secretary rejoined the meeting. There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.40pm.

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 Report from County Councillor

³ Report from District Councillor

⁴ Financial report

⁵ Minutes of Planning Committee

⁶ The copy of a letter from Mr Arnold to CVC re proposed housing and parking at Bennell Farm

⁷ Watts Wood interpretation board quote for the board (Shelly Signs)

⁸ Watts Wood interpretation board quote artwork (Michael Wood)

⁹ Report of Recreation Ground Working Group

¹⁰ Pavilion car park potholes Roger Abraham's estimate of costs (detailed in the Clerk's report)