

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 14 April 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Cllr F Whelan (County Councillor), 10 members of the public and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk)

Comments & observations from members of the public

A resident expressed opposition to the Bennell Farm proposals, on the grounds of development of Green Belt land; the scale of development; the increase in traffic; no need for a car park. The resident expressed the view that, since parking for the proposed Sixth Form was included in the planning provision, current parking problems were preferable to those arising from the proposal. Concerns were also expressed about drainage.

Another resident shared the concerns expressed but argued that the proposal was worth exploring and should not be dismissed out of hand, as it was felt the potential problems of the Sixth Form were underestimated.

A third resident expressed the view that the Sixth Form parking provision was unsatisfactory and as the area in front of the College was already being used, suggested an area with proper surfacing could be introduced, with limited access for teaching staff and affordable housing only on the Bennell Farm site. It was noted that some development was already proposed in Green End.

Cllr Whelan explained that CVC had wished to use the Green in front of the School but this was prevented by the SCDC planning department.

It was observed that the land was in Toft, not Comberton so the Parish Council would not receive any precept from the development, although the impact of the development would be on Comberton.

A resident expressed a need for affordable housing to enable younger people and families to remain in Comberton.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Miss Westgarth (out of Parish), Mr Cornell (family circumstances), and Mrs Hyde (anticipated lateness). There were no declarations of interest.

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

After deletion of the words "current year's" from item 7.5, line 4, ^(Prop JM, 2nd AB, unanimous) the minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman ^(Prop DM 2nd AB, unanimous).

The confidential minutes of 10 March 2010 were unanimously approved ^(Prop RR, 2nd AB) and signed by Chairman.

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

The Clerk's report¹ was noted.

Thanks were expressed to Mr Moffat for organising the litter pick, to the public for attending and collecting rubbish, and to the landlord of the Three Horseshoes for

refreshments. A letter of thanks is to be sent to the landlord and to SCDC for the loan of equipment. An article will be placed in Contact urging residents to collect any litter they see all year round.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 3.4 at this point.

3.4 (7.1.1) Bennell Farm, West Street parking and housing proposal

The Transport and Affordable Housing Working Groups recommendation was considered. Communications received from a resident were taken into consideration by the Working Group.

Cllr Whelan reported that Toft Parish Council supported the affordable housing proposal in principle but were concerned at the scale. The working group is liaising with Toft Parish Council and South Cambs District Council.

It was agreed that Mr Arnold's offer, to provide affordable housing and car parking on a modest scale in a minimal geographical area, should be investigated further. This does not imply acceptance by the Parish Council, but set out guidelines as a basis for discussion with Mr Arnold. (Prop SM, 2nd DM, carried with 7 in favour and 1 against)

It was agreed that development of the scale shown on the plan was not acceptable to the Parish Council.

3.1 Proposal that the resolution of (6.5 of 10 February 2010) be reviewed

The signed motion that "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" be reviewed, was carried (Prop SM, 2nd AH, carried with 6 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention)

The timing of the annual report and the potential cost of colour production are unknown at this time.

A minor change to question 39 to add missing streets and a correction to the spelling of Hawtrees was agreed. The limited time for questionnaire data entry was noted and it was felt that opportunities afforded by the Future Jobs Fund could be utilised.

Mrs Hyde arrived.

It was agreed to keep the financial information in the questionnaire and aim to circulate the questionnaire with the Annual Report by 20 May (Prop TH, 2nd AH, carried with 8 in favour and 1 against).

The following amendments were agreed:

Before question 19, to include a breakdown of the proposed figure for the recreation ground land excluding pavilion.

Figures should be based on the Financial year 2010 – 2011 so as to present the most up to date commitment (to include precept and also planned release from the reserves)

A proposal by Dr McCabe seconded by Mrs Morison that the demographic section to be moved to the beginning of the questionnaire for ease of data entry and potential cost implications was carried (5 in favour, 4 against).

A working group consisting of Mrs Hyde, Mr Moffat, Dr McCabe and Miss Westgarth will meet to finalise the format of the questionnaire, the layout, introduction, cover etc, the number to be printed, delivery and collection and include an additional question at the end aimed at the youth of the village. The Clerk is to update the pie charts and financial information as agreed earlier (Prop AB, 2nd SH).

3.2 Village Hall – additional microphones

A resident expressed a preference for the microphone to be switched off. The options of gooseneck microphones and wireless table were considered. CAMTAD is to be invited to give the Parish Council a hearing awareness session before considering this matter further.

- 3.3 (7.6.1) Recommendation about utilities in the Pavilion and apportionment of bills
Carried forward.

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports and questions

Cllr Harangozo's report was noted.²

Cllr Whelan's report³ included pothole reporting and the new system of repair with hotboxing. Cllr Whelan urged anyone who has sustained damage through potholes to make a claim to CCC.

A letter is to be sent to Dennis Vacher of CCC regarding the erosion of the verge in Green End.

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^(DM, AH) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus A Marsh £20.00 (additional pavilion clean). It was unanimously agreed^(Prop SH, 2nd EH) to delegate to Roger Abraham as Recreation Ground manager a budget of £200 for small repairs and additional cleaning. Credits received between meetings were noted.

SCDC (Rates)	£139.00
CCC (streetlighting)	£385.04
Jason Moore	£217.37
Sportsafe UK (Tennis nets winding handle)	£21.06
Wicksteed Leisure (Swing seats)	£84.01
RT Abraham (Handyman)	£175.00
Shelley Signs (Watts Wood – sign)	£863.63
Michael C Wood (Watts Wood – artist)	£500.00
LG Stoehr (Salary)	£164.84
LGS Services (Admin support)	£974.74
A Marsh (Cleaning)	£120.00
Connections Bus	£1228.68

Thanks were expressed to the Clerk.

- 5.2 Annual Audit announcement and appointment of Internal Auditor

The audit date of 1 June was noted and a notice will have been placed on the notice board. Following review it was unanimously agreed^(Prop DM, 2nd SH) to reappoint Lesley Chambers as Internal Auditor. The accounts will be approved at the May meeting.

6. Annual Parish Meeting arrangements

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 26 May at 7.30 pm. It was agreed in addition to the usual items that there will be a discussion on streetlights and their impact on the environment. Cllr Harangozo will be invited to give a presentation to stimulate discussion.

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

- 7.1 Planning Committee

The minutes⁵ were taken as read.

7.2 Affordable Housing Working Group

It was reported that the applicant for development at The Valley was struggling to obtain funding.

7.3 Transport Working Group

Nothing to report.

7.4 Tree Group

There had been one tree works application at Thornbury which had been returned to SCDC with no objections as it had been considered already at a previous meeting. It was agreed to remind the residents generally to cut back hedges which are overhanging pavements but to check first for nesting birds.

7.5 Parish Plan Working Group

Taken earlier.

7.6 Recreation Ground Working Group

A request to book the recreation ground was considered. This was unanimously agreed (Prop EH, 2nd AH) on the basis of last year's fee plus 10%. Mr Abraham is to be informed. Outstanding matters, re the agreement/trust and the all inclusive fee were carried forward to the next meeting.

8. To consider matters arising out of correspondence/communications received8.1 SCDC Gender Equality Scheme questionnaire

Noted.

8.2 SCDC Standards Committee – vacancy for Parish Council representative

No interest was expressed.

8.3 Future Jobs Fund

It was unanimously agreed (Prop DM, 2nd AB) to take on someone to carry out data entry and administration tasks and work with the Clerk and that Miss Westgarth, Dr McCabe and the Clerk will liaise to take this forward. The importance of suitability was stressed and will only be progressed if this can be assured.

8.4 Freedom of Information request

The Vice-Chairman reported that a request had been received which had been passed on by the Clerk as she was compromised. It was agreed that Dr McCabe and Mr Moffat would take responsibility for this.

10. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.55 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 Report from District Councillor

³ Report from County Councillor

⁴ Financial report

⁵ Minutes of Planning Committee