

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

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

In attendance: 13 members of the public, Cllr Fiona Whelan (County Councillor), Cllr S Harangozo (District Councillor) and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

None.

Comments & observations from members of the public

The cost for yellow lines was questioned by a resident who had obtained a personal quotation for £1.50 per metre per line and £285 advertising fee. Cllr Whelan declared an interest as she has children at the school and explained that she had told CCC that the School should pay. Concerns were expressed at the lack of police support for the problem but another resident expressed the opposite view. Mr Arnold expanded on his letter and as a site meeting had been arranged further consideration by the Parish Council will be taken after the site meeting. Appreciation was expressed that the affordable housing was going ahead and the Parish Council was thanked for its efforts.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meetings on 13 October 2010

The minutes of the meeting on 13 October were approved as a true record ^(Prop AB, 2nd DM) and signed by the Chairman. There were no confidential minutes.

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) Recreation Ground management including

3.1.1 To consider quotation for pitch and drainage report

It was unanimously agreed ^(Prop RR, 2nd AH) to accept the quotation from Agrostis for £525 plus mileage for the report.

3.1.2 Consideration of specification for recreation ground manager and cleaner

Examples of other parish councils' arrangements and costs were considered and it was agreed that Cllrs Bacon, Morison, McCabe and the Clerk should meet to consider the options and bring a recommendation to the next meeting.

3.1.3 Recreation ground and pavilion casual hirers' fee

The working group set up under 3.1.2 will look at fees to be charged for casual users and bring a recommendation to the next meeting.

3.2 (7.2) Resident – request to plant hedge on Parish Council land adjacent to 32 The Valley for rear access²

It was agreed to decline the resident's request as taking into account legal advice received in the past the open space in The Valley is for the benefit of all residents, and to allow one resident exclusive use, even of a strip of land of the size requested, is contrary to the land's designation. ^(Prop CW, 2nd DM, unanimous)

3.3 (7.3) Resident – request to purchase/lease part of verge near 22 St Thomas Close for off- street parking³

Clr Walsh declared a personal interest as his house overlooks the resident's house. It was agreed to decline the request as taking into account legal advice received in the past the verge is for the benefit of all residents, and to allow one resident exclusive use, even of a strip of verge of the size you requested, is contrary to the land's designation. (Prop CW, 2nd SH, carried with 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention).

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports and questions⁴

4.1 Clr Whelan's report covered the Guided Bus, Comberton Village College school places, winter gritting schedules, Madingley Rise road safety, Fix My street reporting, A428 crash barriers, the awaited central Government settlement and the potential implication for parish councils and the new access road to Addenbrookes.

4.2 Clr Harangozo's report⁵ covered South Cambs District Council's (SCDC) expected spending cuts, Northstowe, SCDC's staff pressures and the Village Energy show on 27 November at CVC.

5. Finance and procedure

5.1 To receive the financial report and to approve the payment of bills⁶

The financial report was received and considered and checked by a member against the invoices and statements before the cheques were signed. It was agreed^(AB, JW) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid,

LG Stoehr (Salary)	£172.12
EON (Electricity)	£102.94
LGS Services (admin support)	£1369.59

plus Andy Marsh £150.00 (purchase of bin, etc) and £50.00, P Round £269.52 (grass cutting), R Sewell £80, PF Garter and Partners £88.13. Credits received between meetings were noted.

5.1.1 The requirement to publish all spending over £500 was noted. The Clerk is to put this in hand.

5.1.2 (3.6) Pavilion deep cleaning – alternative arrangements with SJ Cleaning at £350 were approved. (Prop SH, 2nd AH)

5.2 Assets review

This will take place on Saturday 13 November at 10 am. All members were encouraged to attend.

5.3 Grasscutting contract 2011-2013 inclusive – to consider and approve the specification, including the Tree Group's recommendation on the hedge on the north of the Recreation Ground⁷

The specification was approved^(Prop CW, 2nd JM) with the following modifications:

- A price is to be obtained for 3 and 4 cuts of the verges and the parish council will consider this aspect of the contract based on the agency services grant from the County Council (CCC)
- The recreation ground hedge between the existing recreation ground and the land extension will cut one side each year to the height and width indicated in the Tree Warden's recommendation
- A price for rough cutting the land extension and also for cutting it to the same specification as the existing recreation ground/sports pitches will be obtained. leaving one or two flail widths from the hedge.

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

6.1 Planning Committee

Nothing to report.

6.2 Affordable Housing Working Group

Nothing to report.

6.3 Transport Working Group (TWG)

Nothing to report.

6.4 Tree Group

Further to the decision at the last meeting the Tree Warden's comments regarding flowering pears were noted and it was agreed that the Tree Group would bring a recommendation to the next meeting as to whether the trees should be flowering pears or cherries.

6.5 Parish Plan

Cllr McCabe reported that approximately 350 questionnaires have been returned and need to be analysed. Quotations for next stages are to be obtained.

6.6 LGS Services Contract

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.

6.7 SCDC Parish Liaison meeting

Cllr Bacon reported on an interesting meeting.

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

7.1 Barton Parish Council – Cycling for school pupils in Comberton⁸

The letter from Barton Parish Council was considered. It was agreed to reply that the Parish Council is aware of the problems and has looked extensively at the options and will continue to press CCC to take action. Concerns were expressed about other areas such as Swaynes Lane and New Road, Barton, for cycling. Cllr Whelan will look into whether there is any opportunity for improvement through Safer Routes for School. CCC was urged to take this matter up with the bus services and the police are to be encouraged to monitor the situation.

7.2 CCC funding reductions for open access youth clubs⁹

Noted.

7.3 NHS Pharmaceutical services consultation¹⁰

It was agreed to respond that Comberton is well provided for with the village pharmacy.

7.4 SCDC Democratic Services Review¹¹

In response it was agreed that the opportunity to speak at SCDC meetings was welcomed. Problems that occur with the website are more complex, such as the planning system website not working effectively. The clerk will complete the rest of the questions.

7.5 SCDC Website Hosting¹²

It was agreed that the village already has an excellent website and therefore no need for change. Messrs Elleray (present) and Bennett were thanked for their hard work in this connection.

7.6 CCC Bus Services tender consultation¹³

Noted.

6.6 LGS Services Contract¹⁴

At 9.13 pm the Clerk left the meeting as her position was compromised given her association with LGS Services.

It was unanimously agreed that the contract offered should be accepted subject to confirming the legality of doing so with the Cambs and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC); if there are problems with this action then an extraordinary meeting will be called. Cllr McCabe will contact Mr Dewar at CPALC

At approximately 9.35 pm the Clerk rejoined the meeting.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.35 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 Letter from resident re planting hedge adjacent to 32 The Valley

³ Letter from resident requesting purchase of verge adjacent 22 St Thomas Close

⁴ Report of the County Councillor

⁵ Report of the District Councillor

⁶ Finance report

⁷ Grasscutting contract 2011-2013 inclusive – to consider and approve the specification, including the Tree Group's recommendation on the hedge on the north of the Recreation Ground

⁸ Letter from Barton Parish Council

⁹ CCC funding reductions for open access youth clubs

¹⁰ NHS Pharmaceutical services consultation

¹¹ SCDC Democratic Services Review

¹² SCDC Website Hosting

¹³ CCC Bus Services tender consultation¹³

¹⁴ LGS Services quote for services