

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 9 February 2011 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: 5 members of the public including representatives from the Bowls Club, Cllr S Harangozo (District Councillor) and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

- 1.1 Apologies received from Cllrs McCabe (out of parish), Morison (overseas), Clerk (late), County Cllr Fiona Whelan (unwell).
- 1.2 Cllr Walsh declared a personal interest in item 7.1 as a resident of Fox's Way.

Comments & observations from members of the public

An article in Contact regarding the recent precept increase. The Parish Council will submit a response in the next edition.

Schooling provision in Cambourne.

Concerns were expressed at traffic in Long Road, in particular when the A14 is closed.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 12 January 2011

The minutes of the meeting on 12 January were approved as a true record ^(Prop AH, 2nd JW, 2abstentions) and signed by the Chairman, after an amendment to show that Cllr Rowlands had sent his apologies (out of parish).

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

3.1 (5.3) To consider quotations for the pavilion roof guard

Cllr Hollick had met with the contractor to discuss options and the contractor had emailed decline to quote but suggest instead replacements as and when. Consideration was given to whether to seek alternative quotes and it was agreed to monitor the situation and to revisit this again if necessary. The quote for the uniflex, lead alternative apron was considered and this was agreed. ^(Prop AH, 2nd AB)

3.2 (6.6.1) Recreation ground land extension and recommendations including bridge quotes

Three quotes had been requested but only two received. It was agreed to consider the two received and it was agreed ^(Prop SM, 2nd AH) to accept the quotation from Jason Moore for £1160.

During one site meeting antisocial behaviour had been seen and it was agreed to coppice the hedge on the land to the rear of the bowling green. If the Tree Warden agrees to the work it is to be put in hand without further referral back to the Parish Council. The matter is to be reported to the police and the litter clearance will be carried out either by District Council or the litter picker; suitable protective equipment is to be provided.

3.3 (6.6) Contract for the cutting of the highway verges

The County Council had offered 75% of the present agency services grant for FY2012. It was agreed to contract CGM (Cambridge) at a 3 year fixed rate for 3 cuts per annum with an option for an additional cut if required at the reduced rate,.

4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports and questions

Cllr Harangozo gave a report on CCC matters in the absence of Cllr Whelan, covering

- Library Services review (agenda item 7.5)
- Approval of funding for a secondary school in Cambourne
- Bus services over a period of time, will no longer receive any subsidy.

Cllr Harangozo's report¹ as District Councillor covered:

- The Cabinet meeting is to consider its recommendation on Council Tax. It is likely to accept the Government freeze on tax.
- New home build bonus arrangements.
- The Valley- Planning and discharge of the design layout will be considered at the April Planning Committee meeting. The Parish Council questioned whether the delay to April might affect funding and Cllr Harangozo undertook to find out.

5. **Finance and procedure**

5.1 **To receive the financial report² and to approve the payment of bills**

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 ^(SH,AH) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus A Marsh £50.00 and £120.00 (grass cutting), R Sewell (West Street flower bed work) £20.00, and LGS Services £981.68 (Admin support).

EON (Electricity)	£50.83
Cambs Countryside Watch (Membership)	£30.00
S & J Cleaning (Pavilion clean)	£420.00
XXX (Salary)	£172.12
CCC (Streetlights)	£325.28
EON (Electricity)	£247.74
Cambridge Water (Water bill)	£189.47

Clarification is being sought on the two EON invoices for £50.83 and £247.74. It was agreed to authorise the Clerk to release payment as appropriate once she has

5.2 **Recreation Ground Manager report³**

The report covering the blistering walls, damaged flooring and recent deep steam clean was considered and it was agreed that Cllr Hyde should meet with Mr Marsh to take a look at the walls, flooring and recent cleaning and report back to the next meeting. Mr Marsh is to be asked to seek quotes for replacing the tiled floor with non-slip flooring.

5.3 **Quotation for Watts Wood bridge**

Two quotes from CGM were considered and it was agreed ^(Prop SH, 2nd AB) to accept the quotation for the antislip surface.

5.4 **Causeway**

It was agreed ^(Prop CW, 2nd SH) to accept the quotation from CGM using the P3 budget and to contract for a three year fixed rate subject to work being satisfactory and any loose stones replaced.

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

6.1 **Planning Committee** ^{(AB)⁴}

Cllr Bacon reported on her attendance at the Planning Committee meeting.

3 Long Road – SCDC approved a change to 5 bedrooms plus under a separate application a dwelling in the rear garden The Parish Council expressed concern that a site visit had not taken place as requested and that the way that the applications had been considered had affected the outcome resulting in approval rather than refusal.

The District Council's Planning Services Survey was considered and it was agreed the reply should include comments regarding referrals to Planning Committee when the

Parish Council and Planning Officer's opinions differ, the handling of closely linked applications, backland development, the lack of time extensions and also the scope of consultations on applications recommending consulting more widely than the adjacent neighbours and to comment on the lack of site visits for contentious applications. Cllr Bacon will attend the forthcoming workshop on Planning and raise these matters then also.

6.2 Affordable Housing Working Group⁵

The letter from DHM Stallard to Toft Parish Council regarding the proposed affordable housing/car parking land at West Street, Comberton, was considered. It was agreed ^(Prop AB, 2nd CW) to reply to indicate the Parish Council's concerns and lack of support for the proposal. Reasons to include

- this proposal is the same as had already been considered by the two parish council's the District Council etc and had already been dismissed by these parties as being unsuitable development.
- It was not well related to facilities and services in Toft in which parish it is situated.
- justifications for development in the Green Belt were not accepted,
- sixty houses does not constitute limited housing.
- only shared equity properties and no rental properties.
- The Council was led to understand that the applicant was considering building the properties himself and handing them over to a parish council which was not the norm.

6.3 Transport Working Group (TWG)

The Transport Working Group had not met.

6.4 Tree Group⁶

The Clerk's report written in cllr Morison's absence was considered.

It was agreed that a member of the working group should write a report detailing any recommendations for the meetings.

6.4.1 Recreation Ground land extension trees – the Chairman allowed the previous decision for six oak trees to be revisited in light of the report.

Cllr Bacon left the meeting.

The Tree Warden's advice was considered and it was agreed ^(Prop CW, 2nd AH, carried with 2 abstentions) to plant four oaks and a hornbeam and to accept Peter Oakes quotation for £50 per tree for planting.

6.4.2 9 Harbour Avenue – in response to the further complaint by the resident about the recent work to the rowan tree it was agreed that the work had been carried out as per the Council's instruction and that no further work was thought necessary. It was agreed that if any branches were overhanging any residents' gardens then they had the right to trim back to the boundary line.

6.6 Ash and beech trees adjacent to 9 Harbour Avenue

The suggestion that the trees be removed to make grasscutting clearer was not taken at this time and the Tree group itself is to table it for consideration at an autumn meeting.

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

7.1 Resident's request to convert area of POS in St Thomas Close for public parking use at his own expense⁷

In response to the resident's further request if there was any possibility of converting a small portion of the verge at his own expense for parking for public. The Parish Council once again declined the offer and wished to stress that verge is for the benefit of all residents and while a small area it is public open space and not as it might

appear a highway verge any use as such for parking would be contrary to the land's designation. It was agreed that this become the Parish Council's policy for all such requests for purchase or use of the public open space in the Janes Estate and that the Clerk should inform any future applicants of this.

Members were reminded of the Standing Orders and that they could re-table this decision again after six months if they thought the policy should be revisited.

7.1.1 Verge outside 9 Hillfield⁸

The letter from a resident with photographs of damage to the verge was considered. The Transport Working Group was instructed to look into putting wooden posts at the location and explore costs bringing a recommendation to a future meeting.

7.2 Connections Bus report⁹ and to consider if the contract should be extended after 1 April 2011

Cllr Walsh left the meeting during this item.

The PCSO is to patrol and keep an eye on a group of young boys aged about 14/15. It was agreed ^(Prop AH, 2nd SH) to contract the Connections bus for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 excluding the school summer holidays with the proviso that the rate had increased by no more than a small amount.

7.3 Mrs Fisher's request to use the village pond area for a plant sale on 11 June
Permission was granted. ^(Prop CW, 2nd AH)

7.4 NHS Foundation Trust consultation

It was agreed to send the link for members to respond individually. Cllr Rowlands declared a personal interest as a NHS employee.

7.5 CCC Library Services Review¹⁰

The request for volunteers was noted.

7.6 The Police report on speed checks and results was noted.¹¹

7.7 Bush Close potholes

The Highways Supervisor had indicated that the potholes had been marked up for repair; however a resident indicated that they had not been done.

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.46 pm.

Signed Chairmandate

¹ Report of District Councillor

² Finance report

³ Recreation Ground Managers report

⁴ Report of planning committee

⁵ Report of Affordable Housing Working Group

⁶ Report of Tree Group

⁷ Letter from resident regarding St Thomas Close

⁸ Letter from resident regarding verge adjacent to 9 Hillfield Road

⁹ Connections Bus termly report

¹⁰ CCC Libraries

¹¹ Report from Police

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.

APPROVED