

**Minutes of Comberton Annual Parish Meeting
on Wednesday 27 April 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: 23 parishioners including parishioners, Parish Council members, District Cllr S Harangozo and representatives from village groups and organisations

In attendance: County Councillor F Whelan and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Cllr Miss Chris Westgarth presided. The written reports from the meeting are appended in full to the master minutes and are available from the Clerk on request.

1. Approval & signing of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 26 May 2010

The minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

3. Report of the Parish Council for the year from Chris Westgarth, Chairman¹

The report is appended in full to these minutes, covering the Parish Plan, changes to the Council's membership, work on the affordable housing site, youth provision, village events and the Recreation Ground project.

4. Report from Gail Stoehr, Responsible Financial Officer, on the Parish Council's finances including the presentation of audited accounts²

The RFO presented the Audited Accounts, which were all in order, explained the audit timetable and highlighted that full details of the Parish Council's income and expenditure and budget would be included in the annual report.

5. Report by Cllr S Harangozo on District Council Matters³

Cllr Harangozo reported on:

- Potholes
- Libraries
- Buses

6. Report by Cllr F Whelan on County Council Matters⁴

Cllr Whelan reported on:

- The Guided busway handover
- The threat to library services
- Cuts to bus services
- Pothole reporting

7. Report on the work and activities of groups and organisations including those who have either received a grant from the Parish Council or which have Parish Council appointees on their charity or organisation including:

7.1 Herringland Charity (trustees appointed by the Parish Council)

The Chairman had declined to attend however, Cllr Hyde briefly reported on her first meeting.

7.2 Comberton Village Institute (trustees appointed by the Parish Council)⁵

Dr Malcolm Wright reported on the Hall's success and regular users, Trustees and post holders. Forthcoming community events were outlined.

7.3 St Mary's Church (Grant)⁶

Mr Don Fisher reported on the grant received from the Parish Council and how it was used.

7.4 CCC Library Services (grant)

No representative was present.

7.5 Comberton First Scouts (grant)

Ms Teresa Healy, Comberton Scouts reported on the Scouts events and activities and the annual bonfire event.

7.6 Questions on any of the above reports

A resident expressed concerns at youths gathering on the Recreation Ground. Broken glass had been found at the skate park in Hines Lane and the Recreation Ground extension. It was agreed that there was a need to monitor youth on the Recreation Ground, especially on Fridays and Saturdays, and the use of alcohol. Another resident indicated that she had seen the Police about this.

8. Reports from other village groups and organisations on their activities

8.1 Royal British Legion⁷

Mr Ed Dickinson reported on the Coton Royal British Legion joining the Comberton Group, and also on fundraising.

8.2 South Street Allotments⁸

Mrs Jane Winney reported on the healthy position of the South Street Allotments with all plots taken and a waiting list maintained. It was asked whether there was a need for any additional land but noted that Comberton was well provided for, with three sites (Statutory, Voluntary and Church)

8.3 Comberton Contact⁹

The report for Contact was read by the Chairman in the absence of the Editor, Mrs Anne Horler.

8.4 Connections Youth Bus¹⁰

The report of the Connections Youth Bus was read in their absence and covered attendance and facilities.

Meridian School

Glennis Virgo, Headteacher, reported on the School's successes and their activities.

9. To consider resolutions of which advance notice has been given

None.

10. Any other Parish Matters

10.1 CCC Library Cutbacks

Christine May, Head of Cambridgeshire County Council's (CCC) Libraries and Archive Services, reported on the situation regarding library services, particularly Comberton library. Information leaflets were handed out and referred to. It was observed that Comberton Library was at risk, and opportunities were being sought for raising funds towards running costs, sharing the building and the costs and seeking volunteers to keep the costs down.

A question was asked about the detailed running costs of the Comberton Library. These were not to hand but would be available at the public meeting on 25 May 2011 and on the CCC website.

A parishioner enquired about the use of volunteers and what was required. It was explained that volunteers were already across the network for doorstep delivery. Community Access Points were used for community libraries and it was hoped that this model would provide a guide. Reassurance was given that volunteers taking on this role would not upset paid staff and the unions. It was not known how much Comberton Village College used the library as CVC has its own, as would the Sixth Form. The Meridian School also has its own library.

In carrying out the review, CCC is looking not at use or performance but at need and deprivation. It was noted that mobile libraries were reviewed last year and no changes were proposed to the new timetable.

10.2 Bus Service Cuts

Cllr Harangozo outlined the withdrawal of subsidy by CCC for the Friday and Saturday night service. It was suggested that the Cambourne late service could be re-routed via Comberton. Another suggestion was running the two late buses as a separate paid service without allowing use of the weekly ticket. It was observed that if communities were concerned about Anti-Social Behaviour they needed to step in and pay the costs, which split between 7 villages would amount to £20 per week.

10.3 Parish Plan Questionnaire Results

Residents were thanked for taking the time to complete the questionnaires. The results had been analysed and a small group were looking at the data and would be drawing up a summary report. The Parish Council undertook to work hard on this.

Open discussion

Mrs Sandra Hyde invited everyone to look at the raised beds at the cross roads, as they were very attractive.

It was noted that a large branch by the bus shelter adjacent to the pond had broken off.

Concerns were expressed that the pavement by the Dentist's was dangerous as it was very narrow, unswept and unpleasant to walk on, and needed widening and attention. The meeting agreed that it both needed sweeping, and removal of the grass encroaching on the pavement.

The question of parking in The Valley and the use of Parish Council land was raised, along with general parking issues.

In response to an enquiry whether there would be any commemorative events for the Royal Wedding, it was noted that nothing had been arranged but bunting was available. The consensus of the meeting was that something should be arranged.

Concerns were expressed that a camp fire and a den had been built at Watts Wood and had been dug out, indicating a lack of respect for the site. The resident had offered to be part of a volunteer group to care for the Wood.

A resident expressed the view that Contact should be used to share information on issues such as Hillfield Road and the verges, rather than communicating via personal letters.

11. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (date)

¹ Chairman's report

² Report of RFO and Audited Accounts

³ Report of District Councillor

⁴ Report of County Councillor

⁵ Comberton Village Institute report

⁶ St Mary's Church report

⁷ Royal British Legion report

⁸ Allotments report

⁹ Contact report

¹⁰ Connections Youth Bus report

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