

**Minutes of Comberton Annual Parish Meeting
on Wednesday 23 May 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.**

Present: 33 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 Amanda Bacon presided. The written reports from the meeting are appended in full to the master minutes and are available from the Clerk on request.

Apologies for absence were received from: Mr Peter Mitton (Herringland Charity), District Cllr Francis Burkitt (Barton Ward), CCC Library Services, Ms Glennis Virgo (Headteacher, Meridian Primary School), Mr Alan Webb (Connections Bus Project), PCSO Karen Mahoney, and two residents of Swaynes Lane.

1. Approval & signing of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 27 April 2011

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 Cllr Amanda Bacon, Chairman¹

The report is appended in full to these minutes, covering: an article in the Cambridge Evening News listing Comberton as the fifth least deprived village in the country; elections and changes to the Council's membership; the Parish Plan questionnaire responses; matters relating to the Recreation ground, planning, affordable housing and traffic; the FOCAL group and the saving of the library; youth provision and the Youth Bus, village events including a Jubilee event on 3 June; support for village groups by way of S137 grants. Thanks were expressed members and the Clerk for their hard work.

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 for the financial year ended 2011, which were all in order, explained the audit timetable and invited inspection and questions, highlighting that full details of the Parish Council's income and expenditure and budget would be included in the annual report which would be delivered to each home.

5. Report by Cllr S Harangozo on District Council Matters³

Cllr Harangozo reported on:

- New affordable housing in Comberton
- The SCDC Local Development Framework - Cllr Harangozo expressed his long held stance that he did not wish to see large-scale housing development in the village.
- The SCDC budget and cuts
- The new dog bin
- The Climate Change Working Group
- The library
- Buses
- Local road repairs

6. Report by Cllr F Whelan on County Council Matters⁴

Cllr Whelan reported on:

- The 18 bus service and forthcoming meeting to discuss provision of a Friday evening service
- Madingley Rise improvements
- The Friends of Comberton Library Group (FOCAL). The meeting applauded Mrs Suzan Griffiths and the energetic volunteers for their work in saving the library and ensuring it stays open.
- Local school issues
- The Cambs Guided Busway
- Roads and Pavements and the lack of CCC investment. Potholes had been repaired. There is a new reporting system.
- Village bus services under threat and the timetable changes from 10 June, with implications for after school activities at Comberton Village College.
- The failure of the attempt by County Councillors to award themselves a 25% pay rise. The Independent remuneration panel review recommended that any increase should only be in line with staff pay which is frozen for the time being.
- Drought and water conservation.

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)

Mr Don Fisher reported on the background to the charity and its remit to feed the poor.

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

Dr Malcolm Wright reported on the Hall's success and regular use for meetings, events, café, and bingo; the addition of the storage building to the rear of the hall; the final loan payments; the retirement of Mr Brian Burton as Treasurer, and the twelve Trustees responsible for the day to day running of the Hall and their duties. 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. Receipts and payments for the calendar year were outlined.

7.4 CCC Library Services (grant)

Apologies had been received from the County Council for not being able to attend however, its letter of thanks for the grant for the Summer Reading Scheme was noted.

7.5 Comberton First Scouts (grant)

Mr Ben Pemberton reported on the Scouts events, activities and fundraising, and income and expenditure.

7.6 Questions on any of the above reports

A resident referred to a meeting attended by the Crusaders and expressed concerns at an article in Contact and regarding covenants on the Recreation Ground extension. Concerns were expressed that they had not heard about the covenants before and that the land had been purchased for a sum greater than the District Valuer's valuation. The Clerk read out the report that would be published shortly in Contact giving the background to the land purchase and negotiations. The meeting was asked by the resident whether it approved of what had taken place. It was requested that the Parish

Council make application to the Land Commission and the Vendor to regularise matters.

Concern was expressed about new housing in Comberton and the potential problems with traffic and increased parking in Green End. The future of the Doctors' practice was questioned. Any questions to County Cllr Whelan will be referred to her for a reply in Contact.

Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for all that they do.

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

8.1 Comberton Contact⁷

Mrs Anne Horler reported on a successful year, the Contact team's roles, distribution, advertising, and the prominence given to notices and events. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Horler and the Contact team.

8.2 Meridian School report⁸

Ms Glennis Virgo's apologies were noted and her report was read by the Chairman in her absence. The report covered the recent Ofsted inspection, curriculum topics, staff changes, sports day with an Olympic theme, Jubilee events and attendance at a Queen's Garden Party, was read

8.3 Comberton Cantabile⁹

Mrs Brenda Brown expressed thanks for the article in Contact. The report covered a service in Church, the search for a tenor, and a Community Choir award.

8.4 Royal British Legion

Mr Ed Dickinson reported that there would be no poppy appeal this year as Mrs Myers had retired. A new volunteer is sought.

8.5 Connections Bus¹⁰

Mr Alan Webb's apologies were noted and his report was read by the Chairman in his absence. The report covered attendance, activities and discussion topics, visits from Parish Councillors and PCSOs, and involvement in a consultation with CCC.

8.6 Police report¹¹

PCSO Karen Mahoney's apologies were noted. Her report covered incidents in the area and details of the next panel meeting.

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

None.

10. Any other Parish Matters

10.1 The District Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

Cllr Moffat gave a presentation on the SHLAA. This covered:

- What does this mean to residents?
- The location of the sites and the nature of the proposals.
- What has the Parish Council done? It has voted in favour of small scale developments only, in accordance with its current status as a "Group village".

In response to a query as to who suggested the number of houses on each plot, it was noted that landowners did this. It was noted that all of the Green Belt might be made available for development and the implications of development on the Green Belt were discussed.

In response to a query regarding the role and stance of the District Councillor, Cllr Harangozo explained the options for development which could be either concentrated, such as in Cambourne, or dispersed among villages, provided increased

sustainable transport was made available. Cllr Harangozo expressed his personal view that sustainable public transport links were key to housing and economic development and the cost of infrastructure would be a problem, as economic dispersal away from Cambridge had not proved successful. Cllr Harangozo suggested that the requirement for up to 40% of homes in new developments to be affordable might counteract long-term decline in villages. However, much new housing might have to be located outside existing village frameworks.

Questions were asked about schooling provision especially secondary schooling.

Cllr Harangozo was asked what action he proposed to defend the village from development and to state his views on the proposals.

A resident asked about the Quarter to Six Quadrant vision for Barton Ward. It was commented that valid arguments had been made through their District Councillor. There was support for a similar document in Comberton expressing the stance of the village. Residents were urged to write to the Parish Council and Keith Miles. Swaynes Lane residents have written to oppose the proposed development off Swaynes Lane, but there was little feedback from the meeting on other the areas in the village. The meeting resolved ^(Prop Robert Cook, 2nd Lou Russell, carried with 32 in favour and 1 against) to instruct the Parish Council to set up a working group and undertake a survey.

Reference was made to a Cambridge Evening News article on how much housing development was required in Cambridgeshire. Mr Ellery undertook to put a link to the maps on the website.

Residents asked how the District Council and the District Cllr would respond in the event of a concerted attack by developers for 2000 or more houses in Comberton, with infrastructure as well. Cllr Harangozo responded that whatever the recommendation of the officers, the District Councillors would make the decision, and a public enquiry would take place. Cllr Harangozo was not aware of such a concerted effort being made previously. The meeting expressed its dissatisfaction with his responses.

11. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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 Comberton Contact report

⁸ Meridian School report

⁹ Comberton Cantabile

¹⁰ Connections Bus report

¹¹ Police report