

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Wednesday 13 February 2013 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Members present:	Miss A Bacon ^(AWB) (Chairman)	Mr H Griffiths ^(HG)
Councillors:	Mr B Pemberton ^(BP)	Mr A Hollick ^(AH)
	Mr R Elleray ^(RE)	Mr T Scott ^(TS)
	Mrs J Preston ^(JP)	Mr N Taylor ^(NT)
	Dr J McCabe ^(JM)	Miss C Westgarth ^(CW)

In attendance: 13 members of the public, Mr Jamie Bird of Hills Residential, County Councillor F Whelan, District Councillor S Harangozo and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Moffat (out of parish) and Crossley.

1.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda

Cllr Westgarth declared an interest in the tree report and parish paths items and in any item concerning the school, as Chair of Governors at Meridian Primary School, and disclosed the existence of her dispensation.

1.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

None.

1.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None.

Comments & observations from members of the public and County and District Councillor reports

Mr Jamie Bird of Hills Residential, representing the landowner of Bennell Farm, outlined the approach to the development and explained that the landscaping assessment would dictate the number of houses. With regard to Affordable Housing, he agreed with the SCDC local lettings policy of allocation to those with a connection to Toft and Comberton. Local knowledge regarding infrastructure was requested. Any issues with surface water and sewerage capacity would be dealt with by the developers and the landowner. Suitable community funding would be available also.

Four residents reported that they had been flooded with sewage for 11 days, and that Anglian Water had said they could not take action until the water level had subsided. Sewage had entered the woodland in Thornbury over the years since the 1960s. A full survey had been requested from Anglian Water but they had responded that they are not consulted on any development. The residents expressed a need for everyone to know where the surface and foul water goes and urged the Parish Council to have a full survey undertaken.

Another resident spoke of her concerns and the fact that Anglian Water advice only states an area should be disinfected and not used for six weeks after it has been affected.

Cllr Whelan outlined her involvement and her attempts to facilitate a meeting between the SCDC Environmental Health officer, Anglian Water and residents. A meeting will now take place on Wednesday 20 February at 10.30 am. She suggested that the Parish Council write to the Environmental Health portfolio holder and request a meeting. Anglian Water had maintained that there was not a major problem and that the cause was 3 or 4 houses putting fat down the drains, which was not the case. Anglian Water were putting in a bid for work that they wished to carry out over the next 5 to 10 years. An invitation was extended to meet at 26 Swaynes Lane at 9 am.

Another resident reported that Anglian Water had maintained the pump had broken down and would be replaced.

Concerns were expressed at the proposal for the new development at Bennell Farm and that this would lead to more flooding. There were also concerns that no-one had seen the daily tanker visits and realised there was a problem with the pumping station. Clarification was sought as to the Parish Council's role and the Clerk outlined the Council's powers.

The potential health risks for children walking to school were raised.

A resident requested the Parish Council's views on the Bennell Farm proposal and expressed concerns about the impact on the Green Belt, traffic implications, and the benefits going to Toft as the site was in that parish, whereas Comberton would receive none of the benefits. Cllr Whelan reported that the issues with pumping station capacity would be raised at the Planning Committee stage.

Residents expressed concerns about the offer of support for the village in exchange for the development. Cllr Elleray clarified that the LDF was a strategy document and surface water and sewage issues would not be looked at by SCDC until the planning application was submitted.

Cllr Westgarth reported that Anglian Water is consulted about planning applications and indicated how a Freedom of Information search on Anglian Water could be obtained.

Concerns were expressed that if Anglian Water kept dismissing this problem it would adversely affect Comberton's rating, as being a place with problems and being a suitable place to develop. It was suggested that residents write to the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Anglian Water.

Cllr Whelan's report covered:

- Two successful bus meetings looking at future transport. There was no impact for subsidised routes. The next meeting will be on 21 February at 7.45 pm at Cambourne. Comberton is in Group C. Cllr Harangozo offered his assistance and said that residents could contact him and he would liaise with officers at SCDC.

Cllr Harangozo reported on:

- A meeting with Andrew Lansley MP, at which Mr Lansley had been asked to write to SCDC to reiterate residents' concerns. He had not done so and Cllr Harangozo suggested that the Parish Council should take this up with him.
- Cllr Harangozo explained the different codings and what this meant for site suitability.
- Energy efficiency, the Green Deal and the free energy assessment that was available to residents.

A resident expressed concern at Cllr Harangozo's statement that if the Parish Council did not support Bennell Farm then the Parish Council would receive a great deal of development. Cllr Harangozo explained that there was a process of negotiation.

A request was made for the play equipment charity to have a formal agreement with the Parish Council over the land.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take Items 6.1 and 5.4 next.

6.1 Residents' complaints about sewerage discharge

It was agreed that any further new build planning development in the village be deferred until Anglian Water had addressed the sewerage capacity issue. Lack of confidence in Anglian Water was expressed, as to whether they had the capability to deal with the project. The Parish Council should use the recent CCC flooding strategy

as a vehicle to communicate the problems. A review of the adequacy of the provision was required ^(Prop HG, 2nd AB). It was agreed that SCDC Environmental Health be urged to resolve this matter without delay ^(Prop AH, 2nd NT). Cllrs Hollick and Taylor are to attend the site meeting and liaise with the officers.

5.4 **SCDC Local Development Framework 2012/Our Village Vision (LDF2012WG)**

Cllr Elleray reported and spoke to the Working Group's report as circulated this evening. It was proposed that the Parish Council adopt the report as its position on the LDF Issues and Options 2 consultation, which included the objection to site options H10 Bennell Farm and its responses to the questions in respect of LDF Options 2 (Pages 17 to 21) as listed in the executive summary. ^(Prop RE, 2nd CE) It was agreed that the Chairman should sign and send the document ^(Prop AB, 2nd CW).

2. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 9 January 2013**

The minutes of the last meeting on 9 January were unanimously approved ^(Prop AB, 2nd BP) and signed by the Chairman after an amendment to Item 1.3 to change "Pemberton" to "Preston".

3. **Matters arising or carried forward from the meeting or a previous meeting for discussion or decision and to note the Clerk's report**

The Clerk's report, which included background to items on the agenda and matters arising, was noted.

3.1 **(5.2) To consider quotes for the pavilion repairs**

The options for a fixed or opening window were considered. It was agreed to accept the quotation from Noel Hart for £160.00 for a fixed window. ^(Prop HG, 2nd AB)

3.2 **(5.2) United Football Club request for contribution towards a skip and line marking materials**

The recommendation from the Recreation Ground Working Group not to contribute, as it was more appropriate to fund long term projects was agreed ^(Prop BP, 2nd AB, carried with 1 abstention). Cllr Griffiths is to inform the Club.

3.3 **Cambridgeshire Future Transport – to consider the implications and if the Parish Council should be represented at meetings including 21 February**

Cllrs Pemberton and Bateman are to attend the meeting on 21 February. It was agreed the service was inadequate especially on a Friday.

4. **Finance, procedure & risk assessment**

4.1 **To receive the financial report and to approve the payment of bills**

The financial report was received and considered. This was checked by a member against the invoices and statements before the cheques were signed at the end of the meeting. It was agreed ^(Prop CW, 2nd HG) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus SLCC (Affiliation Fee) £125.00, Briar Security (pavilion shutter checks) £168.00 and S&J Cleaning Contractors £42.00.

Eon (Electricity)	£196.15
CGM Cambridge (Hedge and Village Maintenance)	£477.30
Connections Bus (Youth Bus)	£1755.00
Cambs Countryside Watch (Affiliation fee)	£30.00
Noel Hart (Window repair)	£35.00
Alarm Maintenance (Light repair)	£126.00
Mills and Reeve (POS The Valley)	£47.00
Greenham (Toilet roll)	£20.86
XXX (Salary)	£54.68
XXX (Salary)	£243.04

Before the cleaning invoice was approved the Clerk set out Comberton United complaint that the pavilion had not been cleaned on seven occasions and the cleaner's response. It was agreed that this should be conveyed to United and their response invited.

4.2 Risk assessment matters

None.

5. To receive reports and recommendations from committees, working groups and members

5.1 Planning Committee

Taken as read. No meeting had taken place earlier this evening.

5.2 Recreation Ground Working Group

Cllr Griffiths spoke to his report.

5.2.1 Proposal – the Parish Council continue to fund the Connections Bus during the coming year and that during the year b) during that period less expensive options including running from the premises are considered

It was agreed to continue to fund the Connections Bus from 1 April and that during the period less expensive options including running from the premises are considered^(Prop HG, 2nd RE).

5.2.2 Review of grant applications including consideration of a) the Parish Council's contribution towards the project b) formal support for the SCDC grant c) any third party funding requirement

The grant applications to Sport England, Ameycespa and SCDC were reviewed.

The Parish Council authorised the submission of the applications and it was agreed that the Parish Council should be the third party funder for the AmeyCespa grant which would amount to 10% or . This will provide a valuable amenity and encourage healthy participation in sport and enables more youth sport to take place. It was agreed to designate the BFWG to put together the projections for Income and Expenditure for three years for the Sport England grant applications

5.2.3 Proposal – Agrostis Turf Consultancy Ltd be contracted to send their specification for the recreation ground extension development out to five contractors and invite tenders from them

It was agreed^(Prop HG 2nd BP) to accept the quotation for £300 from Agrostis to put the contract out to tender based on the agreed specification.

Cllr Griffiths briefly left the meeting at 9.45 pm.

5.2.4 Proposal – the fee for use of recreation ground for fitness classes be set

The Parish Council wished to support the Boot Camp. It was unanimously agreed^(Prop CW, 2nd BP) to set a fee amounting to 5% of its takings.

Thanks were extended to Cllr Elleray for installing the cycle racks and to Cllr Pemberton for installing the tennis courts winder.

5.3 Transport Working Group (TWG)

5.3.1 Purchase of additional bollard for Hillfield Road

It was agreed to purchase a replacement bollard.^(Prop AB, 2nd BP)

5.3.2 52 Harbour Avenue – request for dropped kerb

It was agreed to support the resident's request for the installation of a dropped kerb. The Transport Working Group is to obtain a plan and the Clerk is to approach the Highways Supervisor as the land is pavement and not Parish Council land.

5.5 Tree Group – survey of parish trees

Consideration was given to the report which covered Watts Wood, the recreation ground/Spinney trees, the Jubilee Wood and playing fields and also the public open space in St Thomas Close. Some trees coming to the end of their lives were coloured in orange on the survey and it was agreed in principle that the Parish Council would make provision in its budget in FY 2015.

The following were also agreed -

- To write to CVC sports department requesting responsible cycling and refrain from using Watts Wood during winter months and reminding them that cycles should not be used on public rights of way.
- CGM is to be asked if they have cut the limbs from the trees in the spinney and also at the corner of Barton road
- The entrance to the new playing fields is heavily used and is a quagmire. Until the field is drained the RWG and Tree Group are to place bark chipping to ensure the area is still usable.
- The contractor is to be reminded to clear the brambles on the original footpath at the side of the QE (Jubilee) playing fields as this will be needed when the drainage works begin.
- Watts Wood - It was agreed that some child friendly insect and wildlife identification activity boards would be appropriate and could be a 2013 project.
- Cllr Westgarth is to apply to SCDC for a wildlife grant to underwrite any shortfall in funding for an owl box costing up to £65^(Prop CW, 2nd AB).

5.6 P3 Co-ordinator – Byway 7 (Herringfield Drift) to consider surface improvements
French drains in The Drift are to be funded via a CCC P3 grant of £500. One quote is to be sought, and if covered by the CCC grant, the work is to be put in hand.
It was agreed to write to carters who have responsibility for the eastern side of the Drift requesting that they maintain their ditch and hedge.

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

6.1 Residents' complaints about sewerage discharge

Taken earlier.

6.2 ACRE – Community Transport Fund

The Transport Working Group is to look into this and bring a recommendation to the next meeting. Carried forward.

6.3 Police Panel meetings notifications and representation

Speeding in Barton Road and West Street are to be raised with the Police and enforcement requested. Fuel thefts were noted.

7. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

SignedChairmandate