

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Wednesday 11 September 2013 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: 1 member of the public, County Cllr S Frost and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr S Harangozo. Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Pemberton.

- 1.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda
 Cllr Moffat declared an interest in any item relating to the Comberton Playground Project, as a Trustee.
- 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

A resident expressed concerns regarding the proposals for a development of 90 new homes in South Street, due to a lack of infrastructure, road issues, various traffic problems, the doctors' surgery overflowing and the fact that there were other more suitable areas for development identified in the Local Development Framework which met the criteria.

It was observed that the proposals did not meet the criteria of being near places of work. Opposition was also expressed to the proposed development at Bennell Farm.

County Cllr Frost handed out his written report, covering the CCC Transport Strategy, the Connecting Cambridgeshire Broadband scheme, and the A14 proposals and consultation. He reported that it had not yet been clarified how the Government's cycle path funding was to be allocated.

District Cllr Harangozo's report as previously circulated was noted.

2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 12 June 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting on 10 July be approved ^(Prop AB, 2nd RE) and signed by the Chairman, after amendments under Item 1 to show Cllr McCabe's apologies for absence, and under Item 3.6 to replace the word "Convenor" with "Council liaison member".

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 To consider quotes for the repainting of the village sign
 RESOLVED that the FBWG should make a recommendation to the next meeting.
- 3.2 To consider quotes for car park resurfacing

The three tenders received were considered. RESOLVED that the RWG should give this further consideration and bring a recommendation to the next meeting, with a view to looking at cheaper alternative means to deliver the project.

- 3.3 (5.5.2) To consider quotes for repainting fence in Swaynes Lane
RESOLVED to waiver Financial regulations to consider the two quotations received and to accept the quotation from Geoff Wilson in the sum of £648.20. ^(Prop CW, 2nd SM)
- 3.4 (3.7) Proposal that the Parish Council installs a keyless new entry system at the Pavilion and to consider quotations obtained
RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Alarm Maintenance for £980 plus key fobs and to delegate to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk to approve the key fob system if this was not the cheapest quote received.. ^(Prop AB, 2nd JM)
- 3.5 (3.9) Proposal that the Parish Council accept a quote to deep steam clean the Pavilion
RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Wright Way Cleaning for £360 plus VAT. ^(Prop AB, 2nd CW)
- 3.6 (3.9) Pavilion cleaning arrangements from September and to consider any quotes/applications received
On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business and defer this item to the end of the meeting, as it involved a discussion of personnel matters.
- 3.7 (5.2.1) Loan application – to agree the terms and length of the loan and resident consultation requirements
RESOLVED to deferred this to the next meeting ^(Prop AB, 2nd PC). Interest rates are to be circulated.
- 3.8 (3.8) Resident – complaint regarding Council’s administration and procedure relating to her request for a tree to be removed in Bakers Close
Consideration was given to the resident’s complaint involving five members and the Tree Group. The points were discussed at length and a response was agreed to each of the resident’s questions. In conclusion, the Parish Council took exception to the allegations and unfair criticism. The Parish Council had taken great care and time with this matter and had taken it very seriously. It cares deeply about the well-being of all residents and the environment.

Cllr Ellera is to check whether the French drains are in the right place.

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 AB, 2nd PC) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus Came and Company (insurance renewal) £1486.03, Connections Bus Service (youth bus) £1185.00, and R Sewell (Flower beds) £100.00.

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| CGM (Grass cutting) | £1713.07 |
| Connections Bus (Youth bus) | £3081.00 |
| LGS Services (Admin Support) | £1513.93 |
| Cambridge Water (Water bill) | £61.16 |
| Salaries | £294.00 |
| HMRC (PAYE/NIC) | £13.20 |
| EON (Electricity) | £177.86 |
| Fields in Trust (Jubilee Dedication) | £24.00 |
| Greenham (Pavilion supplies) | £78.81 |

Additional payments made between meetings/agreed at a previous meeting

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| BT (Telephone) | £32.00 |
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| BT (Telephone) | £32.00 |
| LGS Services (Admin support) | £1497.82 |
| Noel Hart (Pavilion window) | £200.00 |
| Wright Way Cleaning (Pavilion clean) | £432.00 |
| Frimstone Ltd (French drain) | £480.00 |
| Burdens (French drain) | £282.00 |
| Salaries | £294.00 |

Credits, including reimbursement of the Village Hall insurance, and allotment rent, were noted.

4.2 Crossroads Flowerbeds review

RESOLVED to renew the contract for a further 12 months. (Prop AB, 2nd HG)

Cllr Taylor left the meeting briefly at 9.13 pm and returned at 9.15 pm.

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

5.1 Planning Committee report and proposal that the Parish Council does not support the proposed development on land adjoining Birdlines Manor Farm, South Street

RESOLVED ^(Prop JM, 2nd AB) to accept the recommendation of the planning committee and to reply to Mr Campbell as follows -

The Parish Council does not support this proposal for the following reasons -

1. The site is outside the Village Framework and within the Green Belt.
2. The rural nature of South St leading to the ancient Causeway to the Church is highly valued by parishioners and this development would be very detrimental to the open green aspect of this area. (The "newly refurbished housing scheme" described as being to the north of the site is actually 2 barn conversions not visible from the road)
3. The Council strongly contests the argument that it is "a logical infill plot between the main part of the Village and the Parish Church". The church has always been separate from the Village and this is an important historical feature with its access up the cobbled Causeway.
4. The site adjoins the important listed building of Birdlines Manor Farm.
5. The road to the south of the site regularly floods from Tit Brook.

The Council also questions the acceptability of the proposal being put forward as a submission to SCDC's Local Plan as it goes to the Inspector. This follows a 2 year Consultation process when parishioners have had the opportunity to express their views on the Village Framework and the various proposals for development sites in the Green Belt.

5.2 Recreation Ground Working Group (RWG)

The RWG had met yesterday. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Crossley for his work with the RWG over the summer.

5.3 Transport Working Group (TWG) report on highways improvements scheme and possible changes to the scheme

RESOLVED to receive the report on the site meeting and the Parish Council was supportive of a coloured road surface. The TWG is to continue to discuss options and report to the Parish Council as required.

5.4 SCDC Local Development Framework/Our Village Vision (LDF2012WG) – to consider the draft response to the SCDC Local Plan 2013 submission

RESOLVED to defer this to the next meeting to enable further public consultation to take place before the next meeting.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9.46 pm to enable a resident to comment in support of the Parish Council's response. It was suggested to include the point that there is no footpath on the north side of the road by Comberton Village College. The meeting was reconvened at 9.57pm.

5.5 Tree Group report and proposal that the Council accept the goodwill offer from the contractor to supply a replacement tree

It was agreed to accept the offer of Rosa Rugosa. The Parish Council will look at spraying and strimming when the specification for the next three years is reviewed.

5.6 Proposal that the Council conduct a "door to door" survey of every household in Comberton to establish the wishes of the parishioners with regards to the proposed Bennell Court development and then submit them to SCDC

Cllr Taylor's proposal was not seconded.

5.7 Proposal that the Parish Council write to the SCDC and Secretary of State (if need be), to object to the proposed Bennell Court development

Cllr Taylor's proposal that the Parish Council write objecting to a parish council being able to inflict development on another parish, was withdrawn.

5.8 Proposal that the Chair and Parish Clerk meet with Toft Parish Council to discuss why they went back on their verbal agreement with our Parish Council on the proposed Bennell Court development

Cllr Taylor's proposal was not seconded.

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

6.1 Connections Bus user survey

The report was thought to be positive and interesting.

6.2 Caldecote Parish Council – joint parishes letter to SCDC opposing Bourn Airfield development

RESOLVED thank Caldecote Parish Council for their views which had been noted.

6.3 Resident – Normandy Close parking of commercial vehicles

RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no objections to the parking.

6.4 CCC consultation on Transport Strategy

RESOLVED that the TWG should respond on the Council's behalf.

6.5 CCC winter gritting consultation

RESOLVED that Cllrs Taylor and Ellera would attend the winter gritting training.

RESOLVED to write and thank Paul Hardy for updating the village map.

At 10.22 pm, on a proposition by the Chairman, carried unopposed, in accordance with S1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that is, an employment matter, the public were temporarily excluded from the meeting and were instructed to withdraw. Members of the public left the meeting and did not return. The Clerk was invited to remain.

The meeting was re-opened to the public at 10.27 pm.

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Wright Way Cleaning to clean the pavilion after bookings until further consideration at the January 2014 meeting rather than employ someone to do the cleaning.

7. **Closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.28 pm.

SignedChairmandate

DRAFT