

**COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL****Wednesday 14 March 2007 in the Comberton Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Members present:	Dr C Chambers	Mr D Charge
Councillors:	Mr D Coulson	Mr D Ellis
	Mr A Hollick	Mrs S Hyde
	Mrs D Morison	Dr J McCabe
	Dr R Rintoul	Dr H Roscoe
	Mr R Rowlands	Miss C Westgarth (Chairman)
	Dr M Wright	

In attendance: Cllr R Martlew, Cllr D Baldwin (County Councillor), Simon Drummond-Hay Northern Affordable Homes, 13 members of the public and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk).

Comments and observations from members of the public

John Bunyan PCSO gave an overview of crime and incidents. It was noted that these included theft from motor vehicles and damage to motor vehicles. It was highlighted that a resident with suicide tendencies is know to the Police. It was hoped that Comberton may get another PCSO. Shed burglaries in Long Road and Fox's Way were noted.

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to take item: 3.1 first.

3.1 (3.4) Letter from Northern Affordable Homes

Mr Simon Drummond-Hay from Northern Affordable Homes (NAH) was welcomed to the meeting. The email dated 15 March 2007 from Mr Drummond-Hay<sup>1</sup> along with 2 general leaflets were noted and considered. He reported that they normally carry out formal consultations with Parish Councils at a later stage. It was highlighted that a potential site off The Valley has been identified. Mr Drummond-Hay requested information/feedback on the following:

- Is there a need for affordable housing and if so how is that made up?
- What is affordable?
- What is small?
- Who should be eligible for a house?
- What are the best sites in and around the village?

The Parish Council requested figures from Mr Drummond-Hay and asked how is NAH different from other Government related schemes?

**1. To approve apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

1.0 None as all members were present. Councillor Harangozo sent his apologies.

1.1 The following declarations of interest were noted:

Dr Chambers declared a personal interest in item: 5.2 - CVC pupils - Request for financial support for trip to South Africa

Mr Coulson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item: 5.2 – CVC pupils - Request for financial support for trip to South Africa as his son was co-author of the letter.

**2. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 14 February 2007**

On a proposition by Dr McCabe, seconded by Mr Rowlands the minutes of the previous meeting of 14 February 2007 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**3 Matters arising or carried forward from the meeting for discussion or decision including**

3.0. The Clerk's report was noted<sup>2</sup>.

- 3.1 (3.4) Letter from Northern Affordable Homes  
Taken earlier. It was agreed to carry this item forward a future meeting when the results of the housing needs survey was known.
- 3.2 (7.10) EDF Lease – letter from Council's solicitor  
It was noted that the contents of the letter, advice from the Council's solicitor was confidential. The e-mail dated 28 February from Gemma Cook Mills Reeve<sup>3</sup> regarding the Lease to EDF Energy was considered. On a proposition by Dr Roscoe, seconded by Dr Chambers it was unanimously agreed to meet the costs of Stanley Tee Solicitors in connection with the provision of the certificate of £150 plus VAT.
- 3.3 (7.5) SCDC Protocol for Consultations on Housing<sup>4</sup> – before 31 March  
In response to the consultation it was agreed that it is good that SCDC are willing to consult and publish the results and let the Councillors see the results. It was agreed to write sending a letter of support for the policy.
- 3.4 (7.6) SCDC Lettings Policy consultation<sup>5</sup>  
Noted.
- 3.5 (7.9) Neighbourhood Panel - Request from Police for room hire support  
In response to the request from Sgt Burns it was agreed to cover the cost of the first panel meeting's room hire.
- 4. County Councillor and District Councillor reports & questions**
- 4.0 District Councillor  
Cllr Martlew was welcomed to the meeting. He had nothing to report at this time.
- 4.1 County Councillor  
Cllr Baldwin summarized the Cambridge County Council (CCC) budget meeting. It was reported that there will be a 5% and a £8m shortfall/cut in services. With all the additional housing in the county there will be an increase in revenue of approximately £1 - £1.5 million.
- 5. Finance, procedure & risk assessment**
- 5.1 To receive the financial report and to approve the payment of bills<sup>6</sup>  
The financial report was received and considered and checked by a member against the invoices and statements before the cheques were signed. On a proposition by Miss Westgarth, seconded by Dr McCabe it was agreed that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid:
- |                         |                   |          |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| A Marsh                 | Pavilion Cleaning | £120.00  |
| Powergen                | electricity bill  | £184.63  |
| Powergen                | electricity bill  | £61.20   |
| Ridgeons                | painting          | £214.03  |
| MD Landscapes           | grass cutting     | £1222.6  |
| Cambridge Water Company | water rates       | £63.37   |
| LGS Services            | admin support     | £752.85  |
| Roger Abraham           | handyman          | £273.00  |
| MD Landscapes           | grass cutting     | £1327.75 |
| LG Stoehr               | salary            | £136.82  |
| SCDC                    | pavilion premises | £122.63  |
| CCC                     | recreation work   | £103.32  |
| Westside Joinery        | litter bin        | £105.75  |
- 5.2 CVC pupils - Request for financial support for trip to South Africa<sup>7</sup>  
The letter from Comberton Village College dated 11 January 2007 requesting financial support considered. Mr Coulson having already declared a prejudicial interest left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.

The rules of S137 donations relating to proportionate and community benefit were considered. On a proposition by Mr Ellis, seconded by Mr Rowlands it was proposed to donate £225. This was defeated with 3 votes for, 4 against and 3 abstentions.

On a proposition by Mr Charge, seconded by Mrs Hyde accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, it was unanimously agreed that the Council would donate £100 to the CVC pupils as this amount is, in the opinion of the Council, in the interests of the area and its inhabitants.

Mr Coulson re-joined the meeting.

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

6.1 Planning report<sup>8</sup>

Taken as read.

In response to the recommendation from the Planning Committee that a letter be sent to 76 Harbour Avenue regarding the damage to the Public Open Space and storage of builder's material there on, this was agreed.

Dr Roscoe reported on the prospective purchaser for the village shop site and the meeting with the agent earlier this evening. Noting the Parish Council's interest in the triangle of land in South Street it was agreed that the Parish Council's adverse possession should continue to be pursued.

Fingerpost signs, highlighting village businesses/amenities, will be an agenda item for a future meeting.

Leach Homes Development. Photographs of the area to be transferred to the Council were considered. It was agreed that the area was not in an acceptable state for the Parish Council to accept transfer as it is. It was noted that the Leach Homes and SCDC Trees Officer had mutually agreed a less rigorous landscaping maintenance level than that which had been agreed at the time the S106 was signed. That is: coppice 1/3 of hawthorn on a three year cycle & on the Public Open Space, strim down to about 10cm high approx 1m wide strip along the edge adjacent to the road, to give the appearance of a 'green' footpath' around the area. Maintenance responsibility of the areas transferred to the Council would remain with Leach Homes for three years following transfer and all failed planting would be replaced by Leach at their cost.

On a proposition by Dr Roscoe, seconded by Mr Coulson it was agreed that the Council had no objection to the amendment to the landscaping maintenance as detailed above with the proviso that the brambles are strimmed back once per annum. It was also agreed that the Council would accept transfer once the logs and other debris (builder's rubble) which are lying around the site was removed and also the ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the hedge on the southern boundary had been resolved. The vote was recorded as all in favour with one abstention.

6.2 Transport Working Group

The Transport Working Group (TWG) reported that they had met with Mr Richard Preston at The Valley. Traffic calming at Barton Road was also discussed and the group will come with a recommendation for the next meeting.

6.3 Air conditioning Village Hall

Dr Wright, Mr Hollick and Mr Ellis declared personal interests as Village Hall Trustees.

The e-mail from Dr Wright dated 5 March 2007<sup>9</sup> seeking the Parish Council's support for a grant application for air conditioning for the Village Hall was considered. On a proposition by Dr Roscoe, seconded by Mr Hollick it was agreed to write a letter of

support for a WREN grant. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee's application to WREN for an access from the Village Hall site to the recreation ground car park was turned down because of a lack of consultation.

6.4 Village maintenance

The paper from Dr Wright<sup>10</sup> regarding village maintenance was considered. On a proposition by Mr Rowlands, seconded by Mr Ellis it was agreed that Dr Wright should pursue grant funding and bring the matter back to the Parish Council when the funding etc was in place.

6.5 Comberton Elections

The forthcoming elections on 3 May were noted. Information from Hunts DC on the legislation regarding member activities leading up to an election is to be circulated for information.

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

7.1 Julia Howlett, Anti Social Behaviour Caseworker, SC Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Invitation to meeting to discuss ASB on 23 March<sup>11</sup>

In response, as no member present was able to attend the meeting it was agreed to ask Julie Caine or Dr Chambers if they could attend and represent the Parish Council.

7.2 SCDC Information Note - Housing Survey 2007<sup>12</sup>

Noted.

7.3 SCDC Traveller Liaison Forum event<sup>13</sup>

Noted.

7.4 SCDC Kebab van, Green End licensing

As no complaints about the van's activities had been recently received it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to the renewal of the license. It was noted that some residents had commented favourably that the van has been coming earlier at 5.30pm and leaving earlier.

**8. Closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.31 pm.

Signed ..... Chairman .....date

*NB The reports and papers listed below are listed for ease of reference and do not form part of the minutes.*

<sup>1</sup> E-mail dated 15 March 2007 from Mr Drummond-Hay along with 2 general leaflets

<sup>2</sup> Clerk's report

<sup>3</sup> E-mail dated 28 February from Gemma Cook, Mills Reeve re: Lease to EDF Energy (Confidential)

<sup>4</sup> SCDC - Protocol for Consultations on Housing

<sup>5</sup> SCDC - Lettings Policy consultation

<sup>6</sup> Financial Report

<sup>7</sup> CVC pupils - Request for financial support for trip to South Africa

<sup>8</sup> Planning report

<sup>9</sup> E-mail from Malcolm Wright dated 5 March 2007 - air conditioning for Village Hall

<sup>10</sup> Paper from Malcolm Wright - Village Maintenance.

<sup>11</sup> Invitation to meeting to discuss ASB on 23 March

<sup>12</sup> SCDC Information Note - Housing Survey 2007

<sup>13</sup> SCDC - Traveller Liaison Forum event