

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th February 2020 at 7.30 pm,
online via Zoom.

In attendance: Cllr Griffiths (Chairman), Cllr Scott (Vice Chairman), Cllr Tierney, Cllr Feldman, Cllr Hollick, Cllr Moffat, Cllr McCabe, Cllr Abraham, Cllr Black, Cllr Elleray & Cllr Westgarth.

District Councillor: Ian Sollom

Members of the Public: 6 (3 from Cambridge Approaches)

Clerk: A Bridges

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Martin.

3. To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of any dispensations held. None

4. Comments & observations from members of the public & County and District Councillor Reports

Cllr Westgarth firstly asked District Councillor Ian Sollom about the frequency of the road sweeper, as it had not been to Comberton for over a year. Cllr Sollom agreed to investigate South Cambridgeshire District Council's schedule and report back to the Parish Council. Cllr Hollick reminded the meeting that Comberton was historically in discussions to get their own road sweeper. District Councillor Sollom confirmed that the SCDC had started trials, but these were abandoned due to lack of resources to monitor the community volunteers.

Two members of the public asked the Parish Council if they ask further questions concerning their potential mobile catering business at the pavilion. They asked if they could use the pavilion's electricity supply or if they needed a generator. Cllr McCabe felt that a generator could be noisy and in agreed in principle to electricity being sourced from the pavilion. Cllr Elleray explained that HSE guidelines would need to be adhered to, meaning this would have to come from an external metered supply.

Cllr Tierney spoke of his support for the catering proposal and suggested that a risk assessment was written to consider water and electricity use and the potential costs for these.

The member of the public also asked if they could use the pavilion toilets and it was felt that the extra cleaning responsibilities would have to be fully considered.

Cllr Westgarth informed the meeting that the proposed area for the mobile café was allocated for disabled parking, although it was agreed there was sufficient space in the rest of the car park. It was therefore agreed that the members of the public would arrange an exploratory look in the pavilion to investigate further.

The two members of the public left the meeting at 7.50pm.

Keith Tarring spoke to the Parish Council requesting a grant for the Edge Project at Comberton Baptist Church. Cllr Elleray asked how much of last year's £3,000 grant had been spent. Mr Tarring explained that the fund pays for sessional youth workers which could not take place due to COVID, so the grant had not been claimed. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council would carry last years unpaid grant to this year.



William Harrold and David Revell from Cambridge Approaches discussed their request for financial assistance for a possible judicial review of EWR. They spoke about the possibility of a route north of Bourn airfield development, which could impact Comberton. Mr Harrold also discussed the possibility that the railway may be located equidistant between Toft and Comberton, again affecting the physical environment and increasing noise. Mr Harrold explained that there was no further information from EWR until the next consultation, and they have raised £60,000 in pledges of support from six parishes for a possible judicial review.

District Councillor Sollum felt that EWR had made positive comments about a railway station north of Cambourne. This route was also supported by the District Council and local MP Anthony Browne. Cllr Hollick and Cllr Tierney noted that the proposed southern route would be invasive and costly, and it made practical sense to come from Cambridge on the north side.

Mr Revell explained that Cambridge Approaches was campaigning for the northern route and were seeking to raise £80,000 in pledged funds to extend the consultation if needed, with any unused funds refunded on a proportional basis depending on how much was donated.

Cllr Tierney asked what the focus of the judicial review would be and Mr Watterson (Eversden Parish Council) explained that Cambridge Approached were working with lawyers to prepare for the next stage of the project, but the actual details are unknown until the next consultation.

5. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 13th January 2021

It was proposed by Cllr Westgarth, seconded by Cllr McCabe and resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting were approved, with one abstention.

6. Matters arising or carried forward from the last meeting or a previous meeting and to note the Clerk's report.

The clerk confirmed that the defibrillator will be installed at the pavilion in the following week.

Cllr Fieldman asked if Cllr Westgarth had received feedback if the permissive path by Lot Way could become a formal right of way, which was discussed in last October's Parish Council meeting. Cllr Westgarth stated that she was waiting to hear back from landowner for confirmation of this.

The Chair lost internet connection at this point of the meeting.

7. To consider the request from Cambridge Approaches to contribute towards East West Railway Judicial Review cost

Cllr Moffat spoke of the need for the Parish Council to financially support Cambridge Approaches in a possible judicial review for EWR and that neighbouring villages had already done this. Cllr Moffat confirmed that the current S137 planned budget was £2,750 and was there funds in general reserves to contribute more. Cllr Westgarth agreed that the Parish Council needed to contribute and proposed that £10,000 should be allocated. Cllr Abraham reminded the meeting that the Parish Council needed to show clear evidence that the residents of Comberton would support this use of public money. Cllr Moffat confirmed that he had received both verbal and emails supporting this, and the Clerk reported that she had also received emails from residents.

Cllr Elleray suggested that £500 was allocated, to be increased at later date if required by Cambridge Approaches. Cllr Tierney and Cllr Black agreed that the Parish Council needed to evidence public support for and be accountable for this. Mr Revell stated that although Cambridge Approaches have asked for pledges now to be able to convince legal advisors they can take the case to court if needed.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the Parish Council had to demonstrate public support for S137 funds, and it was suggested by Cllr Abraham that we advertise this on social media, which was agreed by all.

Cllr Tierney asked why the Parish Council had proposed £10,000, and Cllr Moffat explained that villages of a similar size, for example Haslingfield, had donated a similar amount.

The Chair gained internet connection and re-joined the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Moffat, seconded by Cllr Westgarth, and resolved that the Parish Council pledge to donate £10,000 to Cambridge Approaches for a possible judicial review, subject to consultations with the village. (Eight voting in favour with 3 absenting).

The members of the public left at 8.56pm

8. Planning Matters

8.1 To receive a report from the Planning Committee.

8.2 Application reference: 20/05283/FUL. Construction of two detached houses, a car port and associated landscaping land Adjacent To 40 West Street Comberton, Cambridgeshire.

Cllr Elleray explained the Planning Committee rejected the application due to concerns about the wide access into green land retained on the plans. It was also felt to not be compatible with the neighbouring buildings due to the large height of the building. Cllr Moffat proposed that the Parish Council reject the application, this was seconded by Cllr Hollick and resolved by all.

9. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

9.1 To receive the finance report and to approve the payment of accounts (list of invoices to be listed at the end of the agenda). It was proposed by Cllr Westgarth, seconded by Cllr Elleray and resolved that the payments are approved.

9.2 To approve purchase of Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration 12th Edition for Clerk - £112. It was proposed by Cllr Westgarth, seconded by Cllr Griffiths, and resolved that the clerk can purchase the book.

9.3 To receive the Recreation Ground Co-ordinator report. It was agreed that the details of the assets review will be discussed in the next Recreation Ground Committee meeting.

9.4 To approve CAPALC training on Elections for Parish Councils for the Clerk - £30. It was proposed by Cllr Westgarth and seconded by Cllr Hollick and resolved that the to approve this training.

9.5 Approval of Precept amount corrected to £59400.00. It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Westgarth and resolved to accept the revised precept and this to be formally submitted to SCDC.

10. To receive reports and items from committees, working groups and members for information:

10.1 LDP Working Group draft response for consultation.

Cllr Elleray proposed to accept the draft response, this was seconded by Cllr Westgarth and it was resolved to formally submit the response.

10.2 East West Railway Working Group report.

Cllr Moffat confirmed that the local MP Antony Browne has given his full support for an in-depth consultation for EWR.

10.3 C2C Busway Working Group report

Cllr Moffat spoke of the response from the Independent Auditor, who confirmed they will examine the proposed bus link in conjunction with EWR plans.

10.4 Recreation Ground Working Group report.

To be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

11. To consider three quotes for an updated legionella risk assessment for the pavilion

Three quotes for a new legionella risk assessment for the pavilion were discussed. These were £345, £260 and £580. The Parish Council agreed to accept the second quote for £260.

Cllr Hollick confirmed that a legionella risk assessment is being written by a Trustee of Comberton Village Hall.

12. Highway Matters - To discuss progress on blocked drains in Comberton

The Parish Council discussed the overflowing manhole covers in Swaynes Lane and in West Street. Cllr Moffat stated that he had regularly seen sewage by the mini roundabout draining out into the ditch affecting wildlife. It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Moffat and resolved that the Clerk writes a formal complaint to Anglia Water and also informs the Environmental Agency.

13. To consider correspondence/communications received

13.1 To discuss questions raised by prospective mobile caterer in Comberton.

Cllr Elleray questioned the potential impact this may have on two existing food providers in Comberton. The Councillors felt that the Public House offered a very different concept to the mobile café and would serve food at different times of the day.

13.2 To consider a request for funding for the Edge Project from Comberton Baptist Church.

It was proposed by Cllr Elleray, seconded by Cllr Hollick and resolved that the agreed that the £3,500 grant will be carried over from last year.

14. Motion to Exclude the Public and Press

That the public (including representatives of the press) be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item No 15 because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 1 & 2 Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

15. Employment Matters

Discussion held on staffing matters.

16. Motion to Re-Admit the public and Press

To resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the press and public are re-admitted to the meeting

17. Closure of meeting was at 10.04pm

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 10th March 2020.