

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th January 2020 at 7.30 pm, online via Zoom.

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

District Councillor: Ian Sollom

Members of the Public: 2

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 Elleray.

3. To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of any dispensations held.

Cllr Griffiths advised the meeting that he was a member of the church congregation (agenda Item 8.8). It was agreed that Cllr Griffiths would not comment on this item. Cllr Westgarth stated she was a previously a churchwarden. Cllr McCabe also stated that her husband is a member of the Friends of St Mary's. No further action required.

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

Reports: Two members of the public introduced themselves as seeking permission to set up a mobile catering unit at the pavilion. Cllr Griffiths suggested that Item **14.3 - To consider a request for a mobile catering unit outside pavilion** - was brought forward in the meeting and this was agreed by all. The members of the public confirmed they had not yet gained their catering permit but had investigated this with South Cambridgeshire District Council. They spoke of the isolating aspects to living in a village and hoped that this would bring all ages of the community together. Cllr Hollick asked if they had considered signage for their café, which may increase traffic along Hines Lane. The members of the public stated that they believed most costumers would arrive on foot from the village.

Cllr Abraham asked why they had proposed a mobile unit and if it was just Comberton they expected to serve. They felt that the mobile unit would be a temporary until a permanent fixture is agreed in the pavilion. Cllr Tierney asked if Cllr Martin felt it fitted in with the Recreational Ground Committees plans. Cllr Martin stated that these plans were in the early stages of consultation and they could work together on how the café would work in the future. Cllr Martin also felt it would be very beneficial place for CVC students to meet. This was agreed by all and the applicants would be invited back to a later meeting to review.

The members of the public left the meeting.

District Councillor Sollom spoke of the fast-moving COVID situation nationally and in Cambridgeshire and warned residents to be wary of several email and text scams around vaccines.

Cllr Scott asked if there had been any East West Rail or Local Plan updates. Cllr Sollom felt that the next EWR consultation would be starting in the next few weeks, although there no formal

date set and described the lack of collaboration between the rail company, house planning and other transport links.

5. At this stage Cllr Griffiths asked the meeting if agenda items **9.1-9.3 - To receive reports from 9.1 LDP Working Group, 9.2 East West Railway Working Group, and 9.3 C2C Busway** could be moved in the meeting to have assistance from Cllr Sollom. This was agreed by all. Cllr Moffat informed the councillors that he was waiting for updates to the Local Plan from SCDC. Cllr Sollom said he would investigate this and was lobbying to keep the large fields surrounding Comberton as green belt land. Cllr Sollom felt that Comberton did not have adequate transport links for more housing and had already had relatively large recent housing developments.

Cllr Martin asked District Cllr Sollom about the recent COVID letters as she had spoken to two concerned residents, who were unsure where they should go for their vaccine. Cllr Sollom agreed that the letters had caused confusion and had been updated because of similar feedback.

Cllr Hollick asked District Cllr Sollom why he felt Comberton was not suitable for more housing. District Cllr Sollom replied by stating that the 400 recently added houses had increased the village by one third in size and more homes would change the character of the village. He also felt that the roads were unsuitable for heavier traffic, which would affect those who cycled to school for example.

Cllr Tierney asked District Cllr Sollom if there were any possibilities for the Parish Council to assist vulnerable groups with food provisions. Cllr Sollom stated he would ask the Team Lead in SCDC's COVID response team.

7.3 To discuss proposed development at Long Road, Comberton.

Cllr Scott firstly declared that he was a tenant farmer on the fields near the proposed site. Cllr Westgarth clarified that the Parish Council had been approached by SCDC to ascertain views on changing the plans from 4 market houses and 6 affordable homes to affordable 1- and 2-bedroom bungalows for the over 60's. Cllr Martin felt that the type of house was irrelevant as it was based on green belt land and that Comberton had enough affordable homes in Bennell Court. It was agreed that the Parish Council did not support these plans for these reasons.

Action: Clerk to inform SCDC this feedback.

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

9.1 LDP Working Group report

Cllr Moffat stated that he was waiting on consultation paperwork.

9.2 East West Railway Working Group report

Cllr Moffat confirmed that most Comberton residents had now received leaflets on EWR. Cllr Abraham was thanked for her work coordinating volunteers to post the leaflets. Cllr Moffat asked the meeting if six large signs could be purchased, similar to neighbouring villages. The six signs were confirmed by Cllr Abraham as £30 each, costing £180 in total. Moffat proposed that the meeting agreed to this cost due to the short time frame of the consultation and this was seconded by Cllr Scott.

Cllr Moffat spoke of Cambridge Approaches' appeal for financial aid for legal fees and this was being explored as an option by NALC before it is discussed in a Parish Councill meeting. Cllr Moffat confirmed that he had responded to recent emails from Antony Browne and Cambourn Town Council, who both sought views on the proposed northern route for EWR.

9.3 C2C Busway report

District Cllr Sollom confirmed the GCP Board had approved to undertake an independent audit to review the proposal and to ensure that all areas are taken into consideration. Cllr

Tierney agreed that a well thought out strategy was needed and that the initial plans had alienated so many residents. Cllr Moffat also expressed dismay that such large transport planners in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc were not collaborating and encouraged all to send EWR petition emails.

District Cllr Sollom was thanked and left the meeting at 8.38pm

6. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 8th December 2020 Cllr Abraham asked for two amendments to the details of the working groups which was noted by the Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Hollick and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting were approved and will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

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

8. Planning Matters

8.1 To receive a report from the Planning Committee. No further comments.

8.2 To discuss planning application for 1 Mallows Close 20/05187/HFUL 1 Mallows Close Comberton CB23 7GN. Additional storey to existing single storey dwelling house with full internal reconfiguration and refurbishment. A resubmission of withdrawn planning application 20/01713/HFUL

Cllr Westgarth informed the meeting that a resident had commented on this application as they felt it was out of character to the rest of the homes in Mallows Close. The Planning Committee had no objection to the revised plans and felt they were much improved from the original application. The Planning Committee did request that the Permitted Development Rights should be removed so further development does not take place.

Action: SCDC is informed that the application is approved.

9. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

8.1 To receive the finance report and to approve the payment of accounts (list of invoices to be listed at the end of the agenda). Noted and approved.

8.2 To note payments made before the meeting – expenses to handyman for Madingley Mulch purchase (£80.86). Noted and approved by all. Cllr Abraham abstained from this due to not reviewing the payments.

8.3 Consideration of recommendations from the Finance Working Group's Precept Meeting - Agreement and approval of 2021-2022 precept. Cllr Griffiths proposed the meeting accept the precept for 2021-2022 as remaining at the same level as the year before - £44,550. Cllr Hollick seconded this proposal, and all agreed. Action: Clerk to inform SCDC.

8.4 To receive the Recreation Ground Co-ordinator report. The handyman had informed the clerk that a section of the playground surface had been vandalised and needed repair. Cllr Martin showed the meeting photos displaying this. It was agreed by all that the clerk to arrange for Reed Play Maintenance, who had recently installed equipment, to correct this as soon as possible. As it was a safety issue, three quotes were deemed to be too time consuming in Lockdown. Cllr Scott suggested that the insurance company should be contacted first. Action: Clerk to arrange repair.

8.5 To approve a trade account and limit with ScrewFlx and Tool Station for the handyman. It was agreed that the Clerk set up and manage an account for cheaper supplies for the recreation ground.

8.6 To approve updated purchase price of defibrillator £2,706.00. The slight increase was due to the previous quote being for leasing rather than purchasing the defibrillator. Approved and noted.

8.7 To consider a request for burial ground grant at Comberton church. This was agreed to be £800, a small increase from previous years grants at £750. This was proposed by Cllr Westgarth and seconded by Cllr McCabe. All agreed.

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

9.4 Pond Working Group update. Cllr Tierney spoke of the committee reviewing the drainage around the pond due to blockages. Funding options were also been investigated.

9.5 To consider volunteer recruitment to the Recreation Ground Working Group. Cllr Martin asked the meeting to evaluate recruiting Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers to help with the recreation committee. This had been approved by Comberton Village College, who were keen to have volunteer opportunities. Cllr Martin felt that potential students would be informally interviewed online and the opportunity would last 6-12 months. Concern was expressed by a councillor for having young people take on potentially difficult tasks, which may take considerable supervision and guidance from Cllr Martin. Cllr Hollick suggested that Cllr Martin take one student to begin with and then evaluate later. Cllr Martin replied by saying that she was keen to help and believed she had covered all potential safeguarding issues, as she was DBS cleared and would work under guidance of CVC. Cllr Tierney felt it was a positive move but may only last six months rather than twelve. He also stated that the pond group may have archaeological research for volunteers to help with. This item was proposed by Cllr Tierney and this was seconded by Cllr Moffat. This was agreed by seven councillors and the remaining four councillors either abstained from voting or voted against the motion.

10. To discuss setting up a new Clerk's email for Comberton Parish Council. The clerk explained that all Parish Councils were entitled to apply for a .gov email address. Some recipients had complained that they were unable to receive emails from the current email address, which had been diverted from Roundcube to Outlook. This was motioned by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr McCabe and all agreed. Action: Clerk to send off application.

11. To consider updates to the fire and intruder alarm at the pavilion. The clerk informed the meeting that attempts to test the BT line had not been successful as the internal wiring had been damaged. An appointment had been arranged with Briar Security to review the intruder alarm.

12. To review charges for hiring the pavilion and recreation ground. These were reviewed and no changes made. A further review to be made in 2022.

Cllr Abraham gave her apologies and left the meeting at 9.35pm

13. To consider updated village map printing and framing

Cllr McCabe asked the meeting to consider the new maps which had been made by a resident. Cllr Hollick asked if they included the permissive paths as these could be removed at any time. Cllr McCabe believed that they did. It was agreed that quotes would be collected and this to be reviewed at the next meeting.

14. To consider correspondence/communications received

14.1 To consider request for two fitness classes per week on the recreation ground. The Parish Council agreed this, and a reasonable hire cost needed to be investigated.

14.2 To consider request for repairs to the verge at 9 Hillfield Road. It was agreed that the handyman could review this for the Parish Council.

15. Closure of meeting - the meeting finished at 9.47 pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday 10th February at 7.30pm.**

Signed:

Date: