

**Minutes of Comberton Annual Parish Meeting  
on Wednesday 30 April 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.**

**Present:** 13 parishioners including Parish Council members

**In attendance:** County Cllr S Frost and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Cllr Miss Amanda Bacon presided.

The written reports from the meeting are appended in full to the master minutes and are available from the Clerk on request.

Apologies for absence were received from: Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk), Mr Ben Pemberton, Mr Hywel Griffiths, Mr Peter Crossley, Mr Alan Webb (Connections Bus Project), and Mrs Anne Horler (Comberton Contact).

**1. Approval & signing of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 22 May 2013**

The minutes were approved by the meeting (Prop R Elleray, 2nd R Cook) and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**2. Matters arising from the minutes**

The Chairman reported on discussions with the former District Councillor, expressing concerns about his missing meetings. He had since resigned and there was now a new District Councillor.

**3. Report of the Parish Council for the year from Cllr Amanda Bacon, Chairman<sup>1</sup>**

The report is appended in full to these minutes, covering: Parish Council membership; the new County and District Councillors; the submission of the Local Development Plan to the Secretary of State, including the Bennell Farm proposals; flooding and sewage problems in the village; the Recreation Ground extension and the new playground equipment; and the annual Christmas lights event. Thanks were expressed to Councillors, the Clerk and residents.

**4. Report from Gail Stoehr, Responsible Financial Officer, on the Parish Council's finances including the presentation of audited accounts<sup>2</sup>**

The Audited Accounts for the financial year ended 2013, as prepared by the RFO, which were all in order, were presented. The report explained the audit timetable and invited inspection and questions, highlighting that full details of the Parish Council's income and expenditure and budget would be included in the annual report which would be delivered to each home.

**5. Report by District Cllr T Scott on District Council Matters<sup>3</sup>**

Cllr Scott spoke to his written report (appended in full), covering:

- Green bin collection – next winter green bins will be collected once a month but more often in summer
- Council housing and affordable homes. If Bennell Farm goes ahead there will be affordable housing available for Comberton and Toft residents. If the local plan is approved the village status will rise and development size will increase from 8 to up to 30 homes.

- The City Deal whereby central Government is offering money for infrastructure. After receipt of the initial £100M the green belt will be reviewed in 2019 and there may be pressure on the framework in order to obtain the further £200M.

A resident sought clarification about the change in the frequency of green bin collections. A query was raised as to why a charge was made for collection of the green bin outside the Village Hall. It was explained that this was Trade Waste collected under separate arrangements.

## 6. **Report by County Cllr S Frost on County Council Matters<sup>4</sup>**

County Cllr Frost gave an oral report, covering:

- A change from the cabinet structure to a committee structure at the County Council, with 5 main committees.
- His attendance at committee meetings
- The budget setting meeting and £38M of funding cuts.
- Highways issues and potholes, on which he would continue to press for action
- Flooding problems and liaison with Anglian Water to resolve issues
- Casework and representations.
- The City Deal and the potential to attract up to £1bn of investment over 12 years for “Greater Cambridge”. The committee will consist of representatives from CCC, SCDC, Cambridge City Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Appreciation was expressed by a resident for the repair of potholes and the resurfacing of the estate in Barrons Way.

A resident enquired whether funds from the City Deal could be used for resurfacing projects. This was felt unlikely as the funds were intended to support the growth of Cambridge and transport infrastructure.

A resident asked whether signage could be provided to Comberton from the A428.

Cllr Frost was thanked for his report.

## 7. **Report on the work and activities of groups and organisations including those who have either received a grant from the Parish Council or which have Parish Council appointees on their charity or organisation including:**

### 7.1 Herringland Charity (trustees appointed by the Parish Council)<sup>5</sup>

Mrs Jane Hughes provided an oral report. The Trust had reviewed its financial situation and increased its income. Decisions had been made on the allocation of funds which were intended for the benefit of the whole village. The Church Warden had joined the committee as a new member. Mrs Denise Hatherley thanked the Charity for its donation to the Comberton Playground Project.

### 7.2 Comberton Village Institute (trustees appointed by the Parish Council)<sup>6</sup>

Dr Malcolm Wright spoke to his written report (appended in full). The report on a successful year covered: the design of the building, including effective heat and noise insulation; up to date equipment and facilities; an effective management team with 13 trustees; the groups regularly using the Hall as well as bookings received from outside the village; successful events including the Annual Village Supper, an Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Drama Productions; a volunteer-run café on Tuesdays and a new Crafty Café group; and Christmas and Easter events. The policy of asking for the hall to be left as it was found is successful and the hall is well maintained. The Village Hall gained second place in the SCDC Community Pride Awards in the Enhancing Local Services and Amenities Category.

Appreciation was expressed for the new chairs.

- 7.3 **Comberton Playground Project (trustee appointed by the Parish Council)**<sup>7</sup>  
Mrs Denise Hatherley reported on the Playground Project's successful year in which over £100, 000 was raised via grants and fundraising. Phase 1 had been completed thanks to a grant from Ameycespa and £50,000 had been awarded by WREN for Phase 2. Thanks were expressed to Ann Simpson and Peter Crossley for all their efforts. Phase 3 will require some £30,000 and voting support was sought from residents for the funding application to Engage Mutual. The project currently stood 16<sup>th</sup> out of 93 applicants. Appreciation was expressed for the high level of community support. An open meeting about Phase 2 is to be held on Friday 2 May.
- 7.4 **St Mary's Church (Grant)**  
Thanks were expressed by Mr Don Fisher on behalf of the Church for the grant towards the grass cutting at the church yard.
- 7.4 **CCC Library Services (grant)**  
No report had been received.
- 7.5 **Questions on any of the above reports**  
None.
- 8. Reports from other village groups and organisations on their activities**
- 8.1 **Meridian School report**<sup>8</sup>  
Ms Glennis Virgo's report (appended in full) covered: the forthcoming new primary curriculum, the entitlement to free school meals for all children of infant age, the changes to the Ofsted inspection regime, and the commitment of the school to the children and the new motto "Learning for Life".
- 8.2 **Comberton Contact**<sup>9</sup>  
Mrs Anne Horler's apologies were noted and her report (appended) was read in her absence by the Chairman. reported on a successful year, covering contributions, advertising income and publicity for local events. Thanks were extended to all involved. The report is appended in full to these minutes.
- 8.3 **Connections Bus**<sup>10</sup>  
Mr Alan Webb's apologies were noted and his report (appended), covering activities and the numbers and ages of those attending, was read in his absence.
- 9. To consider resolutions of which advance notice has been given**  
None.
- 10. Any other Parish Matters**  
Congratulations were expressed to Comberton Playground Project for their fundraising success.  
It was noted that the sports pitch development project was proceeding and sand and soil were shortly to be laid over the pipes installed.
- 11. Closure of meeting**  
There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

Signed

(Chairman)

(date)

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- <sup>1</sup> Chairman's report
  - <sup>2</sup> Report of RFO and Audited Accounts
  - <sup>3</sup> Report of District Councillor
  - <sup>4</sup> Report of County Councillor
  - <sup>5</sup> Herringland Charity report
  - <sup>6</sup> Comberton Village Institute report
  - <sup>7</sup> Comberton Playground Project report
  - <sup>8</sup> Meridian School report
  - <sup>9</sup> Comberton Contact report
  - <sup>10</sup> Connections Bus report

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