

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Wednesday 12 February 2020 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Members present:	Ms C Abraham ^(CA)	Mr S Moffat ^(SM)
Councillors:	Ms J Feldman ^(JF)	Mr T Scott ^(TS)
	Mr H Griffiths (Chairman) ^(HG)	Ms L Tatnell ^(LT)
	Mr A Hollick ^(AH)	Miss C Westgarth ^(CW)
Not present:	Dr J McCabe ^(JMcC)	Ms J Martin ^(JM)

In attendance: 5 members of the public, District Cllr Ian Sollom and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

1. **To receive apologies for absence and reasons**
 Apologies were received from Cllrs McCabe (out of parish) and Martin (personal).
2. **To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of any dispensations held**
 Cllr Hollick declared a possible interest in item 8.1 as a Trustee of the Village Hall.
 Cllr Scott declared a potential interest in item 8.7 as the rail route might go through land that he farms.
3. **To receive written requests for dispensations for interests and to grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate (if any)**
 None.

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

Sylvia Divall, leader of the Comberton Walking Group, raised the poor condition of the footpath from the Recreation Ground to Green End. She asked the Parish Council to consider improving the surface with a hard/gravel surface to make it passable all year round. The health and wellbeing benefits of improving this well used footpath were highlighted. Cllr Griffiths declared an interest as his wife occasionally joins the walk.

A representative of the Bowls Club thanked the Council for arranging works to the trees at the end of the Bowls Green. The contractors had asked whether the logs could be left in place and the Parish Council confirmed that it had no objections to the logs being moved and stacked to provide wildlife habitats.

Vijju Churchman, a governor at Comberton Village College, referred to her recent appointment as Chair of the Community Committee, and extended an invitation to members to attend the termly committee meetings with a view to building bridges between the school and the community. It was suggested that she liaise with Cllrs Martin and Westgarth.

District Cllr Ian Sollom reported on the East-West Rail preferred route and forthcoming consultation process and sought the Council's preliminary views. He felt that the route should be moved further away from Comberton and that any proposals for the route going via Cambridge North were unlikely to be taken forward. Members commented that the route should be as far from Comberton as possible, and that it would be short-sighted not to create a link with Northstowe.

Cllr Sollom was thanked for his report and left the meeting.

The Chairman indicated his intention to vary the order of business and bring forward items 6.3 and 8.1.

4. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 8 January 2020**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 8 January 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop AH, 2nd SM, carried with 1 abstention)

6.3 **To receive the Recreation Ground Co-ordinator report including any action using delegated powers**

The Recreation Ground Co-ordinator's report was considered. RESOLVED:

Footpath between Recreation Ground and Green End

RESOLVED, having noted the need to consider resurfacing to make the footpath passable all the year round, that Cllr Tatnell should approach Peter Gaskin of CCC to ask whether he can provide road planings and deliver them to Cllr Scott.

Hillfield footpath leading to Recreation Ground, Meridian School and Harbour Avenue

Overhanging vegetation, overgrown scrub and trees need to be cut back. This will be reported to CCC. Vegetation had also been thrown into the ditch. RESOLVED to check the location and if it is the Council's responsibility the Recreation Ground Co-ordinator is to be asked to clear it.

Footpath from Foxs Way to Baker's Close

This is to be reported to CCC as it is in very poor condition.

Dogs loose on the Recreation Ground

The Parish Council requested an update on the dog signs.

Hi-vis vests missing from Pavilion

RESOLVED to place a note in Contact asking that these be returned.

8.1 **Village Hall air conditioning/heat pump installation - request for permission**

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections to the installation of the equipment. (Prop LT, 2nd SM, unanimous)

Cllr Moffat left the meeting at 8.12 pm.

5. **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.

5.1 **(8.1) Beechwood Estates and Comberton Village College – request that the Parish Council approach CCC Highways to ask them to move the 30 mph sign further away from Comberton and reduce the speed limit on the road from Toft to 40 mph; and to note response made**

RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council does not support the request as there is an ongoing speed reduction proposal for the village.

Cllr Moffat returned during this item at 8.15 pm.

5.2 **(8.2) Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – deed of variation for Bennell Farm S106 Agreement**

RESOLVED to reply to James Fisher of SCDC confirming that the Parish Council wishes that four sums of S106 money allocated for other purposes and amounting to £137,751, should be reallocated to the Pavilion as the first priority. However, in the light of the history of the S106 agreement negotiations and the problems encountered, namely that the Primary School had not been party to the S106 discussions, and SCDC had not taken the Parish Council's requests into account when the S106 funds were allocated, the Council cannot agree to the conditions at present. Furthermore as the legal fees are unquantified, the Parish Council would like an estimate of these costs, but in the light of the above issues suggests that SCDC should consider taking responsibility for the fees itself.

- 5.3 (8.3) Resident – condition of grass verge and parking in Hillfield Road
RESOLVED, noting that people had been driving over the grass and churning it up, to ask the previously used contractor to supply and fit one bollard in the location marked on the photograph, to prevent them from doing so. (Prop SM, 2nd LT, unanimous)
- 5.4 CCC – Draft Climate Change and Environment Strategy consultation
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting and to ask Cllr Martin to bring a report and recommendation to the meeting.
- 5.5 (8.5) CCC – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals & Waste Local Plan Proposed Submission Plan consultation
Noted. RESOLVED to make no response, the consultation now being closed.
- On a proposition by the Chairman, the following items were taken together.
- 5.0.6 EDGE Community Youth Group – request to continue funding for another year
Cllr Moffat declared an interest in this item as his two sons attend the Youth Club.
RESOLVED that the funding to EDGE Community Youth Group, for which provision had been made in the budget, should continue for another year. (Prop HG, 2nd CW, carried with 7 in favour and 1 abstention)
- 5.6 (8.6) MAGPAS – request for financial support
RESOLVED to approve a donation of £100.00 to MAGPAS, which in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the village and its inhabitants, given they had visited the village during the year. (Prop SM, 2nd LT, unanimous)
- 5.7 (8.7) Greater Cambridge Local Plan consultation
RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council would be opposed to development on the edge of Cambridge inside the Green Belt, but would possibly be amenable to development on the edge of Cambridge outside the Green Belt. The Parish Council is also opposed to dispersal of development to the villages. (Prop CW, 2nd SM, unanimous)
Members may also respond individually should they so wish.
- 5.8 (6.6) Review general reserves
RESOLVED that repairs to the Dome should be progressed as a matter of urgency on the grounds of Health and Safety. RESOLVED to cover the expenditure from reserves rather than grant funding, at an approximate cost of between £15,000 to £20,000. Quotations are awaited following which a decision is to be made on the supplier. Cllr Tatnell is to provide the quotations. (Prop LT, 2nd JF, unanimous)
RESOLVED to delegate to the Chairman and Clerk together to accept a quotation between meetings, on the grounds of Health and Safety, up to the sum of £20,000. (Prop LT, 2nd CW, unanimous)
RESOLVED to defer further consideration of general reserves to a future meeting.
- 5.9 (6.6) Levelling the football pitch
RESOLVED, noting that the field was ridge and furrow land, to decline the request from the Football Club for financial assistance to level the football pitch. (Prop SM, 2nd LT, carried with 7 in favour and 1 abstention)
RESOLVED to ask the Recreation Ground Co-ordinator to liaise with the grass cutting contractors to ask them to apply moss treatment and carry out aeration of the pitch. (Prop LT, 2nd SM, unanimous)
- 5.10 (6.6) Request for funding for Comberton Swimming Pool
RESOLVED to note that this item was approved at the last meeting.
- 5.11 (5.4) Operation London Bridge
RESOLVED that the Parish Council should take no action. (Prop HG, 2nd SW, unanimous)
6. **Finance, procedure & risk assessment**

- 6.1 To receive the financial report and to approve the payment of bills
RESOLVED to receive the financial report and that this be checked against the invoices and statements before the cheques are signed.
RESOLVED that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus J Graham (Expenses) £146.62, Cambridge Water (Water bill) £146.07, and LGS Services (Admin support) £1246.47. (Prop CW, 2nd CA, carried with 5 in favour and 3 abstentions)

Salaries	£644.05
EON (Pavilion electricity)	£180.56
Baptist Church (Youth club)	£690.00
Acacia Tree Surgery (Tree works – T230)	£1920.00
CAPALC (Training)	£75.00
Cam Valley Forum (Affiliation fee)	£15.00

Credits, including pitch hire fees and bank interest, were noted.

- 6.2 Clerk's report on any use of delegated powers and action taken due to risk
None.
- 6.3 Recreation Ground Co-ordinator/Handyman's report on any use of delegated powers
Taken earlier.
- 6.4 To consider any urgent works required because of risk or health and safety
The Dome, dog fouling signs and Hillfield Road bollards had been taken previously,
- 7. To receive reports and recommendations from committees, working groups and members**
- 7.1 Noticeboards and maps – to consider proposal
RESOLVED to ask Paul Hardy for a copy of the updated village map reflecting new development, and to have three maps printed using mineral inks. (Prop HG, 2nd LT, unanimous)
- 7.2 Pond soil erosion
Cllr Tatnell reported that she had responded to a resident concerned about erosion of the pond bank after the removal of trees, to the effect that the Council considers the bank is still quite stable but will continue to monitor the situation. This will be included under the pond project proposal.
- 7.3 Resident trees in Hillfield Road – to consider a recommendation from the Tree Group
RESOLVED to receive the report of the Tree Group who had looked at a very large maple which is close to houses and obscuring street lights. RESOLVED to obtain a quote for pruning this back. Cllr Tatnell had responded to the resident.
- 7.4 To consider opening a trade account with Screwfix, B&Q, Foxcote Fencing and Tool Station
RESOLVED that accounts be opened with Screwfix, B&Q, Foxcote Fencing and Tool Station, and also Cambridge Electrical Wholesale, to enable the Recreation Ground Co-ordinator and Handyman to obtain materials and equipment more cheaply. (Prop JF, 2nd HG, unanimous)
- 7.5 To consider a uniform/clothing for Jeremy to use when on duty
RESOLVED to provide a lanyard with identification for use when on duty. (Prop HG, 2nd SM, unanimous)
- 7.6 To consider problems closing the Santander account
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.
- 8. To consider correspondence/communications received**
- 8.1 Village Hall air conditioning/heat pump installation request for permission
Taken earlier.

- 8.2 S/2456/19/FL – Land to the rear of 40 West Street – Proposed 16 no. dwellings including affordable housing with access and landscaping and S106 – Withdrawn
Noted.
- 8.3 Thornbury Environmental Assessment
RESOLVED having considered a resident’s request for a planting plan, not to carry out an environmental diversity assessment at present, and to respond that the Parish Council will monitor the maintenance contract but does not consider there is a need to carry out an environmental diversity assessment at this time. (Prop LT, 2nd SM, unanimous)
- 8.4 Cambridgeshire Constabulary Service change Consultation
Noted.
- 8.5 CHS Normandy Close complaint about parking and vehicle speed
RESOLVED to respond to CHS that this is not the Parish Council’s responsibility and that they will need to discuss this with their residents.
- 8.6 SCDC three free trees
RESOLVED to delegate to the Tree Group to accept the offer, obtain the voucher and decide where the trees should be planted.
- 8.7 East-West Rail – preferred route
Taken earlier.
9. Further consideration of issues arising out of the report received from Human Capital Department
At 9.37 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, employment matters, the public were temporarily excluded from the meeting and were instructed to withdraw. No members of the public remained. The Minutes Secretary left the meeting and did not return.
10. Closure of meeting
There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 10.11 pm.

SignedChairmandate
