

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Wednesday 13 July 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Members present:	Miss C Westgarth (Chairman) ^(CW)	Mr S Moffat ^(SM)
Councillors:	Mrs A Barford ^(AB)	Mrs J Preston ^(JP)
	Mr H Griffiths ^(HG)	Mr T Scott ^(TS)
	Mr A Hollick ^(AH)	Ms L Tatnell ^(LT)
	Dr J McCabe ^(JM)	Mr N Taylor ^(NT)

In attendance: 6 members of the public and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

- 1.1 To receive written apologies for absence and reasons
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tebbit (out of parish) and Cllr Urquhart (work commitments).
- 1.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of any dispensations held
None.
- 1.3 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

Mr John Howes queried what was agreed by the Parish Council at the previous meeting as to the Bowls Club, as he had understood parking would be behind the oak tree by the recess by the Bowls Club. It was explained that parking was in front of the barrier.

Comberton United raised that the hedge on the recreation ground had still not been cut and they would prefer the hedge not to be there at all. Cllr Taylor reported that he had taken this up with the contractor. The Parish Council explained that problems had been experienced with the contractor and the condition with the ground.

The Football Club offered to paint the Pavilion if the Parish Council provided the materials. Equipment needs to be moved. If the Club goes up in the League the Pavilion needs to be upgraded.

A resident reported on difficulties finding the minutes on the website. The Planning minutes were not published.

The Parish Council was asked if it would like to receive a proposal to update its website.

Roger Musto explained that Speedwatch was looking for volunteers, of whom there were 15 at present. The group would like its own equipment, perhaps to share with Barton.

Cllr Scott, as District Councillor, reported on:

- the boundary review of South Cambridgeshire and its implications
- the devolution proposals
- Bennell Farm. SCDC had had to request approval from the Secretary of State for it to be removed from the Green Belt, and the Secretary of State had agreed.
- The appeal by a resident at 64 Barton Road had important implications for the “green lung” if the appeal was upheld.
- The Vodafone charter, which promotes masts and connectivity.

2. Co-option to fill casual vacancies

No applications had been received. There is one vacancy.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 8 June 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 8 June be approved and signed by the Chairman, after the following amendments: under Open Session line 1 and item 3.2, line 3, to correct “Howells” to “Howes”; under Open Session line 12, change “Taylor” to “Scott”; under item 3.2 to insert the words “RESOLVED to monitor for one year” (Prop CW, 2nd AH) and to delete the line “Vehicles should not be parked on the recreation ground but returned to the car park”; under item 5.1 line 1, to read “to provide and install”; and to reword item 5.2 to delete “RESOLVED having considered Cllr McCabe’s report that” and amend to read: “Cllr McCabe reported that during monitoring... RESOLVED to write to Toft Parish Council...” (Prop JM, 2nd AB, carried with 1 abstention)

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 7.2 at this point.

7.2 Comberton United proposal for Pavilion redecoration and improvements

Cllr Preston left the meeting briefly at 8.10 pm and returned at 8.12 pm.

RESOLVED to accept the Football Club’s kind offer to paint the Pavilion, subject to a full written risk assessment, and that the Parish Council should cover the cost up to a maximum of £300.00. (Prop AH, 2nd NT, unanimous)

4. 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.

4.1 (5.1) Causeway bollard – to consider correspondence from Peter Gaskin, CCC
Deferred to the next meeting.

4.2 (6.1) Electoral review of South Cambridgeshire
RESOLVED that the Parish Council would prefer one District Councillor for the 3 villages of Comberton, Barton and Coton. (Prop SM, 2nd CW, unanimous)

4.3 (3.1) Request for update on conversation with CVC and interest in establishing youth positions on Parish Council
Cllrs Preston and Barford reported on a meeting with Jeremy Frost at CVC, who was enthusiastic at youngsters being involved in Parish Council work.
RESOLVED to advertise the vacancy on the Parish Council at CVC if any members of staff were living in Comberton.
RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Barford to be a CVC liaison member alongside Cllrs Preston and Taylor.

5. Finance, procedure & risk assessment

5.1 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 at the end of the meeting.

RESOLVED ^(Prop CW, 2nd HG, unanimous) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus Peter Oakes (tree work) £300.00.

Buchans (Grass cutting)	£1912.56
Buchans (Rec barrier)	£42.00
Baptist Church (Pudding in the Park)	£288.00
Algar Signcraft (Rec barrier sign)	£123.60
Salary	£301.56
Salary	£36.00
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1520.64

Credits including pitch hire fees, Toft Parish Council's contribution to the ditch clearance, the CCC verges grant, electricity credit, the precepts, and a VAT reclaim, were noted.

5.2 Clerk's report on any use of delegated powers

RESOLVED to note that the Clerk had used her delegated powers to have a dangerous tree on the Thornbury Public Open Space removed by Peter Oakes as it was leaning over a garden in Swaynes Lane and at risk of damaging a summer house and shed. Signs had been put up at the pond asking people not to feed the ducks in June and July until the rates had been eliminated. It was noted that the rats had been treated but the contractor indicated that this was a vulnerable site for future infestation.

5.2.1 Tree at 2 Harbour Avenue

RESOLVED not to accept the two options offered, but to ask that three boughs are to be removed leaving a strong central trunk.

5.3 Signatories on the bank account

RESOLVED to add Cllrs Griffiths and Taylor as signatories in addition to the existing signatories Cllrs Westgarth and McCabe, and to remove all other signatories.

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr McCabe to deal with the bank and paperwork. ^(Prop SM, 2nd AB, unanimous)

5.4 RoSPA report – to consider any action required

RESOLVED to seek quotations to rectify the skate park finger entrapment and ramp surface, the rocker horse finger entrapment but not the bearings, and to seek a quotation for the wooden footplate, and with regard to the Multiplay unit, to refer the height of barrier to the manufacturer.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take item 6.2.1 at this point.

6.2.1 Climbing frame, damaged safety surfacing and loose bolt

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from RPM for £200.00 to repair the safety surfacing whilst noting that the area of vandalism had increased.

Seeding will be considered in future.

6. To receive reports and recommendations from committees, working groups and members

6.1 Transport Working Group (TWG)

6.1.3 Purchase of speed camera for Comberton Speedwatch

Cllr Preston left the meeting at 9.15 pm and did not return.

The Clerk advised the Council to look at the insurance implications and the logistics of camera if sharing with Barton.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council purchase its own Speedwatch camera up to a maximum cost of £2400.00. (Prop LT, 2nd NT, carried with 3 in favour, 3 against and 3 abstentions, carried by Chairman's casting vote in favour)

6.1.1 Transport Working Group budget

RESOLVED to approve the TWG's budget as presented. (Prop AB, 2nd NT, carried with 1 against)

RESOLVED that the Clerk should issue order numbers to the TWG so that the orders could be placed for the items identified amounting to a maximum cost of £8081.60.

6.1.2 Proposed 20 mph speed reduction scheme update – to consider costs

Taken under item 6.1.1.

6.2 Recreation Ground Working Group (RWG)

6.2.1 Climbing frame, damaged safety surfacing and loose bolt

Taken earlier.

RESOLVED that Cllr Scott should be the Recreation Ground Working Group Convenor. (Prop CW, 2nd HG, unanimous)

6.3 Invitation from CVC for a group to visit the school for a tour

RESOLVED that Cllrs Barford, Taylor, Hollick, McCabe and Scott should attend and that Cllr Barford should make the arrangements.

6.4 Local Liaison Forum report

RESOLVED to note the verbal report from Cllrs Barford and Scott that they had attended.

6.5 Proposal that Barton Parish Council be contacted to work together to reduce the speed limit to 40 mph between the villages

RESOLVED that the TWG should discuss this with Barton and bring a recommendation to a future meeting along with a costed proposal in time for the Parish Council's budget meeting.

6.6 To consider the Defence Estates issue with the Comberton to Coton Permissive Path and how this can be progressed

RESOLVED that this should be progressed by the TWG and that Cllr Scott should take the lead.

6.7 To consider if the Parish Council would like a presentation on eco-friendly buildings

This is to be a topic for the Annual Parish Meeting. A note is to be put in Contact.

6.8 To consider if the Parish Council supports the principle of a 20 mph speed limit in Comberton

Deferred to a future meeting.

- 6.9 Tree Group
 RESOLVED to receive and accept the Tree group's written report and recommendations.
 RESOLVED to modify the grass cutting at the Jubilee Wood to a give curved margins and adjust the position of a path to include a new border cutting regime for approximately a 2m strip along the edge to encourage different wildlife by cutting at a different height to the short grass pitch. The first cut or two depending on the season and how quickly grass is growing should be short like the grass pitch. The second cut should then be higher (6-10 inches) to allow seeding and natural regeneration.
 RESOLVED to purchase from Peter Oakes three new trees in Green End and one in South Street and also 2 new spindle trees for The Valley to be planted by volunteers.
 RESOLVED to arrange for Peter Oakes to attend to the willows in the pond.

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

- 7.1 Resident – tree by Thornbury
 Taken under item 5.2.
- 7.2 Comberton United proposal for Pavilion redecoration and improvements
 Taken earlier.
- 7.3 Proposal for Village Hall defibrillator
 Cllr Barford will bring a report to the next meeting.

8. Closure of meeting

RESOLVED that Buchans should be cutting Normandy Close grass as part of their contract as it was included in the tender invite specification.
 There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 9.50 pm.

SignedChairmandate
