

**COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL****The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on  
Wednesday 8 March 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Members present:	Mr H Griffiths (Chairman) <sup>(HG)</sup>	Mr N Taylor <sup>(NT)</sup>
Councillors:	Ms J Feldman <sup>(JF)</sup>	Mr M Tebbit <sup>(MT)</sup>
	Mr A Hollick <sup>(AH)</sup>	Ms C Urquhart <sup>(CU)</sup>
	Mr T Scott <sup>(TS)</sup>	Miss C Westgarth <sup>(CW)</sup>
	Ms L Tatnell <sup>(LT)</sup>	

In attendance: 5 members of the public including 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 Cllrs McCabe (illness), Preston (illness), and Moffat (out of parish).
- 1.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of any dispensations held  
Cllr Tebbit declared an interest in item 3.1 as adjacent landowner to Bennell Farm, and also declared the existence of his dispensation to speak.  
Cllr Westgarth declared an interest in item 5.4 as Churchwarden with a link to the Friends of St Mary's Church, and also the existence of her dispensation.
- 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**

Keith Tarring of the Baptist Chapel spoke about items 6.1 and 6.2, the proposed youth club and the request for support for the Pudding in the Park event.

Andy Marsh on behalf of Comberton United Football Club raised a number of issues:

- If the club achieved promotion, Cambridgeshire FA would require the pavilion and ground to be of a particular standard. The Chairman explained the latest position.
- The rejection of the grant application did not recognise the painting work done by the Club.
- The reasoning behind item 5.2, regarding the advance fees, was requested.
- When the section of hedge would be removed as the goals would not fit, causing a problem for Comberton United and Comberton Crusaders, and offered assistance with the removal. This matter was referred to the Recreation Working Group to bring a recommendation on the hedge to the next meeting.
- With regard to item 5.3 (signage), the hope was expressed that the wording would include dogs as dogs should be banned from the Recreation Ground as dog fouling was an issue.

Cllr Scott spoke to his written report, covering:

- The threat of large planning developments
- Debris on the grass verge along Long Road
- Gas guns going off both early and late
- Footpaths in the vicinity of Kentings
- Surface works to Swaynes Lane and Bush Close
- The City Deal, park and ride site and bus way options
- The possible use by Cambridge Water of the Long Road site for offices and plant storage
- Enquiries from residents about the availability of affordable housing at Bennell Farm
- A slight increase in the SCDC Council Tax
- Problems with Anglian Water tankers
- Budgens had asked that unloading arrangements be considered with regard to the zebra crossing, and requested that they be consulted.

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 8 February 2017**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 8 February be approved and signed by the Chairman.  
(Prop CU, 2nd JF, carried with 3 abstentions)

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied.

**6.1 Comberton Baptist Church – Provision of youth services**

The Clerk advised on the NALC advice that Parish Councils are not permitted to give financial support to churches and that this would need to be set up as advised so as not to appear that the Parish Council was doing so.

The meeting was briefly adjourned to enable Keith Tarrying to expand on the logistics of the proposal. Connections would invoice the Baptist Chapel. Grants for equipment are being investigated.

RESOLVED that if the Parish Council were to consider this further it would need an evaluation of the service and a guarantee of the resources available.

RESOLVED to defer the item to the April meeting for further consideration subject to the Baptist Church obtaining the funding.  
(Prop HG, 2nd CU, carried with 3 abstentions)

**6.2 Comberton Baptist Church – Pudding in the Park event and request for financial support**

RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports the event in principle and will make a final decision at its next meeting.  
(Prop CW, 2nd HG, unanimous)

**3.4 (6.1) Comberton United request for grant towards boot scraper**

RESOLVED to approve a grant of £225.00 to Comberton United for the purchase of a boot scraper.  
(Prop TS, 2nd CU, carried with 1 abstention)

**3. 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.

**3.1 (3.4) Bennell Farm S106 requirements**

RESOLVED to invite David Thompson and James Fisher to the next meeting, which is to commence at 7.00 pm. Representatives of Toft Parish Council, and District Councillor for Toft, Tumi Hawkins, are also to be invited  
(Proposed HG, 2nd CW unanimous)

- 3.2 (5.1) Possible unlawful development on PC land (Public Open Space) in Harbour Avenue  
The resident concerned had assured Cllr Taylor that the skip would be removed and the land reinstated.

The Clerk advised the Council on NALC Legal Topic Note 43 which had been circulated.

RESOLVED to make further enquiries of NALC, and ask for guidance on a valuation or a benchmark, and inform the resident that the Parish Council is aware of the situation and is making enquiries with NALC in the light of Legal Topic Noted 43. (Prop HG, 2nd AH, unanimous)

- 3.3 To consider quotations for a tree survey  
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting. There is no need to include Normandy Close in the survey.

- 3.4 (6.1) Comberton United request for grant towards boot scraper  
Taken earlier.

- 3.5 (6.3) Buchans – issues raised by them – dens in Thornbury  
Noted. (Prop NT, 2nd HG, unanimous)

#### 4. Finance, procedure & risk assessment

- 4.1 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 HG, 2nd CW, unanimous) that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus RPM (Rocking horse) £1560.00, Buchans (tree work) £354.96 and LGS Services (admin support) £1661.45.

SLCC (Training)	£5.00
HMRC (PAYE/NIC)	£11.60
Salary	£294.51
CCC (Street lighting)	£267.06
P Oakes (tree work)	£136.80
RPM (Play equipment repair)	£348.00
Buchans (Grass cutting)	£660.00

The cancellation of cheque 787 for £1544.08, was noted.

- 4.2 Clerk's report on any use of delegated powers  
None.

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

- 5.1 Proposal that the Parish Council employs a part-time employee for the Recreation Ground management

RESOLVED that Cllrs Preston, Tatnell, Taylor and Griffiths should draw up a job specification for further consideration at the next meeting.

- 5.2 Proposal that the sports teams which wish to use the Recreation Ground for fixtures and/or training be required to pay a deposit of one half of the anticipated booking fees in advance at the beginning of each season and the balance upon demand  
Withdrawn.

- 5.3 Recreation Ground signage – to consider wording for the sign and quotation if received  
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting and consider then a recommendation from Cllr Taylor as to the wording and also whether dogs should be excluded from the Recreation Ground.
- 5.4 Comberton Annual Parish Meeting arrangements and offer from Friends of St Mary’s Church  
RESOLVED to invite the Friends of St Mary’s Church to provide a display at the APM.
- 5.5 Christmas Tree lights and event  
RESOLVED given that the tree had fallen, to note that the Parish Council may need to consider the location of its lights.
- 5.6 Proposal that the Parish Council writes again to Anglian Water following half day of rain on 27 February  
RESOLVED to ask Anglian Water to provide historical data as to when the tankers have visited the village over the last three years. Cllr Feldman is to speak to the Environmental Health department.  
RESOLVED to ask David Thompson at the next meeting what measures will be put in place to mitigate further problems arising from development in the village.
- 5.7 Wooden posts on Hillfield being pulled out of the ground and car parking on the verge as a result  
Deferred to the next meeting.
- 5.8 Proposal that the graffiti on the Skate Park is removed  
Cllr Taylor reported that removal is in hand but the graffiti on the brick wall is a problem and may need to be spray painted.  
A poster had been found advertising a “Scooter Jam 2017” event at the Comberton Skate Park.
- 5.9 Proposal for up to two rubbish bins in Hines Lane  
RESOLVED to ask SCDC to provide bins by the layby and by the Village Hall rear steps. Cllr Scott agreed to support this request as District Councillor.
- 6. To consider matters arising out of correspondence/communications received**
- 6.1 Comberton Baptist Church – Provision of youth services  
Taken earlier.
- 6.2 Comberton Baptist Church – Pudding in the Park event and request for financial support  
Taken earlier.
- 6.3 CCC – consultation on proposed 50 mph speed limit between Toft and Comberton  
RESOLVED that the Parish Council should increase its contribution to £1,500.00. (Prop CW, 2nd NT, unanimous)
- 6.4 Comberton Playground Project – installation of plaque and request for permission for picnic bench  
RESOLVED that Cllr Moffat should provide wording for the next meeting.
- 6.5 CAPALC – consultation on a new draft CAPALC Membership Agreement  
Noted.
- 6.6 Coalition of Parish Councils submission to Examination in Public for Bourn Airfield  
RESOLVED to write to Cllr Steve Jones, Convenor for the Coalition, to state that Comberton Parish Council does not wish its name to be associated with the Coalition’s stance on Bourn Airfield.
- 7. Closure of meeting**  
There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 9.58 pm.

Signed .....Chairman .....date

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