

**COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Wednesday 14 November 2018 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Members present:	Mr H Griffiths (Chairman) <sup>(HG)</sup>	Ms J Martin <sup>(JM)</sup>
Councillors:	Dr P Black <sup>(PB)</sup>	Mr S Moffat <sup>(SM)</sup>
	Ms J Feldman <sup>(JF)</sup>	Ms C Urquhart <sup>(CU)</sup>
	Mr A Hollick <sup>(AH)</sup>	Miss C Westgarth <sup>(CW)</sup>
	Dr J McCabe <sup>(JMcC)</sup>	

In attendance: 5 members of the public, District Cllr Ian Sollom, and Mr B Stoehr (Acting Clerk).

**1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

- 1.1 To receive written apologies for absence and reasons  
 Apologies were received from Cllr Scott (attending another meeting) and Cllr Tatnell.
- 1.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of any dispensations held  
 Cllr McCabe declared an interest in item 3.10 as her husband was a Trustee of the Village Hall.
- 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**

A resident read a letter from Cllr Scott in his absence, raising a number of objections to the western option of the Greenways proposal regarding the use of the current footpath which ends at Green End: it was unnecessary as the Toft/Hardwick Road would be a better route; the 5m width of the route where only 2.5m space existed would require the removal of mature hedging; and the road closure of Branch Road would impact on access to Green End from the north. There were objections on the grounds of safety, to children cycling amid surgery traffic in Green End, and to cyclists and pedestrians, especially the elderly, having to cross the road at the crossroads in rush hour traffic. He suggested an alternative solution, that the verge alongside the Toft/Hardwick Road be used instead, along with a 1.5 metre solid surface along the existing footpath, which was more in keeping.

A resident commented that the leaflets misrepresented the proposals.

It was observed that, despite CCC stating that no hedges and trees would be removed, the western edge of the hedge would have to be removed, as the 5 metre width required was wider than Green End.

A comment was made that Option B was more environmentally friendly as this did not require the removal of any hedges. Permission had not been sought from landowners.

The Parish Council had previously raised concerns about the safety of children on the path especially in the rush hour.

The scale of the path was very large and seemingly unfeasible.

A resident expressed the view that a safer route through the village was required, especially from the Barton direction. The bollards at the turning to Long Road needed reinstating.

A resident objected to the "Give Way" proposals near the campsite which were felt to be ridiculous, with multiple chicanes. The campsite had not been consulted.

It was felt that the section near the MOD range was unlikely to receive permission.

There was significant traffic including lorries on the road, especially during the A14 works. Sewage works, tankers and signage blocked the cycle route along Long Road.

Andy Marsh provided an update on the Pavilion. The works were complete subject to flooring. A proposal was made that the works be completed without decoration.

A resident pointed out that the publicity for the Greenways proposal implied that landowners had been consulted. There were no powers of compulsory purchase. The Greenways treatments were guidelines and the costings were estimates, as the engineers had not yet visited, and no surveys had been carried out. Hardwick and Toft Parish Councils had not been consulted. The view was expressed that the S106 monies for Hardwick should be put towards paths and doctors' surgeries.

District Cllr Sollom's previously circulated written report, covering the Cambourne to Cambridge bus route, the Combined Authority, the Comberton Greenways consultation, the M11 Junction 11 Park and Ride consultation, Universal Credit, the SCDC Loneliness Toolkit, and door to door updating of the electoral register, was taken as read.

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting and the confidential minutes of the September meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 10 October 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman, after deleting "currently undertaking a litter pick in Watts Wood" in item 3.4. (Prop CW, 2nd CU, unanimous)

RESOLVED to check whether the confidential minutes had been received.

**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.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take item 3.9 next, followed by item 5.2.

**3.9 (6.3) Greenways consultation and CCC proposal for a cycle path from Comberton via Coton to Cambridge – to consider response**

Concerns were expressed about the interventions and that removing the white line would be unsafe.

RESOLVED that the next meeting on 12 December should commence at 7 pm to enable the public to discuss this further during the public session before the Parish Council considers its response.

RESOLVED to publicise the TWG meeting on 28 December at 7.30 pm and that discussions at the meeting are to inform the Council's response. (Prop CW, 2nd SM, unanimous)

**5.2 Proposal that Cllr Moffat be appointed Convenor of the Transport Working Group**

RESOLVED that Cllr Moffat be appointed Convenor of the Transport Working Group. (Prop CW, 2nd JMcC, unanimous)

**3.1 (3.4 and 6.6) Report on meeting with Community Payback**

Cllr Feldman reported on the meeting with the Community Payback team. The team of around eight people are able to work on the third and fourth Sunday of each month between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm. Areas where work could be carried out were:

- The village pond – vegetation maintenance
- Recreation Ground – litter picking, at the Recreation Ground and around the Meridian School; sweeping and reattaching wire at the tennis courts; painting over graffiti at the bunker; tidying the hedge and staining the railings around the Pavilion car park; and installing signs such as dog fouling signs
- The Drift and Watts Wood – litter picking, clearing concrete paths and overhanging vegetation; tidying the hedge and bushes on either side of The Drift; filling ruts and spreading road planings subject to permission

- Green End – digging out existing surface water channels, subject to permission from CCC Highways.

Litter picking tools are to be borrowed from SCDC, with a view to the litter pick taking place on 20 January. Only the Supervisor is to hold the Pavilion keys.

RESOLVED to approve the plan as detailed in the report, except for the installation of the bollards in Hillfield Road and cutting back the brambles in Thornbury, and that the Parish Council should proceed to order supplies where required.

RESOLVED that the Assets Review should be carried out by Cllrs Griffiths (Barton Road), Westgarth (Harbour Avenue), McCabe (West Street and South Street), Martin and Feldman (Recreation Ground).

Four sections

- 3.2 (3.4 and 6.6) Pond brambles – to consider options for clearance  
RESOLVED that the bramble clearance should be carried out by the Community Payback team.
- 3.3 (6.6) Pond water levels – to consider report and recommendations and draft plan  
RESOLVED to note that advice had been provided on the wildlife aspects of the pond improvements and quotations were being obtained for lining the pond.
- 3.4 (3.2) Dog fouling signs – to consider further quotations  
RESOLVED to purchase enamel signs from Amazon and posts from Ridgeons, which the Community Payback team will install.
- 3.5 (3.2) Zip wire fencing – to consider other solutions  
RESOLVED to leave the zip wire as it is. (Prop SM, 2nd CU, unanimous)
- 3.6 (3.3) Hillfield Road bollards – to consider quotations for supply and installation  
RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Cambridge Outdoor Living for 150 x 150 mm posts. The installation must be complete by the next meeting. RESOLVED to distribute leaflets and put up signage to notify residents of the works, which will commence at 9.30 am. (Prop HG, 2nd JMcC, unanimous)
- 3.7 (4.3) To consider tenders for the grass cutting contract  
RESOLVED to accept the tender from Hamill Landscapes. (Prop SM, 2nd JF, unanimous)
- 3.8 (6.2) Comberton Bowls Club grant – to consider report and recommendation from the Recreation Working Group  
RESOLVED, noting that the Parish Council pays no rates at present, to approve a grant of £1000.00, to be taken from the S106 monies, and to ask that the Parish Council is consulted in advance regarding any works taking place on its land. (Prop CW, 2nd JMcC, unanimous)
- 3.9 (6.3) Greenways consultation and CCC proposal for a cycle path from Comberton via Coton to Cambridge – to consider response  
Taken earlier.
- 3.10 Old Village Hall lease – to consider DVS Property Specialists rental valuation and the next steps  
RESOLVED to forward the valuation to the Chairman and Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee and to invite their response for the next meeting.
- 3.11 Acting Clerk review  
On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to defer this item until the end of the meeting.

**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 that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid, plus Buchans (Grass cutting) £824.34. (Prop CU, 2nd JF, unanimous)

EON (Pavilion electricity) (DD)	£211.37
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1247.80
Salary	£132.55
Salary	£278.20
NEST (Pension) (DD)	£168.70

4.2 Clerk's report on any use of delegated powers and action taken due to risk  
RESOLVED to delegate to John Folbigg a £200.00 cleaning budget for the Pavilion.

4.3 To consider the Pavilion electricity contract

RESOLVED to obtain comparisons for the next agenda and to delegate to the Clerk to accept the best value prices.

Consideration of the Handyman role is to be an item for the next agenda.

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

5.1 Proposal to agree expenditure for Christmas lights event on 7 December

RESOLVED to approve a budget of £150.00, using cardboard cups rather than plastic or polystyrene.

Cllrs Moffat and Martin left the meeting.

5.2 Proposal that Cllr Moffat be appointed Convenor of the Transport Working Group  
Taken earlier.

**6. To consider matters arising out of correspondence/communications received**

6.1 Residents – request for additional speed control measures in Comberton

RESOLVED to mention the LHI bid to CCC in the Contact report. The Parish Council has submitted a bid for a 20 mph speed limit to CCC.

6.2 MAGPAS – to consider request for a grant

RESOLVED, in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Council donate £75.00 to MAGPAS, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants. (Prop CW, 2nd HG, unanimous)

3.11 Acting Clerk review

At 9.30 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. The Acting Clerk left the meeting and did not return. No members of the public remained.

**7. Closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 9.32pm.

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