

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Comberton Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 7th December 2021

at 8pm at Comberton Village Hall.

In attendance:

Cllr Griffiths (Chair), Cllr Scott (Vice Chairman), Cllr Hollick, Cllr Westgarth, Cllr Elleray, Cllr McCabe, Cllr Marshall and Cllr Russell.

Members of the Public: 3

Clerk: A Bridges

21-22/47. Chairman's Welcome

21-22/48. To receive apologies for absence and reasons

Cllr Martin and Cllr Moffatt had sent their apologies.

21-22/49. To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of any dispensations held and to receive written requests for dispensations for interests and to grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate (if any)

None.

21-22/50. Comments & observations from members of the public & County and District Councillor Reports

Three members of the public had come to discuss their work with the Pond Working Group. It was agreed to move item 21-22/57 next on the agenda.

21-22/57. To receive verbal reports and items from working groups and members for information:

57.1 Pond Working Group – to consider quotes received to drain and remove silt in the pond and remove island.

Three members of the public discussed their work investigating the water supply supplying the pond. Letters had been sent to some residents on Green End, requesting permission to investigate the pipe which leads from the moat to the pond. It was agreed to wait for the ecology report before any further action is taken.

It was proposed by Cllr Westgarth and seconded by Cllr Russell, that subject to the ecology report, the Parish Council would accept the quote for £7,646 (plus VAT) for pond renovation. It was also agreed to approve, in principle, to fund clay lining of the pond, if it felt appropriate by the professionals who had evaluated the pond. **All agreed.**

Cllr Elleray confirmed that a member of the Pond Working Group had successfully been granted Lottery Fund money, of ten thousand pounds, to go towards the pond renovation. Mrs Coulson was thanked for all her hard work and efforts for the project.

Cllr Scott left the meeting at 8.26pm.

21-22/51. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 13th October 2021

It was proposed by Cllr Westgarth seconded by Cllr Elleray to accept the minutes. **All agreed.**

21-22/52. Matters arising or carried forward from the last meeting or a previous meeting and to note the Clerk's report

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Cambridgeshire County Council regarding repairing the rotting bridge to Watts Wood and was waiting a reply. The Clerk stated that this was recently cleaned and patched up by the handyman but will need professional attention in the near future.

The Clerk also spoke of the heating system in the pavilion, which was struggling in low outside temperatures. Quotes were being sought, although it remained unclear if a heating engineer or electrician was required, due to differing professional opinions.

21-22/53. Planning Matters

53.1 To receive a report from the Planning Committee.

54.2 To discuss planning application: 21/1534/TTPO - Fell and Treat Stump to T5 Ash and T6 Oak tree located on a strip of land to the rear of 29 Hillfield Road, Comberton, CB23 7DB.

The Planning Committee support the report written from the Tree Working Group objecting the above application. Cllr Westgarth spoke of the Oak Tree on the pathway of the recreation ground, which supports the path. It was agreed that the likelihood of the roots causing damage at this stage in the trees age, was likely. The Parish Council **all agreed** to support this objection.

Further applications were also approved by the Planning Committee:

21/04947/HFUL. Side extension, External insulation, new windows and doors, garage conversion to habitable room and new single storey garage to front elevation. 70 West Street, Comberton

21/04763/HFUL Single storey front extension. 33 The Valley, Comberton.

Amendment: **20/04253/FUL** Change of use and conversion of existing agricultural buildings to flexible use including extensions. Home Farm Barn Barton Road, Comberton.

21-22/54. Finance matters

54.1 To receive the finance report and to approve the payment of accounts in appendix 1 (list of invoices listed at the end of the agenda)

It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr Elleray to accept the payments for November and December. **All agreed.**

54.2 Approve tree works for Maple tree in The Valley - £234

It was proposed by Cllr Westgarth and seconded by Cllr Russell to note the payment for the work, which was to remove dead wood. **All agreed.**

54.3 To approve electrical work on pavilion - £414

This payment was noted, and **all agreed.**

54.4 To approve an ecological survey for pond - £360

All agreed.

54.5 To consider quotes to repair the footpath from Green End to Comberton Recreation Ground

It was proposed by Cllr Westgarth and seconded by Cllr Russell to accept the third quote for the footpath for £2,220, as this included path renovation as well laying reclaimed road plainings. **All agreed.**

54.6 To approve the budget for the MUGA to be constructed in 2022-23

All agreed to delay this decision until the New Year.

54.7 Signing of the S106 funds from SCDC from the Bennell Farm development for the Comberton pavilion extension.

It was proposed Cllr Hollick and seconded by Cllr Griffiths to sign the paperwork. **All agreed and the paperwork was signed.**

21-22/55. Discussion of the grass cutting and village maintenance schedule tender

The Clerk suggested that the current grass contractor continues for the next 12 months, whilst a working party is set up to evaluate new tender papers for 2023. This will involve a 2% increase on the current fee.

It was proposed by Cllr Westgarth and seconded Cllr Hollick, to accept the increase and continue with the existing contractor for a further twelve months. All **agreed**.

21-22/56. Discussion of arrangements for staff appraisals for the Clerk and the Handy Person.

Cllr Marshall confirmed that she would join the Personnel Working Group and arrangements for the appraisals would be confirmed shortly.

21-22/57. To receive verbal reports and items from working groups and members for information:

57.1 Pond Working Group – as above.

57.2 Recreation Ground Working Group –

- i) to consider three quotes for a pergola in the recreation ground
- ii) to consider an eco-toilet in the recreation ground
- iii) to discuss details for the MUGA planning application

All agreed to delay until the New Year.

57.3 Tree Working Group update

All agreed to delay these decisions until the New Year.

The meeting ended at 9.17pm