



COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting information for April 12th 2023

23-24/1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Martin and Cllr Michel have given their apologies.

23-24/2. To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda

All dispensation requests should be made to the Clerk, in writing, prior to the meeting as per Standing Orders 13d.

23-24/3. Public Participation – (15 minutes)

To allow members of the public 15 minutes to speak about items on the agenda, or else raise questions about other matters concerning them which may be including in future agendas. A response to questions raised can be made outside the meeting. No decisions can be made under this item.

23-24/4. County and District Councillor reports

Report published on the website from County Councillor Michael Atkins.

23-24/5. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 8th 2023

To approve the minutes from the Meetings of the Council.

23-24/6. To consider an application for co-option to Comberton Parish Council

There is one application for co-option to Comberton Parish Council, which has four vacancies. This vacancy can be granted without advertising, as it remains an unfilled seat from the last election and was advertised during this time.

23-24/7. Matters arising (for information only)

Any matters arising from the time from the last meeting will be raised for information only. No decisions can be made under this section.

23-24/8. Planning Matters

8.1 To receive a report from the Planning Committee.

8.2 Endurance and Inspired Living prospective retirement village application update.

There are no formal updates at the time of writing.

23-24/9. Finance, procedure and administration

9.1 To receive the finance report and to approve the payment of accounts (list of invoices to be listed at the end of the agenda).

Two Parish Councillors will be asked to review the invoices put forward for authorisation to confirm that all figures are correct in order that they can be authorised. Payments will be made after the meeting.

23-24/10. To discuss the additional invoice for £1104 from United Drains from July 2022.

It was agreed by all, in the November 2022 Parish Council meeting, that the Parish Council would not pay the additional invoice for the work described by United Drains on surveying the inlet and

outlet to the village pond, as this additional invoice and increase in price was not agreed in writing or verbally by the Parish Council beforehand. It was also noted that their report had still not been sent as previously agreed in July 2022 and that there was little difference between the work undertaken in the second invoice from that in the first.

The first invoice, that was agreed before work commenced, was for £279 and was paid straight after.

Since informing United Drains in November of this decision, there has been numerous requests from United Drains to pay the invoice and they have stated on 4/1/23 *'The account Manager has been spoken to and extensive works were completed whilst onsite as requested by Jim, Head of Comberton Parish Council. We were onsite for 2 days removing roots and carrying out extensive clearance of blockages. We would not have returned a second day without authorisation'*.

They have more recently asked for a resolution to this and have supplied photos of the work they believe is additional to the original agreed request. Three Parish Councillors have requested that this item is on the agenda again in April to discuss.

23-24/11. King's Coronation

23-24/12. No Mow May/Wildflower areas

Discussion of possible verges and areas of Parish Council owned land which could have wildflowers sown with appropriate consideration to road users' visibility.

23-24/13. Discussion of a MVAS, Speedwatch and signage around the village pond.

There has been requested from residents to install a speed sign in Comberton. A MVAS (movable vehicle activated sign) can be regularly moved around the village and attached to posts (with the location agreed with Highways). These do require regular battery charging, and so would require volunteers to help with this.

The Parish Council could buy these directly from the manufacturer, or CCC, which charges between £4-7,000 for the equipment and installation. CCC does not install solar powered units, as these are not able to be moved and are much heavier to install.

There have also been expressions of interest from residents in recommencing Community Speedwatch in Comberton.

Lastly, a resident has requested that a duck sign is added to the pond area in Comberton, to alert motorists to the large numbers of ducks and other wildlife in that area. Highways have given permission to add a sign on the verge on the north side of West Street, to the west of the pond, as long as this is positioned with consideration for visibility for vehicles entering and exiting the junction. Highways can install one at a cost, but there would be a lengthy wait for this, so alternatively the Parish Council can source one and install it itself.

23-24/14. Drainage in Swaynes Lane

Discussion on the overflowing drains during high rainfall. These were reported once again to Anglia Water by the Clerk in March 2023, after heavy rainfall meant overflow water was on the road.

23-24/15. Motion to Exclude the Public and Press

That the public to be excluded during the consideration of the next item.

23-24/16. Staff matters.

The Clerk received a pay rise in March 2022 to SCP 22 after an annual review. The contracted hours were confirmed to remain at 20 hours per week after competition of the CiLCA qualification in June 2022.

End of meeting