

Minutes of Combs Parish Council Meeting
Monday 11 November 2019 at 7.30pm, Battisford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battisford

(DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED)

Present: S Scarff (Chairman); D Thorpe (Councillor); J Crooks (Councillor); V Whitehead (Councillor); T Chaplin (Councillor); I Walker (Councillor); K Oakes (County Councillor); T Bamber (Clerk).

Attending: Des Shelley, PC Stefan Henriksen

1. Apologies for absence

C Todhunter (Vice Chairman)(with council's prior agreement) J Matthissen (District Councillor)

2. Declarations of interest

CLlr T Chaplin (10b(i))

3. Public Forum

A: (item 12) Local Policing:

The Chairman welcomed PC Stefan Henriksen, Stowmarket Engagement Officer, who explained his role. Despite cutbacks, resources are improving but training does take some time. The Safe Neighbourhood team is working to support local areas and Constable Henriksen invited councillors to contact him if they would like a matter to be referred or if they were awaiting the outcome of an investigation. PC Henriksen also drew attention to the Police Connect network, where those who subscribe can be informed promptly by text or email of any crime events in the area.

B (item 13): Oaks Meadow:

The Chairman welcomed Des Shelley, who set out her proposal for Oaks Meadow, Bildeston Road. At the moment Ms Shelley is seeking endorsement and support from the Parish Council. The total cost is expected to be in the region of £500,000 and in order to make effective contact with potential funders, it would be necessary to raise £20,000 to cover the cost of plans and drawings etc.

Councillors all agreed that they supported the idea and CLlr Whitehead offered to sit on the steering committee for the hall, while CLlr Thorpe confirmed he would be happy to assist with work on the project.

During the discussion it was suggested that the parish council might be able to seek a public works loan, to be reimbursed through an increase in the precept. It was pointed out that the land is actually in the parish of Little Finborough and it may be the case that Combs Parish Council are unable to utilise their precept outside the parish boundary. It was agreed that the clerk investigate this point.

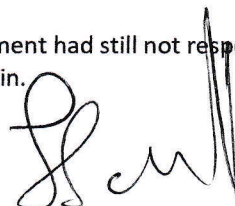
Action: Clerk to clarify precept rules.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 14 October 2019

Minutes for 14 October 2019 were reviewed and were signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

CLlr Oakes reported that the Highways department had still not responded to her regarding road closed signs and that she would be writing again.



6. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Oakes reported that the Warm Homes Fund has secured further funding. This will mean that 204 homes suffering from fuel poverty in Suffolk may be assisted in the installation of first time central heating systems. Details were provided to Cllr Chaplin and this will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

7. District Councillor's Report

The Councillor had sent his apologies but his monthly report is attached as appendix 1. Some councillors were interested in the possibility of recycling talks but could not find the link mentioned in the newsletter so the clerk was asked to raise this.

Action: Clerk to contact District Councillor Matthissen regarding recycling talks.

8. Parish Council Chairman's Report

No matters not raised elsewhere.

9. Clerk's Report

No matters not raised elsewhere.

10. Planning

a. Applications received for consideration

- i. DC/19/04832 4 Ropers Row, Park Road – *replacement of front porch (planning)*
Councillors had no objection but instructed clerk to request a condition be included to prevent vans and cars related to the work from parking in the road near the property.
- ii. DC/19/04833 4 Ropers Row, Park Road – *replacement of front porch(Listed Building) No objection*

b. Decisions received from MSDC

- i. DC/19/04218 Land adjacent to Dot's Cottage, Little London –Discharge of conditions – *approved*. Noted
- ii. DC/19/04096 – Land NE of Bowl Road – change in details to 9 dwellings – *approved*. Noted
- iii. DC/19/04601 – 15 Queens Close – rear extension – *no approval required* Noted

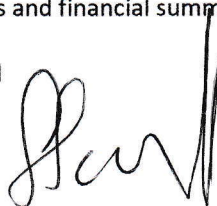
11. Finance

- a. **Accounts review to date** – Current Account balance as of 26 October 2019 was £14,263.50 and the savings account balance as of 2 November 2019 was £1,914.07.

The Budget analysis and financial summary were reviewed and accepted.

b. Payments received

- i. (none)



c. Payments to hand

- i. EON October energy bill - £73.93 (Direct debit) Approved by all councillors (*Parish Councils Act 1957, S.3; Highways Act 1980 S.301*)
- ii. MSDC –Additional bin emptying - £76.80. Payment was agreed by all councillors. Cheque number 22215 was written, and signed by Cllrs Thorpe and Scarff. (*Litter Act 1983, ss.5,6*).
- iii. T Bamber – Cemetery letter expenses - £77.78. Payment was agreed by all councillors. Cheque number 22216 was written, and signed by Cllrs Thorpe and Scarff. (*Local Government Act 1972, s 214(2)*).
- iv. D Windle – Cemetery grass cutting etc - £995.00. Payment was agreed by all councillors. Cheque number 22217 was written, and signed by Cllrs Thorpe and Scarff (*Local Government Act 1972, s 214(2)*).

d. One Suffolk Subscription

It was AGREED that the clerk should renew the web hosting subscription with One Suffolk, which provides the website used by the parish council. The cost is £42.00.

Action: Clerk to renew subscription.

12. Local Policing

-covered in (3A) above

13. Oaks Meadow Project

-covered in (3B) above

14. CIL receipts

Cllr Walker enquired how and when the CIL due in respect of the new building, Tannery Cottage, in Park Road, would be passed to the parish council. There was some uncertainty as to how the system worked and the clerk was instructed to clarify.

Action: Clerk to ascertain the way CIL payments are processed.

15. Street Lights

Cllr Thorpe reported that the streetlight outside Queens Close is too old to be effectively repaired and so this will have to be left off until the cost of replacement is established and budget is agreed.

Quotations are also being awaited for repairs to the damaged light on Tannery Road.

Folley Electrical Services have attempted to deal with the timing issue for the light outside Holly Cottage, Tannery Road. However, due to pressure from the resident, and no known counter argument, it was decided to leave it switched off until further notice.

16. Parish Newsletter and Survey

The deadline for the December newsletter is 2nd December and those involved are working towards this.

17. Grants & Fundraising and ideas for Projects

This was largely covered under 3B. It was AGREED that Cllr Whitehead attend two courses being run by or in conjunction with SALC in connection with running a community building.



18. Diseased Tree, Webbs Close

The Clerk has heard nothing more from Landlink Ltd., the owners of the land around Webbs Close and has sent a further email.

19. Overgrown Hedges

A draft letter to hedge owners was discussed and amended slightly before councillors agreed that this should be delivered to property owners where appropriate.

Action: Clerk and Chairman to identify recipients and deliver the letters.

20. Combs Cemetery

Only one grave owner has so far indicated resistance to the requests to remove inappropriate grave decorations. The general consensus was that the rules should not be waived but before responding to the individual, the clerk should ascertain the attitude of other local cemeteries.

Action: clerk to review rules of other local cemeteries.

21. St Mary's Churchyard

Table tomb: The Clerk has submitted a request to the diocese for permission to dismantle the tomb and is still awaiting a reply.

Cllr Thorpe has confirmed that he has tidied the Commonwealth War Grave

22. Any other business – potentially for inclusion on the next agenda

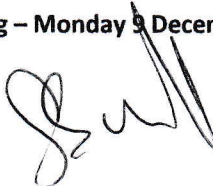
(a) The clerk had circulated an email from neighbouring parish councils inviting discussion on the possibility of contributing to the cost of keeping the only local bus (462) going. In light of previous discussions, and the absence of any indication of concern from residents, it was agreed that a contribution to such a cost would not be in the best interests of the village.

(b) it was noted that, were the meetings for 2020 to follow the standard pattern (2nd Monday of the month), one meeting would be on Easter Monday and another on the Monday after the VE day long weekend. The clerk was instructed to draw up a new draft schedule for meetings.

Action: Clerk to propose different meeting dates for April and May 2020

23. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 9 December 2019 at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 9.35pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. J. Smith', is written over the text 'The Meeting closed at 9.35pm'.

Appendix 1 – District Councillor Report

District Councillor Report from John Matthissen for November 2019

New Corporate Plan	The Joint Strategic Plan (2016 – 2020) has been refreshed by the Cabinet members of both Councils. The new corporate plan includes both a vision and a mission statement and is summarised with a graphic representation. This was discussed at the October Council meeting, where the Green Group proposed an amendment to include an all-encompassing theme of environmental sustainability which should underpin all activity within the Council. This was rejected by the administration.
Environment Task Group	A cross party group of councillors from Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils has been formed and agreed a programme of meetings to address the Climate Emergency and hopefully come up with some strategies for the Councils to adopt in due course.
Housing	Mid Suffolk are planning to deliver two completely affordable housing developments on the middle school sites in Needham Market and Stowmarket. Both developments will include homes for affordable rent, social rent and shared ownership. Over the last 4 years Mid Suffolk have built and acquired enough homes to just about keep pace with the loss of properties to the Right to Buy Scheme.
General Election – December 12	As you will be aware, a General Election has been called for Thursday 12 December. The issue of the Notice of Election signals a pre-election period which restricts some activities. All MSDC Council and Cabinet meetings will be cancelled as will Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. Next meetings will be in January. Planning Committees will continue.
More free swimming for youngsters	MSDC will be running free swims over the Christmas holidays, from 20 December to 5 January inclusive, at Stowmarket and Stradbroke to help promote health and active lifestyles in the district.
Fly-tipper guilty of dumping waste in Stowupland	Mr Andrew Wall, who was living in Needham Market at the time of his offence, dumped 12 sacks of household waste in November 2018 in Stonebridge Lane, Stowupland. Following a guilty plea, the court fined Mr Wall £1,000, along with costs of £477.41 and a victim surcharge of £100.
Free recycling talks for residents	Suffolk's Recycling Centres offer free 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - not a Waste of time!' sessions to interested parties to learn more about ways to reduce waste and recycling. If the Parish Council would like to arrange a session, please let one of the officers know. Further information is available on the Suffolk Recycling website

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