

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th December 2020

Present

Mr J Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)
Mr J Bradley
Mrs R Bradley
Mr S Hornby
Mrs J Johnston
Mrs V McDermott

Ms DJ French (Clerk)
Mr S Penwill (RFO)

CWAC Councillor L Gibbon

The Meeting started at 7.15pm.

1. Public Open Forum

No Members of the Public were present.

2. Apologies for absence – Councillor R Holt and CWAC Councillors P Marshall and N Wright

3. Casual Vacancy

(20/69) RESOLVED: That Mrs Val McDermott be co-opted onto the Parish Council and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed in the presence of the Proper Officer.

4. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest – none

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th October 2020

(20/70) RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2020 be approved as a correct record.

6. Progress Reports and Updates

6.1 Land Adjacent to the Recreation Area:

The Council considered the report of the Parish Clerk regarding options for the future use of the land beside the Recreation Area. The Council had been approached about using the vacant area of land to develop as a Skate Park. The report detailed investigations into using the land as a Skate Park; an alternative use as a Pump Track, as suggested by some residents; the financial implications; Rospa guidance and information from other facilities within the local area and wider Cheshire West area.

The indicative cost of a Skate Park was £25k plus groundworks. The Council currently had £36k in reserves which was committed to various projects including £9k for new equipment and £7k for a replacement pathway. Any new projects would therefore require funds to be moved from an existing project or new funding to be sought via the precept or grants or a combination of both.

Information from other Parish Councils in Cheshire West had been sought and indicated no new Skate Parks had been installed but some Councils had installed Pump Tracks which were more versatile as they could be used by a wider range of age groups.

(20/71) RESOLVED: That

- (a) The option to develop the area of land at the Recreation Area as a Skate Park is not pursued due to the costs and limited use of such a facility; and
- (b) A feasibility study be undertaken of the option of providing a Pump Track on the grounds that this would be a more widely used facility; once the results are obtained then further consideration and consultations be undertaken.

6.2 Speed Indicator Devices

Councillor Hornby had investigated the cost of an average speed camera which was around £100k. An alternative was to purchase a SID and other local Councils in the Marbury Ward had been approached with two Councils expressing an interest in a joint purchase. The Parish Council had previously borrowed a SID from CWAC and it had appeared successful in reducing overall speeds.

(20/72) RESOLVED: that the project to purchase a SID be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration as part of the budget proposals.

7. Cheshire West and Chester Councillors' reports

CWAC Councillor Gibbon updated as follows:

- The budget consultation had now concluded.
- The 'Walk Ride Thrive' consultation was ongoing.
- The Planning White Paper included new ways of working with Parish Councils
- A Sustainable Transport Group had been established.
- The Scrutiny Committee's review of the Covid pandemic had concluded with recommendations submitted to Cabinet and a number of recommendations had been put into practice and some recommendations referred to other Scrutiny Committees for consideration.
- The High Street Working Group had concluded its work with a report to Cabinet and an Action Plan produced; this included how to use empty units that were not required for retail.
- The application by Stobart on junction 10 of the M56 had been refused thereby reducing an impact on the A559.
- Regular virtual meetings were being held for the Covid Community Champions.
- A new campaign to reopen town centres had included signage - 'Calmly, warmly, carefully'.
- There were 8 centres across CWAC that would deliver the vaccine; the first vaccine had been given at the Countess of Chester Hospital. The current R

rate was around 1. The Covid Outbreak Board met weekly in public with public questions welcomed.

- The planning application for 5 Mather Drive had been called in to be considered by the Planning Committee.

8. Planning

8.1 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3.

8.2 There were no enforcement matters.

8.3 Antrobus Parish Council had submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of a Community Right to Build Order.

(20/73) RESOLVED: That:

- (a) the planning update be noted; and
- (b) no comments be made on the application by Antrobus Parish Council.

9. Recreation Area

9.1. The Chairman updated that the Recreation Area continued to be well used. He had undertaken works with a resident to strengthen the external fence by using half round rails screwed to the existing posts. The footpath was currently very wet due to the heavy rain.

9.2 The current Maintenance Contract was due to end and it was proposed that this be extended due to the pandemic.

9.3 The quarterly inspection report from Northwich Town Council had suggested fastenings be fitted on the new benches; a budget of £30 was proposed to purchase steel straps and concrete.

9.4 The zip wire was in need of painting and a budget of £200 was proposed to undertake this work.

(20/74) RESOLVED That:

- (a) the update on the Recreation Area be received;
- (b) the Maintenance Contract be renewed for one year on the existing terms and conditions;
- (c) a budget of £30 be approved for steel straps and concrete to secure the new benches; and
- (d) a budget of £200 be approved for painting the zip wire.

10. Accounts and Financial Matters

10.1 The Parish Council Accounts at 30th November 2020 were submitted at Appendix 1.

10.2 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

10.3 The RFO had submitted the budget projection to year end and the Reserves list. The Finance Committee would meet in early January to consider the draft budget, any new projects and recommend a precept for decision by the Council.

(20/76) RESOLVED That

- (a) the accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £13,419.25 and £36,657.55 in reserves be noted;
- (b) the payments in Appendix 2 be approved; and
- (c) the budget projection be noted.

11. Projects

11.1 The Council considered a request to provide funding towards a project to produce a book of contributions from the village on experiences during the pandemic.

(20/77) RESOLVED: that the project be supported in principle pending a formal grant application and the Chairman contact the applicant regarding the printers who produce the Village News.

12. Correspondence

The list of correspondence was received.

The Clerk reported that the only additional items of correspondence were in relation to information from other Parish Clerks on recreational facilities and a new consultation on a Planning application.

(20/78) RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

13. Exclusion of Public and Press – Part 2

None

The Meeting closed at 8.25pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 19th January 2021.

Signed Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 30th November 2020 were approved

Current account: £13,419.25	Reserves: £36,657.55
Cash book: £13,168.05	Unpresented cheques: £251.20 (1 cheque)

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Cheque	Power
Synchroprint – November CVN	£182.00	22675	LGA 1972 s 111
EA Woodcock – village Christmas tree	£175.00	22676	LGA 1972 s 137
J Ryder – Maintenance materials	£221.29	22677	LGA 1972 s 111
Cheque voided		22678	
Cheque voided		22679	
Lexis Nexis – Council reference book	£119.99	22680	LGA 1972 s 111

Appendix 2b Pre-Authorised Payments

Item	Amount	Cheque	Power
None			LGA 1972 s 111

Appendix 3 Recent planning decisions by CW&C

20/02738/FUL - Removal of existing tile hung cladding and replacement with render, 2 Goosebrook Close	Pending
20/03702/OUT - demolition of the existing garage and passageway of Senna House and erection of two four bedroom detached houses15 Senna Lane	Pending

20/03809/FUL - <u>Removal of existing garage, two storey side and single storey rear extension and new dormer to roof</u> , 5 Mather Drive	Pending
20/04071/S73 - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on 17/04952/FUL, land at Senna Lane	Pending
20/04056/FUL - Alteration to front window, single storey side extension, alteration to change existing side extension roof from flat to pitched. 2 Freshfields	Pending