

Minutes of the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 18 January 2022

Present

Councillors:

John Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)

Richard Chandler

John Darwin

Bob Holt

Steven Hornby

Val McDermott

Denise French (Clerk)

Stephen Penwill (RFO)

CWAC Cllr Phil Marshall

The Meeting started at 7.15pm.

Public Open Forum

There were no Members of the Public present.

1. Apologies for Absence

An Apology for Absence was received and approved from Councillor Jim Bradley for a 2 month period due to illness.

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 December 2021

(22/1) RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 December 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4. Progress Reports and Updates

5.1 BT Exchange, Senna Lane – there had been no further correspondence with BT about the appearance of the BT exchange on Senna Lane but the Clerk would email BT with a suggestion that the overgrown area be turned into a wildflower meadow.

5.2 Scouts Project – the Chairman reported that he had been in contact with the Leader of Comberbach and Antrobus Scout Group to progress their offer to help with cutting back hedgerows on Marbury Lane. However, the adjacent farmer had recently cut back the hedgerow and cleared the footpath therefore a new project would be needed. He would contact the Scout Leader to discuss options including planting wildflowers.

5. Cheshire West and Chester Councillors' (CWAC) reports

CWAC Councillor Phil Marshall updated:

- CWAC had introduced a 5 year programme to plant wildflowers in one area of every Ward; Parish Councils would have the option to get involved and identify and maintain an area themselves subject to certain criteria
- An initiative was underway to bring empty homes back into use with some grant funding available to bring homes up to habitable standard
- The Government had made further funding available for hospitality
- The budget would be approved at the council meeting in February
- A planning application had been submitted for development at Winnington including residential, cycle routes, retail, green space. The local MPs were pursuing levelling up funding from Government towards the replacement bridge at Winnington
- The landslips were being managed with the initial work focusing on making the areas safe and secure. Members noted that the road closure signs did not state that businesses were open as usual and this was having a detrimental impact; Cllr Marshall agreed to raise this with CWAC
- Gulley emptying schedules would be part of the new website which would be in place at the beginning of the next financial year, with gulley information expected to be on the website around October. Cllr Marshall agreed to progress getting information to the Parish Council in the meantime
- Potholes continued to be reported
- Litter hotspots continued to be reported
- Members budgets would be available for the next financial year including some carry over funding from the current year
- Cheshire West Crowd was another source of funding once a project was firmed up with details and timescales.

6. Budget and Precept

The Council considered:

- (a) the draft minutes of Finance Committee held on 7 January;
- (b) the Quarter 3 Budget Report
- (c) the proposed list of future projects;
- (d) the Parish Council proposed budget 2022/23;
- (e) the Parish Council Reserves List; and
- (f) the precept amount to be submitted to Cheshire West and Chester.

The RFO presented the documents along with the Reserves List and list of proposed Future Projects. He anticipated the sum of £8k to be available at year end to transfer to the reserves. Members discussed future projects including the zip wire

landing strip and replacement and new multi play unit, all of which would need large levels of funding, although it was hoped that some grant funding could be achieved. Discussion also covered cost inflation which was already affecting Council funds and informed the need to ensure the Precept continued to be able to meet Parish needs.

(22/2) RESOLVED: That

- (a) the minutes of Finance Committee held on 7 January 2022 be received;
- (b) the Quarter 3 Budget Report be accepted;
- (c) the proposed list of future projects be approved;
- (d) the draft budget as submitted be approved;
- (e) the precept amount of £23,736 be submitted to CWAC; and
- (f) the Reserves List be approved.

7. Recreation Area and Pump Track

7.1 The Chairman updated:

- All equipment was satisfactory
- Paths had been cleared of leaves although the grass was wet
- The water in the middle of the Pump Track had receded
- He together with Councillors Chandler and Darwin had fitted the safety matting to the storage unit for additional safety

7.2 Swing Seat – the Council considered a draft specification and Invitation to Quote to send to suppliers for the purpose of submitting proposals for a replacement swing seat.

(22/3) RESOLVED: that

- (a) the update on the Recreation Area be noted; and
- (b) the draft specification and Invitation to Quote document be approved and sent to 5 suppliers inviting proposals for a new swing set for consideration at the next meeting.

8. Highways and Streetscene

The Parish Council considered the highways issues at Budworth Lane and Cock Lane. The Chairman explained that he had not yet managed to speak to the Clerk at Great Budworth Parish Council and suggested the item be deferred to the next meeting.

(22/4) RESOLVED: that the highways issues at Budworth Lane and Cock Lane be deferred to the next meeting.

9. Accounts and Financial Matters

9.1 The Parish Council Accounts at 31 December 2021 were submitted at Appendix 1.

9.2 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

(22/5) RESOLVED That

- (a) the accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £16,710.36 and £21,377.67 in reserves be noted;
- (b) the payments in Appendix 2 be approved;

10. Online Storage Solution

The Council considered a report outlining options for improved online storage including storage capacity and costs.

(22/6) RESOLVED: That the Clerk does not renew the subscription to Microsoft 365 Family in March 2022 and that Council will subscribe to Microsoft 365 Business Standard from February 2022, to be billed monthly and paid by Direct Debit from February 2022, and the Clerk continue to subscribe to Bullguard Premium security. Following activation of the Microsoft subscription, the RFO to configure Microsoft OneDrive for both users, migrate all files from Dropbox and configure Office applications to save to OneDrive. Approval to set up the Direct Debit with the Microsoft reseller at up to £19 a month plus VAT was given.

11. Projects

10.1 Climate Change – the Council considered actions to address the climate change agenda in the village including liaison with other organisations, proposed by Councillor McDermott. Councillor McDermott raised a number of ideas including allotments; central delivery hub; clothing bank; promoting doorstep milk delivery and drying washing outdoors. Many ideas could be progressed involving other organisations.

10.2 Queen's Jubilee 2022 - the Council considered possible projects for commemorating the Queen's Jubilee. Councillor Hornby reported he had had positive discussions with the landlords at the Spinner and Bergamot pub regarding the potential location of a Beacon. Councillor McDermott offered to speak to the Memorial Hall regarding use of the hall at some point over the Jubilee weekend.

(22/7) RESOLVED That:

(a) Councillor McDermott draft an article for the next Newsletter to outline potential ideas to address climate change issues and seeking interest from residents; and

(b) the Clerk circulate to all Councillors information on the Beacon project for the Queen's Jubilee commemoration and the item be discussed further at the next meeting.

12. Planning

12.1 The Council considered application 21/05070/OUT – outline application for mixed use including residential development, care home, retail, primary school and public open space, land at Winnington Works, Winnington Lane

12.2 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3. It was noted that application 21/01836/FUL - Proposed one-bedroom (self-build) dwelling in replacement of existing garage and detached residential outbuilding, land at Comberbach Post Office, Senna Lane had now been approved.

12.3 There were no enforcement matters.

(22/8) RESOLVED: That:

(a) the Clerk be granted delegated powers to draft a response on the outline application 21/05070/OUT after circulating to all members for views. The response will make reference to the need to address the issues at Winnington Bridge alongside any development on the site; and

(b) the planning decisions be noted.

13. Correspondence

The list of correspondence had been circulated.

(22/9) RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

14. Representative Reports

Comberbach Memorial Hall Management Committee – the Hall was seeking discussions with the Council regarding plans or proposals for the Jubilee; Councillor McDermott would discuss with representatives of the Hall Committee

Fete Committee – the Committee had scheduled the Fete on Saturday 25 June

Bowling Club – the bowling green was now shut for winter.

Police Liaison – the PCSO had held a surgery at the Memorial Hall but it had not been well attended; there was a need to improve publicity for future dates. The PCSO had recently been in the village to operate the Speed Gun.

School Liaison – no update

Litterpick – no update

15. Future Meeting Dates

The Council considered a proposed schedule of meeting dates.

(22/10) RESOLVED: That meeting dates be approved as follows:

Tuesdays 10 May; 5 July; 6 September; 1 November; 13 December; 10 January; 7 March

Exclusion of Public and Press – Part 2

(22/11) RESOLVED: That in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business due to the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed which relates to individual and financial details.

Part 2

16. Recreation Area contract

The Council considered whether to extend the maintenance contract for the Recreation Area for a 3 year period with the final year commencing on 1 April 2024.

(22/12) RESOLVED: That the Recreation Area maintenance contract be extended to 31 March 2025 with an increase on the contract price of £150 each year.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 8 March 2022

Signed
Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 31 December 2021 were approved

Current account: £1 6,710.36	Reserves: £21,377.64
Cash book: £ 38,088.00	Unpresented cheques: none

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Power
J Ryder – Reimbursement of invoices / expenses	£123.03	LGA 1972 s 111

Synchroprint – CVN Jan 22	£170.00	LGA 1972 s 111
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Appendix 2b Pre-Authorised Payments

Item	Amount	Date	Power
None			LGA 1972 s 111

Appendix 3 Recent planning decisions by CW&C

21/01937/S73 - Single storey side and rear extension and creation of first floor (Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (materials) of planning permission 19/01832/FUL) 31 Senna Lane	Pending
21/01836/FUL - Proposed one-bedroom (self-build) dwelling in replacement of existing garage and detached residential outbuilding, land at Comberbach Post Office, Senna Lane	Approved
21/02469/FUL – single storey rear extension and loft conversion, Mill Bank	Pending
Lime (T1) - Reduce crown by approx 1-2m. Dying Ash (G2) - Fell to low stump due to decline showing in crown; 7 Freshfields	Pending
21/03798/TPO - 2 x Cherry trees - Fell, due to shading, Three Oaks Marbury Road	Pending
21/03580/LBC - Enlarge the small existing doorway between the kitchen and the library / TV room to the south and the creation of a new opening on the west side of the room, matching the style and proportion of the proposed enlarged opening on the east side, Cogshall Hall Senna Lane	Pending
20/03702/OUT - Demolition of the existing garage and passageway of Senna House and erection of two three bedroom detached houses, 15 Senna Lane	Withdrawn