

Minutes of the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 6 September 2022

Present

Councillors:

John Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)

John Darwin

Bob Holt

Jill Johnston

Val McDermott

Denise French (Clerk)

Stephen Penwill (RFO)

The Meeting started at 7.15pm.

Public Open Forum

Liz Cook from the Comberbach Memorial Hall Management Committee attended. Councillors and Liz had looked at options for accessing the toilet at the back of the Hall from outside the building to provide a facility for Recreation Area users. The Management Committee were supportive of this use. It may be possible for the Committee to apply for grant funding from the Parish Council for capital costs and then ongoing revenue costs. The toilets would remain the responsibility of the Management Committee.

Liz also raised the item of a Repair Café. This was a charitable operation and she had received a £50 grant from the Fete Committee for a Repair Café from which she had purchased the instruction manual about setting up and running a Repair Cafe. There was an existing Café at Birchwood. Liz felt this could be useful addition to the community and could meet at the Hall on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. Councillor McDermott offered to help with research.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillor Bradley due to illness, Councillors Chandler and Cameron due to family reasons. Apologies were also noted from CWAC Councillor Wright.

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 July 2022

(22/52) RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

4. Progress Reports and Updates

4.1 A grant application had been submitted to the Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors for the outdoor table tennis table.

4.2 The Tommy statue had been delivered and would be installed before Remembrance.

4.3 Sandra and Neil Fisher were holding a Defib/CPR drop-in training session on Sunday 16 October between 10.00am – 2.00pm at the Memorial Hall. This had been advertised in the Newsletter.

(22/53) RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

5. Resilience Plan

The council considered email correspondence from CWAC Cllr Gibbon about producing a Resilience Plan.

(22/54) RESOLVED: that Rob Ruddock, Planning and Exercising Officer, be invited to the next meeting to discuss the merits of a Resilience Plan.

6. Budworth Lane

The council considered highways issues on Budworth Lane. The clerk had circulated a breakdown of the costs of any potential speed restrictions being implemented as received from CWAC. The parish council would be expected to fund half the costs. A response from Great Budworth Parish Council was awaited. A resident had been in contact with the clerk and had suggested 3 measures:

1 Reduction in the speed limit to 30mph

2 Restriction on vehicles allowed to use the route

3 Replace the “Give Way” sign at the junction with the Avenue to a “STOP” sign

(22/55) RESOLVED:

(a) The clerk contact CWAC to request they expand on the advertising, traffic management and contingency costs;

(b) The clerk send a reminder to Great Budworth Parish Council for a response to the proposals as Budworth Lane is mostly in their parish; and

(c) The clerk respond to the resident that the Parish Council is pleased to see that the white lines have been repainted and that the possible reduction in the speed limit is still being progressed and CWAC will be asked about whether they would support a restriction on types of vehicles using this route.

7. Cheshire West and Chester Councillors’ (CWAC) reports

There were no CWAC Councillors present to provide an update. The Chairman advised he had spoken to the Clerk at Antrobus Parish Council who were contacting

CWAC regarding the poor state of Gibb Hill despite it being resurfaced a few years ago.

8. Recreation Area and Pump Track

8.1 The Chairman updated:

The Recreation Area had been very busy over the summer. He and other councillors and volunteers had repaired the WI planter and repainted some equipment.

6.2 The inspection reports were noted.

6.3 The zip line matting had been noted in the Northwich Town Council inspection report and recommended for lifting and relaying. Members supported seeking a cost for this work. In future years when the zip line was replaced it may be possible to extend the length which would also require a longer length of matting. The infant seat also needed replacement and the gate needed adjusting.

6.4 The zip line needed repainting and a budget was agreed to pay a contractor to do the work; the council already had sufficient paint in the storage unit.

6.5 The WI circle seats had been noted in an inspection report as requiring additional bolts.

6.6 As raised during the Open Forum, the council discussed the possibility of accessing one of the toilets at the Memorial Hall from outside to provide a facility for Recreation Area users.

(22/56) RESOLVED: that

(a) the update on the Recreation Area and the inspection reports be noted

(b) Northwich Town Council be requested to provide costs for the following:

(i) a replacement HAGS infant seat and new chains

(ii) a cost for lifting and relaying the zip line matting

(ii) a cost for adjusting the swing gates

(c) a budget of £200 be approved for labour to repaint the zip line structure

(d) a budget of £50 be approved for additional brackets to fasten the seats to the ground.

(e) the options and costs for outdoor access to one of the toilets at the Memorial Hall be considered further at the next meeting to include capital costs, insurance implications and ongoing costs; information be sought from other parish councils who own their own toilets; noting that the toilet will remain in the management of the Memorial Hall.

9. Highways and Streetscene

9.1 The Council discussed the impact of the ongoing closure of Soot Hill and the length of time being taken to restore the site.

9.2 The Council discussed the site visit which had taken place at Cogshall Lane on 7 July with a CWAC Highways Officer and 2 Ward Councillors to see the impact of traffic during the school run. There had been less traffic than usual but it was still possible to see the impact of the school run on the local highways. The possibility of painting H lines on the highway had been raised but this was only for places where it was not clear that there was an entry or exit. The PCSO had also attended a site meeting later in July. There did not appear to be any solutions to the traffic issues. Councillors McDermott and Darwin agreed to visit a householder whose overhanging hedge made visibility difficult. Members had also raised with the Highways Officer the issues with poor road surfacing and had been advised that there were 3 options – surface dressing, infill and redress. Cogshall Lane and Marbury Road would need to be resurfaced for which there was funding for 10 road schemes per year.

9.3 Speed Indicator Device – the latest data was not yet available and would be submitted to the next meeting.

(22/57) RESOLVED: that:

- (a) The Clerk write to CWAC Ward Councillors regarding Soot Hill and the apparent lack of progress and requesting information about the Project Plan, timescales, costs and overall responsibility for the scheme.
- (b) The Clerk write to CWAC Ward Councillors regarding the poor condition of the road surfaces and asking how Cogshall Lane and Marbury Road can be included as a priority for resurfacing.
- (c) The data from the SID be submitted to the next meeting.

10. Accounts and financial matters

10.1 The accounts for 30 July 2022 were submitted in Appendix 1

10.2 The Council considered the External Audit arrangements for the next 5 years. The Government appointed an External Auditor for a 5-year period but the Parish Council could choose to opt out and make its own appointment. Members agreed to continue with the Government appointed auditor.

10.3 The Chairman plus Councillors had installed an eco-drain in the car park; this had been at increased cost due to an uplift in supplier charges and an additional sum for an alternative sump drain. The council agreed to increase the budget from £400 to £525.

10.4 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

10.5 The RFO updated on the insurance renewal. He had been in correspondence with the insurance company regarding replacement costs for the assets and sums had now been agreed with the insurance company which meant they would now issue a refund to the Parish Council.

(22/58) RESOLVED: that

- (a) the accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £21,594.97 and £21,377.64 in reserves be noted.
- (b) the Council confirms it does not wish to opt out of the Government appointed External Audit arrangements and will remain with the Government's appointed auditor for the next 5 years.
- (c) The increased cost for the eco-drain from £400 to £525 be approved.
- (d) The payments in Appendix 2 be approved.
- (e) The update on the insurance be noted.

11. Projects

11.1 Neighbourhood Plan – the Council considered the merits or otherwise of developing a Neighbourhood Plan following advice from Cheshire Community Action. This advice had noted that any Plan must conform to the CWAC Local Plan, which did not allocate any development in Comberbach at present and the village was washed over with Green Belt. It was noted that the Local Plan was due to be updated. It was also noted that the impact of recent Government Ministerial changes was as yet unknown. Members also noted that CWAC Planning Officers had recommended approval of some applications in the village but the Planning Committee had subsequently agreed to refuse them.

11.2 HyNet Northwest Hydrogen Pipeline - the second consultation on this project was due to launch in September 2022. The consultation period would run for around six weeks. It was noted that a consultation event was taking place in Anderton.

11.3 Civility and Respect Project – the Council considered signing the Civility and Respect Pledge as recommended by the National Association of Local Councils, the Society of Local Council Clerks and One Voice Wales.

(22/59) RESOLVED: that

- (a) Councillor Holt will arrange a meeting with Cheshire Community Action and Ward Councillor Wright plus the Parish Council's Planning Committee (and any other interested Councillors) to discuss further the merits of a Neighbourhood Plan and the matter be considered further at the next meeting.

(b) The Clerk will send out the information about the pipeline consultation.

(c) The Council will sign the Civility and Respect Pledge.

11. Planning

11.1 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3.

11.2 There were no enforcement matters.

(22/60) RESOLVED: That the planning update be noted.

12. Correspondence

12.1 The list of correspondence had been circulated.

(22/61) RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

13. Representative Reports

- Comberbach Memorial Hall Management Committee – Councillor McDermott met regularly with the Hall Committee.
- Fete Committee – there was nothing to update on the Fete.
- Bowling Club – the club had had a busy and successful season.
- Police Liaison – the PCSO had submitted a written update:

Speed monitoring has recently been conducted on Marbury Road

I am happy to report that no offences were captured.

Dates for the next Police surgeries are:

- *Friday September 9th at Comberbach Memorial Hall 2-3pm*
- *Saturday October 1st at Comberbach Memorial Hall 4-5pm*

If anyone would like to receive a select DNA kit to mark their property please come along to the surgeries to collect.

Please be aware that an email address is needed to update on our system.

- School Liaison – no update
- Litterpick – no update. The Litterpick Group had asked that if the Council arranged another verge tidying session the Litterpick Group would be happy to arrange a litterpick at the same time.

Exclusion of Public and Press – Part 2

None

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 1 November 2022

Signed
Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 30 July 2022 were approved

Current account: £21,594.97	Reserves: £21,377.64
Cash book: £42,972.61	Unpresented cheques: none

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Power
PKF Littlejohn LLP – External Audit fee 21/22	£240.00	LGA 1972 s 111
S Penwill – Laptop repair July 22	£336.16	LGA 1972 s 111
Northwich Town Council – Inspection July 22	£58.80	LGA 1972 s 111
J Ryder – Drain and other materials	£702.80	LGA 1972 s 111
D French – Commemorative “Tommy” & expenses	£216.40	LGA 1972 s 111
CPRE – Subscription 22/23	£36.00	LGA 1972 s 111

Appendix 2b Pre-Authorised Payments

Item	Amount	Date	Power
PAP2210 – Shane Ross, invoice 22-01	£600.00	05/07/22	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2211 – BWP Creative, domain costs 2022-2024	£105.60	05/07/22	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2212 – Synchroprint, CVN July	£218.40	17/07/22	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2213 – BCW Office Products – Chevron sign	£358.63	17/07/22	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Techquarters, Microsoft 365	£21.43	01/08/22	LGA 1972 s 111

DD – Techquarters, Microsoft 365	£21.43	01/09/22	LGA 1972 s 111
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Appendix 3 Recent planning decisions by CW&C

APPLICATION DETAILS	DATE OF VALIDATION	CURRENT POSITION
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	Fri 30 Apr 2021	Awaiting decision
21/05001/FUL - Creation of an additional storey with new external doors and windows, 57 Senna Lane	Fri 17 Dec 2021	Approved
21/05070/OUT - Outline planning permission for a mixed use development of up to 1,550 units of residential dwellings including affordable housing (subject to viability); specialist accommodation for older people including residential care home; local centre and active ground floor uses comprising up to 600 sqm of flexible floorspace for retail (including small convenience food store); up to 275 sqm of health, nursery and community; up to 7,700 sqm of employment space; up to 950 sqm of cafe, restaurant, takeaway and public house floorspace; up to a 2,250sqm (up to 2FE) primary school with associated playing fields (Use Class F1(a)); and associated road infrastructure, landscaping (including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems), public realm and amenity space (all matters reserved except for vehicular access), land at Winnington Works	Wed 22 Dec 2021	Awaiting decision
21/03746/FUL Single storey front extension with external courtyard space, and alteration to the exterior materials of the dwelling (Amended description) Centila Cogshall Lane Comberbach	25 October 2021	Refused

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	Fri 30 Apr 2021	Awaiting decision
22/00953/FUL - Demolition of existing porch, single storey glazed link extension, single storey and two storey extension, first floor balcony, alterations to existing garage, Wayside Cottage, Hough Lane	Tuesday 26 April 2022	Awaiting decision
22/00792/FUL - Change of Use of Land from Horticulture to Landscaping Business including Use of Previously Existing PolyTunnels (x2), Tool Shed, Potting Shed and Reuse of Porta Cabin as Office, Erection of Tool Shed, Small Workshop Building and Office Building and Siting of 4x Mobile Containers, Land To South of Hough Lane Farm	3 May 2022	Awaiting decision
22/01925/TPO - 1x Magnolia in the front garden requires a general size reduction of the canopy by 1m around. 1x Hazel growing in the side garden boundary hedge requires pruning back to previous points, around a 3rd off. 6 Kennelwood Road		Approved
22/01566/FUL - Single storey front extension, single storey rear extension to include cladding to rear first floor West View	27 April 2022	Awaiting decision
22/01512/FUL - Erection of oak framed car port, Paddock View, 68 Senna Lane	14 April 2022	Awaiting decision