

Minutes of the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 13 December 2022

Present

Councillors:

John Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)
Sandy Cameron
Richard Chandler
John Darwin
Jill Johnston
Val McDermott

Denise French (Clerk)
Stephen Penwill (RFO)

CWAC Councillor Lynn Gibbon

The Meeting started at 7.15pm.

Public Open Forum

There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillor Bradley for a further 3-month period due to illness, Councillors Holt due to family reasons. Apologies were also noted from CWAC Councillors Marshall and Wright.

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 1 November 2022

(22/62) RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 1 November 2022 be approved as a correct record.

4. Progress Reports and Updates

4.1 The Repair Café would be deferred to a future meeting.

5.2 Resilience Plan – the Chairman had started drafting the plan based on the model shared by Rob Ruddock at the previous meeting and it would be circulated for comments in the new year.

(22/73) RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

5. Elections and the new Parish Council Term

5.1 The Council noted that elections would be held in May 2023 and all 8 seats on the Parish Council would be up for election. The Clerk advised that she was attending a training course on 20 December and would update further to the next meeting.

5.2 Chalc had now confirmed the training schedule for 2023 and it was available on their website. Chalc was also offering an online webinar for anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and this would be promoted on the website and noticeboards. The Police and Crime Commissioner was offering training on cyber safety.

5.3 The Council considered the future meeting schedule including frequency of meetings and start times. It was agreed to bring meeting start times forward in view of the volume of business.

(22/74) RESOLVED: that

- (a) The Clerk update to the next meeting on elections in 2023.
- (b) The Clerk circulate the Chalc training schedule.
- (c) The Clerk request whether the cyber training session is available to Councillors.
- (d) Meetings commence at 6.45pm with effect from the next meeting on 10 January 2023, remain on Tuesdays and the meeting schedule remain at 8 meetings a year approximately every 6 weeks. A schedule of future meeting dates be submitted to the next meeting for consideration.

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

CWAC Councillor Gibbon updated:

- The new Chief Inspector covering Northwich and surrounding areas was Darren Griffiths.
- A freephone number was available for anyone needing help arising from the cost of living crisis. A list of useful numbers would be sent to the Clerk for circulation.
- A flooding exercise had been held in Northwich and had been deemed successful.
- The 6-month sponsorship scheme for Ukrainian families was now ending and families could continue with their sponsor family; rematch with a new sponsor or find accommodation in the private rented sector.
- The deadline for applications to the CWAC Members Budget was now 31 December. Funding was available on an ongoing basis from the Space Hive.
- The HS2 project was continuing.
- There were restrictions in place arising from Avian Flu.
- There were a number of current consultations on the CWAC website.
- Chester Market had been closed that day due to an electrical fault but it was hoped it would reopen on 14 December.
- Councillor Gibbon had submitted 2 questions to the council meeting regarding gritting – the questions referred to whether the current regime was sufficient and what was the process for grit bins.

Members asked about progress with the Soot Hill restoration following the landslip. It appeared that little progress was being made. It was noted that a petition had been arranged on Facebook and Councillor Gibbon advised that the CWAC procedure required 3500 signatures to trigger a debate at full Council. Members agreed to compose a letter urging progress and seeking support of the other Marbury Ward Parish Councils and local MPs – Mike Amesbury and Esther McVey.

7. Recreation Area and Pump Track

7.1 The Chairman updated:

The wet pour had been jet washed and sprayed with Algon moss and algae killer. Another pencil had been removed due to decay. There were no other issues to report.

7.2 The inspection in November showed all equipment was in good standing.

7.3 The Council had received some grant funding from the CWAC Ward Member budget towards an outdoor table tennis table and a proposed model had been circulated. Members agreed to approve the budget to include fittings.

7.4 The Chairman proposed the purchase of alternative products to deal with algae on the surfacing. Members agreed the purchase.

7.5 As agreed at the last meeting, a proposal to make a toilet within the Memorial Hall accessible from the outside to enable its use by people using the Recreation Area and others had not been approved. It had been agreed to provide signage to the nearest public toilets at Marbury Park and an option and budget was proposed.

7.6 A recent inspection had identified a need to replace the infant swing seats. A grant application had been submitted to the CWAC Ward Councillors but Members agreed that replacement swing seats should be purchased as a matter of urgency based on the quotes considered at the previous meeting.

(22/75) RESOLVED: that

- (a) The update on the Recreation Area and the inspection report be noted
- (b) A budget of £950 be approved for an outdoor table tennis table, paving slabs, cement and sand for the base for the legs.
- (c) The purchase of Simply Spray and Walk Away at a cost of £36 be approved.
- (d) The purchase of Path Clear and Algon at a cost of £50 be approved.
- (e) The purchase of a sign for the Recreation Area to advise the nearest location of public toilets was at Marbury Park be approved at a cost of £60 including channel and brackets.

(f) The purchase of infant swing seats plus chains from Hags be approved at a cost of £594 plus VAT due to the urgent need to replace the seats.

8. Highways and Streetscene

8.1 The Council noted the latest data from the Speed Indicator Device which had been located on Marbury Road facing northwards.

8.2 The Council considered the hedgehog highway project which was requesting local councils consider purchasing 50 hedgehog highway surrounds and information leaflets at a cost of £150.

(22/76) RESOLVED: that:

(a) The SID update be noted and Councillor Chandler will seek further information from the PCSO regarding the vehicles identified as travelling at high speed between 9.00am and 10.00am.

(b) The council does not agree to participate in the hedgehog highway project.

9. Accounts and financial matters

9.1 The accounts for 30 November 2022 were submitted in Appendix 1

9.2 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

(22/77) RESOLVED: that

(a) The accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £17,454.48 and £21,377.64 in reserves be noted.

(b) The payments in Appendix 2 be approved.

10. Projects

10.1 Tree Planting – a fir tree had been planted at the Recreation Area in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II. The council discussed installing a plaque.

10.2 Environmental projects – it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

10.3 Comberbach Primary School – the school had submitted a bid for funding and sought support from the Parish Council. The Council had responded that it supported provision that complimented existing, noting that there was already a well-resourced and maintained Recreation Area in the village; the location of the school within a residential area was considered beneficial for enabling easy access for children and families without the need to cross a main road. Queries had been raised regarding whether Senna Lane residents had been consulted due to possible additional noise impact and whether there were any insurance implications in opening up the school outdoor area outside of school hours.

10.4 Manchester Airport Future Airspace Change Programme – the programme was ongoing and was following the Civil Aviation Authority guidance. The next stage would involve consultation on routes. The Clerk advised that the airport held regular meetings for local councils.

10.5 Freedom Fibre – the council discussed the Freedom Fibre (FF) project to deliver high speed fibre-to-the-premises (FFTP) to a number of properties in Comberbach. There had been a great deal of activity during November when Freedom Fibre had communicated their proposals through a series of notices posted on the Locke and Fairclough estates in the village. The proposals would involve installing telegraph poles to enable the delivery of full fibre.

Representatives of the Parish Council had met with representatives of Freedom Fibre and a representative of CW&C to investigate what other options might be available instead of the erection of telegraph poles on the estates. A further investigation of the existing Openreach ducting found that this was not an option due to the poor state of repair, or non-existence of any ducting. An opportunity to use the Government's Gigabit Voucher Scheme was still being investigated with assistance from CWAC, however, this option would require a majority of residents to sign up for the Freedom Fibre TalkTalk broadband service.

The Parish Council agreed it was neutral on this issue but was working hard to ensure there were good and timely communications to residents to enable informed decisions to be made.

(22/78) RESOLVED: that

- (a) A plaque be purchased for the Queen Elizabeth II commemorative tree at a maximum cost of £50.
- (b) The item on environmental projects be deferred to the next meeting.
- (c) The information on the lottery bid for Comberbach Primary School be noted.
- (d) The current position regarding the Manchester Airport Future Airspace Change Project be noted.
- (e) The update on the Freedom Fibre project be noted.

11. Planning

11.1 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3.

11.2 There were no enforcement matters.

(22/79) RESOLVED: That the planning update be noted.

12. Correspondence

12.1 The list of correspondence had been circulated. It was noted that the Household Support Fund had been inundated with applications and there were challenges in processing them. The issue raised regarding the poor state of footpaths would be considered at the next meeting.

(22/80) RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

13. Representative Reports

- Comberbach Memorial Hall Management Committee – no update.
- Fete Committee – no update.
- Bowling Club – the club was now closed for the season.
- Police Liaison – Councillor Chandler would liaise with the PCSO.
- School Liaison – no update
- Litterpick – no update.

14. Pay Award

The Pay Award for 2022 had been agreed and new salary scales had been issued.

(22/81) RESOLVED: that the new salary scales be noted and approved.

15. Exclusion of Public and Press – Part 2

None

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 10 January 2023 commencing at 6.45pm

Signed
Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 30 November 2022 were approved

Current account	£17,454.48	Reserve	£21,377.64
Cash book	£38,832.12	Reconciliation:	0

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Power
Synchroprint – CVN November 22	£232.32	LGA 1972 s 111

S Penwill – Clerk’s mobile phone & initial SIM card	£206.50	LGA 1972 s 111
D French – clerk expenses to 1/11/22	£64.86	LGA 1972 s 111
HMRC – PAYE Q3 22/23	£325.00	LGA 1972 s 111
A Woodcock – donation for Chapel Christmas Tree	£170.00	LGA 1972 s 137

Appendix 2b Pre-Authorised Payments

None

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	Wed 22 Dec 2021	Awaiting decision

except for vehicular access), land at Winnington Works		
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
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 Amended application	14 April 2022 1 November 2022	Awaiting decision
22/03211/TPO – silver birch – reduce regrowth throughout by 1.5m – 2.5m to keep crown in check, 15 Freshfields	24 August 2022	Awaiting decision

22/03311/FUL - demolition of existing dwelling, erection of dwelling, and a single storey outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation, 57 Senna Lane	2 September 2022	Awaiting decision
22/03678/FUL - First storey side extension above existing garage 18 Chapel Close	12 October 2022	Awaiting decision
22/03695/FUL - first floor front extension and single storey side extension, storm porch to front, replacement windows and full render of existing dwelling Cogshall House	17 October 2022	Awaiting decision