

Minutes of the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 March 2023

Present

Councillors:

John Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)

Sandy Cameron

Richard Chandler

John Darwin

Bob Holt

Jill Johnston

Val McDermott

Denise French (Clerk)

PCSO Diana Wiggins (till 7.00pm)

The Meeting started at 6.45pm.

Public Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

PCSO Diana Wiggins was in attendance. Following concerns raised about cars parking on grass verges when dropping off children at the Primary School she had attended the previous week but had only witnessed one example. Cllr McDermott explained that the school were encouraging considerate parking.

PCSO Wiggins explained that she carried out regular speed enforcement; the presence of the Parish Council's SID was a good deterrent.

Councillor Chandler queried the threshold for action on speeding using the data from the SID and agreed to email PCSO Wiggins so she could respond.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillor Bradley for a further 2-month period due to illness. An apology for absence was also received from Steve Penwill, RFO.

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 January 2023

(23/11) RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

4. Progress Reports and Updates

- 4.1 The Repair Café would be deferred to a future meeting.
- 4.2 Resilience Plan – the draft plan had been circulated and would be discussed at an informal meeting later in the year.
- 4.3 Cyber/online training – a provisional date of 28 June was agreed subject to confirmation by the trainer.

(23/12) RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

5. Elections and the new Parish Council Term

5.1 The Clerk outlined that Notices of Election would be displayed on 16 March; and this would mean the start of the pre-election period. The deadline for nomination papers was 4pm on 4 April. After close of nominations CWAC would advise whether or not the election was to be contested. The Clerk was to attend an election briefing at CWAC the following day. She would update councillors after that with any further information.

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

There were no CWAC Councillors present.

7. Recreation Area and Pump Track

7.1 The Chairman updated:

The new table tennis table had been installed but rubber matting would be required similar to the zip line matting. The zip line matting had now been relayed and consideration should be given to overlaying with new matting. The pump track had been topped up with stone chippings following the discussion at the last meeting.

7.2 The inspection reports for January and February were considered. There were no new issues, or equipment that required urgent attention.

7.3 The Council discussed the MUGA area. Members agreed that a full resurface was not required but the surface could be resprayed and repainted and quotes for the work would be sought.

7.4 Rospa Inspection. The Clerk had been informed that the Rospa Inspection had been booked in for April; the exact date was not notified to the Council. Members agreed not to request an accompanied visit.

7.5 Coffee Van on the car park. The Council discussed a request from a coffee van vendor to site their van on the car park on a number of set days and times. The Clerk had sought advice from CWAC – it was confirmed that planning consent was not required but the applicant should apply for a Street Trading Licence. The RFO had confirmed this usage was acceptable with the insurance company. Members were supportive of the principle of the coffee van for a trial period and subject to

written agreement around managing litter etc. There would also be a requirement for the vendor to have insurance and food hygiene certification.

7.6 Recreation Area Gates. The gate closing mechanism had been identified on a number of inspection reports and it was not possible to repair the gate. Members discussed options for replacement gates and agreed to purchase 2 gates.

(23/13) RESOLVED: that

- (a) The update on the Recreation Area and the inspection reports be noted.
- (b) New zip line matting be purchased to overlay the top of the existing matting and matting be purchased for the table tennis area.
- (c) Quotes be invited for the MUGA area, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, to carry out a respray of the surface with an Epoxy binder and repainting with acrylic Anti Slip Paint Surface; quotes to be considered at the next meeting.
- (d) The arrangements for the Rospa inspection are noted and an accompanied visit is not requested.
- (e) The coffee van vendor be advised that the Council approves the request to site the mobile coffee van at a location on the car park to be agreed in advance, the van to be provided on set days and times to be agreed in advance in writing, subject to the vendor holding the relevant street trading licence, a 5* food hygiene rating and the appropriate public liability insurance; leaving the site clean and tidy with no litter; and this agreement is for a 12 month period subject to a review in 6 months' time with the option to cancel the agreement at that point.
- (f) Two replacement gates be purchased for the Recreation Area from Easy Gate at a cost of around £750 each plus VAT.

8. Highways and Streetscene

8.1 Ongoing issues with Soot Hill road closure. The Chief Executive of CWAC had responded to the letter sent by this Council on behalf of most Marbury councils at the end of January. Councillors Ryder and Johnstone had attended CWAC Cabinet on 7 February and Councillor Johnstone had addressed the meeting, along with representatives from Barnton Parish Council. CWAC Cabinet had approved a recommendation to appoint a contractor for the works at Soot Hill.

Councillors discussed their continued frustration with the issues relating to the timescales for the project; the ongoing impact on the local communities; project management capability and financial management concerns relating to CWAC. It was agreed to draft a further letter to CWAC.

8.2 Speed Indicator Device. The latest data was considered from the SID, which had been sited on Gibb Hill. Councillor Chandler would share the data with the PCSO.

8.3 Budworth Lane. Members considered further correspondence from a resident relating to Budworth Lane. In 2022, following consideration of various options and ongoing correspondence from CWAC Highways, the Council had agreed with CWAC that the existing Give Way signage was adequate. CWAC had recently undertaken a speed assessment following the Council's request and Members considered the report. The assessment recommended a reduction to 40 mph but the costs would need to be partly borne by the council. As the majority of the road was in Great Budworth this cost would need to be shared proportionally the length of road in each Parish. Members noted that a previous limit (prior to the 50mph) had been imposed on part of Budworth Lane of 30 mph from the village gateway sign to the Give Way sign and felt this should be considered.

8.4 Gibb Hill. Members discussed requesting CWAC Highways, in conjunction with Antrobus Parish Council, to review the footpath on Gibb Hill and request it be included in any upgrade programme to resurface similar to Ollershaw Lane, Marston. This was agreed.

(23/14) RESOLVED: that:

- (a) The Chairman and Vice Chairman draft a further letter to the CWAC Chief Executive on the ongoing issues at Soot Hill.
- (b) The update on the SID data be noted.
- (c) The Clerk contact CWAC Highways to request consideration is given to reducing the speed limit on that part of Budworth Lane from the 'Comberbach' sign to the junction with Warrington Road; the Clerk also contact Great Budworth Parish Council to seek views.
- (d) The Clerk contact the Clerk of Antrobus Parish Council to request a joint approach to resurfacing the footpath on Gibb Hill.

9. Accounts and financial matters

9.1 The accounts for 30 January 2023 were submitted in Appendix 1

9.2 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

(23/15) RESOLVED: that

- (a) The accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £13,570.87 and £21,397.09 in reserves be noted.
- (b) The payments in Appendix 2 be approved.

10. Projects

10.1 Environmental projects

Councillor McDermott would report to a future meeting.

10.2 The King's Coronation

The Parish Council discussed the King's Coronation on Saturday 6 May and any commemorative events. It was noted that the King wished there to be a focus on community and volunteering on the Bank Holiday Monday and Members felt this could be supported with the Memorial Hall through a thank you event. The Clerk would liaise with the Memorial Hall Committee to progress any ideas.

10.3 Freedom Fibre

A meeting had been facilitated by the Parish Council on 6 February where residents had the opportunity to discuss issues and concerns with representatives of Freedom Fibre. There had also been information available via CWAC Digital Specialist Mike Dugine on the Government's Gigabit Voucher Scheme. A draft letter had been circulated from Freedom Fibre to Councillors that was intended to be delivered by FF to households in Comberbach to assist with the voucher scheme to enable underground ducting on the Locke and Fairclough estates.

(23/16) RESOLVED: that

- (a) The item on environmental projects be deferred to the next meeting.
- (b) The Clerk will liaise with the Memorial Hall around any plans for a celebration on Monday 8 May and will make progress in consultation with Councillors.
- (c) The Council has no comments on the draft letter from Freedom Fibre.

11. Planning

11.1 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3. It was noted that application 22/00953/FUL had been refused and application 22/03211/TPO had been approved.

11.2 The Council noted that in relation to activity on the site on Senna Lane for which a planning application had been submitted for 4no. glamping units, and other works, a response had been received from CWAC Enforcement. This had advised that as there was a live pending planning application to be determined, it was considered best for the application to be determined prior to any potential action by the Planning Enforcement Team

(23/17) RESOLVED: That the planning update be received and noted.

12. Correspondence

The list of correspondence had been circulated. The Clerk had circulated additional correspondence including invitations to various events including the Cheshire and Warrington Leaders' Board consultation on a Fair Employment Charter for the subregion; CPRE rural planning event; progress with the Winnington Bridge Corridor Scheme, and next steps at Northwich Memorial Court.

(23/18) RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

13. Representative Reports

- Comberbach Memorial Hall Management Committee – no update.
- Fete Committee – the Sundowner Run was arranged for 19 May at Marbury Park and the Fete would take place on 24 June.
- Bowling Club – no update.
- Police Liaison – this had been covered earlier in the meeting.
- School Liaison – Councillor McDermott continued to liaise with the school.
- Litterpick – no update.

14. Exclusion of Public and Press – Part 2

None

The Meeting closed at 8.48pm.

The next meetings of Comberbach Parish Council will be as below:

- Tuesday 16 May 2023 at 6.45pm – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
- The Annual Parish Meeting will precede this meeting at 6.15pm.

Signed
Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 30 January 2023 were approved:

Current account	£13,570.87	Reserve	£21,397.09
Cash book	£34,967.96	Reconciliation:	0

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Power
Shane Ross – Winter maintenance invoice 22-04	£300.00	LGA 1972 s 111
J Ryder – maintenance materials etc	£240.12	LGA 1972 s 111

S Penwill – Laptop battery, stamps, paper	£74.30	LGA 1972 s 111
Starboard Systems (Scribe) – license 23/24	£414.72	LGA 1972 s 111
Comberbach Memorial Hall – fibre meeting 6/2/23	£60.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Jacksons Marquee Hire – Fete deposit inv 22539	£473.70	LGA 1972 s 111
Synchroprint – Fibre flyer	£56.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Synchroprint – CVN Jan 23	£188.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Synchroprint – Planning flyer	£20.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Northwich Town Council – Inspection Jan 23	£58.80	LGA 1972 s 111
Northwich Town Council – Zip wire matting & gates	£708.00	LGA 1972 s 111

Appendix 2b Pre-Authorised Payments

Item	Amount	Power
Techquarters – Microsoft Office license (DD) Jan 23	£21.43	LGA 1972 s 111
Techquarters – Microsoft Office license (DD) Feb 23	£21.43	LGA 1972 s 111
Techquarters – Microsoft Office license (DD) Mar 23	£21.43	LGA 1972 s 111
Tesco Mobile – Dec 22 (DD)	£7.50	LGA 1972 s 111
Tesco Mobile – Jan 23 (DD)	-£12.50	LGA 1972 s 111
Tesco Mobile – Feb 23 (DD)	-£5.00	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2219 – NBB, concrete fixings, 10/1/23	£67.32	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2220 – Tabletennis365, table 10/1/23	£949.00	LGA 1972 s 111

Appendix 3 Recent planning decisions by CW&C

APPLICATION DETAILS	DATE OF VALIDATION	CURRENT POSITION
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);	Wed 22 Dec 2021	Awaiting decision

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		
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	Refused
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
22/03211/TPO – silver birch – reduce regrowth throughout by 1.5m – 2.5m to keep crown in check, 15 Freshfields	24 August 2022	Approved

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
22/04415/FUL - Siting of 4no. glamping units, reception hut, bike storage, recycling/waste facilities and a new permeable parking/turning area with electric vehicle charging points with associated footpaths and a water treatment plant for onsite drainage, land On The Northeast Side of Senna Lane	28 November 2022	Awaiting decision
22/04625/FUL – single storey side extension and single storey rear extension 12 Cogshall Lane	15 December 2022	Awaiting decision