

Minutes of the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 24 October 2023

Present

Councillors:

John Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)

Bill Briggs

Sandy Cameron

Richard Chandler

John Darwin

Bob Holt

Jill Johnston

Denise French (Clerk)

Stephen Penwill (RFO)

The Meeting started at 6.45pm.

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 McDermott for family reasons.

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 4 July 2023

(23/58) RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

4. Police Update

A/PS John Hand and PCSO Di Wiggins attended the meeting. Members raised issues relating to speeding traffic through the village and parking issues around school drop off and pick up times and during Saturdays when the school field was used for football matches.

PCSO Wiggins explained that issues with cars blocking drives or waiting with the engine idling would be dealt with by the police speaking to the driver or carrying out a PCN check; a vehicle could be seized if it was causing an obstruction. If a resident saw a car blocking a drive it could be reported to the police via 101 who would visit subject to a patrol car being in the area. A/PS Hand explained these issues were common across all parish councils. CWAC employed a number of enforcement officers which Cllr Gibbon agreed to investigate in terms of how many and the areas of the Borough that were covered. Members also noted examples of where school

children were involved in encouraging considerate parking around a school and whether this could be considered at Comberbach. PCSO Wiggins agreed to raise the points made with the school at a visit the following day.

Members also noted that the reopening of Soot Hill was imminent. Members were concerned that this would become a rat run to the motorway and requested a presence from the Police with speed enforcement during the opening days to send a message to drivers not to speed as the area was being monitored. PCSO Wiggins said the area was monitored by TruCam but this was shared between 9 x PCSOs. Members felt a camera acted as a deterrent. A/PS Hand agreed to include this in the Patrol Plan and endeavour to obtain the TruCam for when the road opened.

A/PS Hand and PCSO Wiggins were thanked for their attendance.

5. Progress Reports and Updates

5.1 No parking sign on Mather Drive – Members noted the response from CWAC and that the issues had been raised with the Police as above.

5.2 Pizza Van – the pizza vendor was planning to undertake a trial of the pizza van on Friday 27 October; pre-ordered pizzas would be available for collection from the Memorial Hall car park.

5.3 Resilience Plan – the Chairman had populated the Plan and the Clerk would circulate it to Members to add in any information that was still outstanding.

(23/59) RESOLVED: that the updates be noted.

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

CWAC Councillor Gibbon updated on various items:

- There was funding available via the Members budgets. Members agreed to submit a bid towards the new swing set. There was also funding via Spacehive; Members had attended a drop in about this funding and were intending to submit a bid to a future fund for a larger project at the Recreation Area. Cllr Gibbon explained outlined successful projects including one that had contributed funding towards Police Officers' attendance at schools to discuss online safety.
- Reinforced autoclave aerated concrete (RAAC) – none had been found in any CWAC buildings.
- Solar Together was a group buying scheme for solar energy and more details were on the CWAC website. Members noted leaflets had been delivered.
- Public Rights of Way (PROW) – 3 new officers were now in post.
- Marbury 10 Year Plan for infrastructure – comments had been sought and submitted, any additional comments could be submitted to Councillor Gibbon. The Clerk agreed to recirculate the original request.
- Regular meetings were taking place with the Council Executive and Councillor Gibbon was seeking information about the Levelling Up bid and whether it was being amended ready for further submission.
- Ward Plan – this was being developed.

- Police and Crime Commissioner – Councillor Gibbon had requested the monthly updates include outcomes.
- Reopening of Soot Hill – Councillor Gibbon had requested routes from Soot Hill be swept and white lines be repainted.
- Flooding – any issues should be reported so that action could be taken in future instances.
- Information on location of gullies – this was not accessible to the public but only to CWAC Councillors. Councillor Gibbon would request Councillor Marshall to investigate whether Parish Clerks could also access the gulley information but if not, he would provide maps to Clerks.

Members raised issues around the grass cutting schedule and pot hole repairs. Councillor Gibbon said she would request the Chief Executive to attend a Marbury Ward meeting.

7. Finance Committee Minutes

(23/60) RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 10 October 2023 be received.

8. Committee membership

(23/61) RESOLVED: That Councillor Briggs join Finance Committee and the membership be increased to 5 members.

9. Recreation Area and Pump Track

9.1 The Chairman updated: The newly installed gate opened and closed with 5-6 seconds as per the specification. The zip line legs had been temporarily repaired pending Council agreement to proceed with replacement legs. The wet pour had been showing signs of moss build up and may need a jet wash before winter if the Algon spray was not sufficient. Shane Ross continued to cut the grass and would be trimming the hedges high level during November. The MUGA court respray had received positive comments.

9.2 The Inspection Report from Northwich Town Council was still awaited.

9.3 The Council considered the recommendation from Finance Committee to purchase replacement legs for the Zip Wire. The Chairman updated that the inspection in September had noted that 2 of the angle legs were showing decay. There had been a number of repairs over recent years and the rest of the Zip Wire was in good condition. The cost of 4 x replacement legs plus fittings was approximately £1,484 excluding delivery and fitting. Members noted that the Zip Wire was very popular.

(23/62) RESOLVED: that

(a) The update on the Recreation Area be noted.

(b) The purchase of 4 x replacement legs for the Zip Wire from HAGS at a cost of £1,484 plus delivery be approved and HAGs be contacted for a quote for the cost of delivery and fitting.

10. Highways and Streetscene

10.1 There was no data from the Speed Indicator Device this month. The Clerk had contacted the Clerk to Great Budworth PC to request the SID be located on Budworth Lane. Members felt it may be suitable to site it on the part of Budworth Lane that was in Comberbach. It was agreed to locate the SID on Gibb Hill and Warrington Road for the next few months to capture data following the reopening of Soot Hill and consider other locations in the new year.

(23/63) RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

11. Accounts and financial matters

11.1 The accounts for 30 September 2023 were listed in Appendix 1

11.2 The Council considered the Quarter 2 budget review.

11.3 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

(23/64) RESOLVED: that:

(a) The accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £16,048.50 and £28,397.09 in reserves be noted.

(b) The Quarter 2 budget review be received.

(c) The list of payments in Appendix 2 be approved.

12. Projects

12.1 Freedom Fibre (FF) – Members discussed progress with the Freedom Fibre installation; the majority of underground ducting had been completed and FF was applying for 3 x suppliers. The Council had suggested an Open Day be held which FF was willing to hold once contracts had been finalised.

12.3 D Day 80th Anniversary - the 80th Anniversary of D Day was on 6 June 2024. The Unknown Woman in War statue had been ordered and delivery was due by the end of the month. The Memorial Hall and Methodist Church had been contacted to ascertain any plans for the commemoration and feedback was awaited.

(23/65) RESOLVED: that:

(a) The update be received and noted.

(b) The 80th Anniversary commemoration for D Day be considered further at the next meeting.

13. Planning

13.1 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3

13.2 There were no enforcement matters.

13.3 Members had been invited to an online presentation and discussion about the merits of a Neighbourhood Plan for Comberbach which had been offered by Cheshire Community Action (CCA). It was noted that a number of parishes were covered by a Neighbourhood Plan; the Plan could include green space, design, separation distances. Members discussed whether the village was at a disadvantage by not having a Plan. There was some grant funding available. The presentation had included timescales which suggested a Plan could take a number of years of work prior to being 'made' and that the average number of volunteers to help produce a Plan was 15.

(23/66) RESOLVED: That

- (a) The update be noted.
- (b) John Heselwood of CCA be invited to the next meeting of the Parish Council to outline the merits and process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan to all Members and a representative of CWAC Planning also be invited.

14. Correspondence

The list of correspondence had been circulated.

Marston Parish Council had contacted the Council regarding the speed limit on the Marston stretch of the A559 (Marston Road/Warrington Road); the PC was seeking support from neighbouring councils.

(23/67) RESOLVED: that:

- (a) The correspondence be noted.
- (b) The Clerk contact Marston Parish Council to express the Parish Council's sympathies with the Council's concerns over speeding issues on the A559 in Marston and recommends the Council seeks as much evidence as possible via a request to CWAC for the black box to be sited on the road and that the PC considers purchasing a Speed Indicator Device to monitor speeds and also act as a deterrent.

15. Representative Reports

- Comberbach Memorial Hall Management Committee – nothing to update.
- Fete Committee – nothing to update

- Bowling Club – the Club was now closed for the season and there was nothing to update.
- Police Liaison – this had been covered earlier in the meeting.
- School Liaison – nothing to update.
- Litterpick – a litterpick had taken place on 1 October.

16. Exclusion of Public and Press – Part 2

(23/68) 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 items of business due to the confidential nature of the matters to be discussed.

17. New swing set

The Council considered quotes received for a new swing set for the Recreation Area.

(23/69) RESOLVED: that the quote from Massey and Harris be approved.

18. Additional land for a sports field

There had been no response to a letter sent on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed to consider this further at the next meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

The next meeting of Comberbach Parish Council will be on Tuesday 5 December at 6.45pm.

Signed
Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 30 September 2023 were approved:

Current account	£16,048.50	Reserve	£28,397.09
Cash book	£52,111.85	Reconciliation:	0

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Power
Shane Ross – Maintenance invoice 23-02	£600.00	LGA 1972 s 111
J Ryder –Materials etc	£186.90	LGA 1972 s 111
Royal British Legion – Lamppost poppies	£100.00	LGA 1972 s 137
D French – Expenses & Women in War Statue	£243.35	LGA 1972 s 111
CHALC – Training course Cllr Briggs	£25.00	LGA 1972 s 111

Pre-Authorised Payments

Item	Amount	Power
PAP2312 – PKF Littlejohn, Audit Fee 22/23	£252.00	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2313 – J Ryder, Defib pads (balance)	£109.20	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2314 – Dragon Courts, MUGA resurface	£4,140.00	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2315 – BWP Creative – website & email hosting	£273.60	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2316 – Synchroprint, Sept CVN	£232.32	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2317 – HMRC, PAYE Q2	£285.00	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2319 – Cheshire West Council, Election Costs	£181.00	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Tesco Mobile, Jul 23	£7.50	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Tesco Mobile, Aug 23	£7.50	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Babble, MSOffice license Aug 23	£21.43	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Babble, MSOffice license Sep 23	£21.43	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); 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
21/01937/S73, Single storey side and rear extension and creation of first floor (Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (materials))	Fri 30 Apr 2021	Awaiting decision

of planning permission 19/01832/FUL), 31 Senna Lane		
23/00251/FUL Drop the kerb to the side of property on Freshfields to allow access to create a new driveway and raise the kerb at the rear of the property removing the current drive way 22 Cogshall Lane	6 March 2023	Awaiting decision
23/00734/FUL Two storey rear extension and first floor side extension, with storm porch to front and roof alterations 27 Senna Lane – AMENDED PLANS	7 March 2023	Awaiting decision
23/02712/TPO – 1 x small Robinia, request to fell to ground level due to root plate movement, Three Oaks, Marbury Road	29 August 2023	Awaiting decision
23/03026/FUL - Conversion of an existing stable block into guest accommodation, a domestic study and a security office. Conversion of an existing manage into an all weather sports pitch. Relocation of an existing garden maintenance shed. Construction of a new gym. Construction of a garage. Associated external works., Cogshall Hall, Senna Lane Also an application for Listed building consent	26 September 2023	Awaiting decision