

Minutes of the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 January 2024

Present

Councillors:

John Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)

Bill Briggs

Sandy Cameron

John Darwin

Bob Holt

Denise French (Clerk)

Stephen Penwill (RFO)

CWAC Cllr Phil Marshall

The Meeting started at 6.45pm.

Public Open Forum

There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chandler (family reasons), Johnston (family reasons) and McDermott (family reasons).

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

Councillor Darwin declared a personal interest in the item relating to flooding on Cogshall Lane.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 December 2023

(24/1) RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 December 2023 be approved as a correct record.

4. Progress Reports and Updates

4.1 Resilience Plan – the Plan had been updated and the latest version was noted. The Chairman would add in additional information to finalise the plan.

(24/2) RESOLVED: that the updates be noted and the Resilience Plan be considered further at the next meeting.

5. Parish Council Budget and Precept

The Council considered:

- (a) draft minutes of Finance Committee held on 9 January
- (b) virement of 2023/24 budgets to recognise actual costs incurred
- (c) the Parish Council budget 2024/25
- (d) the Parish Council Reserves List
- (e) the precept amount to be submitted to Cheshire West and Chester.

The RFO outlined the discussions at Finance Committee. The Committee had reviewed the Quarter 3 budget report and agreed there was not any need to vire any budget headings.

The Committee had given detailed consideration to the draft budget. The draft budget took into account all known expenditure along with unforecast expenditure such as zip wire legs. The expenditure during 2023/24 meant there would not be any funds to transfer to reserves and the reserves would remain at £28k. The reserves list was considered; most funding was earmarked with £6k in general reserves which represented 3 months' running costs.

The RFO took Members through the precept calculation with examples showing the impact of leaving the precept amount the same as 23/24, leaving the Band D charge the same as 23/24; a 3% increase and a 5% increase.

The Council also noted the list of projects funded by the Parish Council since 2015 which amounted to around £90k of expenditure and investment in the community and facilities. The forward list of projects was considered which outlined future spending. It was also noted that suppliers had increased their costs for the forthcoming year.

(24/3) RESOLVED: that

- (a) The draft minutes of Finance Committee be noted.
- (b) The Parish Council budget 2024/25 as submitted be approved.
- (c) The Parish Council Reserves List be approved.
- (d) The precept amount of £27,416 be submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

The Council considered a possible Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Comberbach. The Groves Partnership had been contacted regarding meeting with the Parish Council for an information session to outline initial options and advantages to having a NP.

(24/4) RESOLVED: that

- (a) a meeting be held with the Groves Partnership at a date to be agreed.
- (b) The sum of £300 be approved towards the costs of the consultation with the Groves Partnership.

7. Recreation Area and Pump Track

7.1 The Chairman updated: There had been an uprooted tree close to the Memorial Hall roof which had now been removed by OJT Tree Services as an urgent matter due to the potential risk of causing damage. The new swings had now been installed. Shane Ross had cut back the trees around the perimeter of the Recreation Area and had brushed all leaves from the footpaths. The wet pour had now been treated with Algon and jet washed. The repair to the wet pour by Bounceback was very neat.

7.2 The Inspection Report for December was considered; there were no issues that needed addressing.

7.3 The Council considered additional purchases for the jet wash and agreed to purchase a patio tool attachment and new metal hose reel to replace the existing plastic broken cart.

(24/5) RESOLVED: that

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

(b) the sum of £230 be approved for the purchase of a Karcher patio tool attachment for the jet washer to clean the wet pour.

(c) The sum of £85 be approved for the purchase of a Karcher metal hose reel to replace the existing plastic broken cart.

8. Highways and Streetscene

8.1 The data from the Speed Indicator Device for September – December was considered. The SID had been located on The Avenue, facing the direction of traffic driving into Comberbach, during October and December. It was located in Anderton in September and November. The SID data showed a 45% traffic increase since January 2022 when the landslide on Soot Hill had occurred. The average speed was 31mph.

8.2 The Council discussed flooding that had occurred on Cogshall Lane affecting a field, drains and a private property. It was noted that CWAC Highways had attended a site visit at the property the previous year and had also been in contact with the residents affected who were now going to carry out repairs to drains on their property. CWAC Highways had offered to give further advice and support to the residents.

8.3 The Council discussed issues with road surfaces in the village. It was noted that Cogshall Lane and Gibb Hill had undergone resurfacing works before Christmas. Members had undertaken site visits which showed a number of areas of poor repair where tarmac was not mixed properly, and loose chippings were evident. CWAC Cllr Marshall explained he had raised these issues with the Head of Highways to urge

that remedial works take place. He supported the Parish Council also raising concerns.

8.4 Members discussed the timescales for unblocking gulleys once a works order had been raised. CWAC Cllr Marshall also explained that the 'Report It' function on the website was showing issues as 'complete' before they had been addressed but this would be amended to only show as complete once the works had been undertaken. Councillors agreed to raise a query with CWAC Highways around the average time for completion and the target time once a gulley was marked as blocked.

(24/6) RESOLVED: that

- (a) The SID data be noted.
- (b) The information on the flooding issue at Cogshall Lane be noted.
- (c) The Clerk will write to CWAC Head of Highways about the issues noted by Councillors following the road surfacing works on Gibb Hill and Cogshall Lane.
- (d) The Clerk will write to Highways Officers raising queries around the timescales for completing a works order for gulleys once issued.

9. Cheshire West and Chester Councillors' updates

CWAC Councillor Marshall updated:

- There were funds left in the Ward Members' budget with a deadline of 28 January for applications.
- A meeting with the CWAC Chief Executive for Marbury Ward councils had been arranged for Thursday 29 February at Wincham Community Hall from 6.30pm – 8.00pm.
- Network North funding – the Marbury Ward Councillors were meeting with Esther McVey MP regarding possible options to a solution to Winnington Bridge using Network North funding.
- Flooding had meant damage and clean up works taking priority over other projects that meant some were postponed.
- Transport Strategy – the consultation remained open to 28 January.
- Planning – a backlog in processing applications remained. Members felt there should be a triage system to assist with processing minor applications.
- Space Hive – the latest round of projects had seen successful bids for 29 proposals although none were from Marbury Ward. The Chairman said he, the Vice Chairman and the RFO had attended an information session last

year and were considering seeking funding through Space Hive for a project to replace equipment at the Recreation Area.

(24/7) RESOLVED: that the update be received and noted.

10. Accounts and financial matters

10.1 The accounts for 31 December 2023 were listed in Appendix 1

10.2 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

(24/8) RESOLVED: that:

(a) The accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £7,416.61 and £28,616.42 in reserves be noted.

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

11. Projects

Councillor McDermott had sent ideas for how to commemorate the D Day 80th Anniversary on 6 June. On 6 June there would be a national lighting of beacons; the costs and options for altering the Council's beacon had been shared. A further suggestion was to hold an event on Sunday 9 June at the Memorial Hall from 2.00pm – 4.00pm which could include afternoon tea; a brass band and a request could be made to the Bowling Club to open the bar to enable commemorations to continue after the event. The schools could be asked to make bunting based on the boats used for D Day. Members supported holding a commemorative event on 9 June and felt there should be no charge for anyone who wished to attend. The Chairman would speak to the Bowling Club and an appeal would be put on social media for anyone interested in helping.

(24/9) RESOLVED: that a commemorative event be held on Sunday 9 June with further details discussed at the next meeting along with whether to light the Beacon on 6 June and any adaptations required.

12. Planning

12.1 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3

12.2 There were no enforcement matters.

(24/10) RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

13. Correspondence

The list of correspondence had been circulated.

(24/11) RESOLVED: that the correspondence be noted.

14. Representative Reports

- Comberbach Memorial Hall Management Committee – nothing to update.
- Police Liaison – the latest PCSO report had been circulated.
- School Liaison – nothing to update.
- Litterpick – nothing to update.

15. Exclusion of Public and Press – Part 2

(24/12) 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.

16. Additional land for a sports field

The Chairman updated that the landowner was not interested in any land sales of the land adjacent to the Recreation Area. Members discussed whether the Parish Council could purchase land outside of the Parish and the Clerk agreed to speak to Cheshire Association of Local Councils for advice.

(24/13) RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

17. Recreation Area Inspections

The Council considered a quote from Northwich Town Council to carry out 3 inspections a year of the Recreation Area.

(24/14) RESOLVED: that the quote from Northwich Town Council for £150 for 3 inspections a year, be approved.

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

The next meeting of Comberbach Parish Council will be on Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 6.45pm.

Signed
Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 30 December 2023 were approved:

Current account	£7,416.61	Reserves	£28,616.42
Cash book	£36,033.03	Reconciliation:	0

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Power
HMRC – PAYE Q3 23/24	£345.00	LGA 1972 s 111
S Penwill – Clerk Laptop & bag, paper	£643.98	LGA 1972 s 111
Shane Ross – Maintenance invoice 23-03	£600.00	LGA 1972 s 111

Pre-Authorised Payments

Item	Amount	Power
PAP2318 – Bounceback, wetpour for swings install	£249.60	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2320 – A Woodcock, Christmas Tree	£180.00	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2321 – Massey & Harris, Infant Swings	£6289.20	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Tesco Mobile, Nov 23	£7.50	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Babble, MSOffice license Nov 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 <u>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</u> 22 Cogshall Lane	6 March 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
23/03229/FUL - erection of replacement retaining wall and associated ground works, 9 Brookfield Road	9 January 2024	Awaiting decision
23/03701/FUL - First floor front extension, alterations to front roof and door, front render. 10 Brookfield Road	23 November 2023	Awaiting decision
23/03778/S73 - Two storey rear extension and two-storey side extension, with storm porch to front and roof alterations (increasing height of ridge) - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 23/00734/FUL 27 Senna Lane	30 November 2023	Awaiting decision
23/03845/PAA - erection of an additional storey above main dwelling. Brookside Farm, Cogshall Lane	5 December 2023	Awaiting decision