

Minutes of the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 5 March 2024

Present

Councillors:

John Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)

Bill Briggs

Sandy Cameron

Richard Chandler

John Darwin

Val McDermott

Denise French (Clerk)

Stephen Penwill (RFO)

CWAC Cllr Lynn Gibbon

The Meeting started at 6.45pm.

Public Open Forum

There was one member of the public present.

1. Steven Hornby

The Chairman referred to the sad news of the death of Steven Hornby, former Councillor and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Holt (family reasons) and Johnston (family reasons).

3. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 January 2024

(24/15) RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 January 2024 be approved as a correct record.

45 Progress Reports and Updates

4.1 Resilience Plan – the Plan would be updated for the next meeting.

4.2 Banner outside Comberbach Primary School – Members discussed the request from Comberbach Primary School for a banner to be sited outside school to

encourage considerate parking. Members agreed that they supported the request subject to the school being proactive in trying to manage parking by parents/carers.

(24/16) RESOLVED: that:

(a) the Resilience Plan be considered further at the next meeting.

(b) Councillor McDermott will visit the school to discuss how staff can help encourage considerate parking and the matter be considered at the next meeting.

5. Cheshire West and Chester Councillors' updates

CWAC Councillor Gibbon updated:

- The meeting with the CWAC Chief Executive and senior officers on 29 February was well attended and a good opportunity for local councils to have a voice. There were learnings for a future event including the presence of Heads of Service to address specific issues in their service. A written update would be provided with responses to the queries made by attendees. Members responded that any future meeting could be more structured with a formal agenda and also requested better amplification. Overall, Members felt the meeting was a positive initiative and thanked Cllr Gibbon for facilitating the event.
- Cheshire West and Chester Council had approved an increase in council tax of 4.99%. There had also been an increase in household collection charges for green waste. The Space Hive initiative had been retained in the budget.
- There were a number of consultations currently underway and Members and the public were encouraged to respond.
- There were roadworks on Marbury Road, Anderton and this was to enable works to reroute water from a pond to the canal.
- The pre-election period would commence on 18 March for the elections for a new Police and Crime Commissioner.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

In January, the Council had met with John Groves of the Groves Partnership for an information session to discuss initial options and advantages to having a NP. The Groves Partnership had submitted a report which Members considered. It was noted that CWAC was reviewing its Local Plan and there was a need for the Parish Council to be aware of emerging policies and any impact on the village including settlement boundaries, Green Belt and design codes. One suggestion was to work with other neighbouring parish councils to see if there were common concerns around possible future changes to settlement boundaries or the Green Belt and raise these issues collectively with CWAC.

CWAC Cllr Gibbon drew attention to the current consultation on the CWAC website on the Local Plan Part 2; it included the ability to search for information by area.

The member of the public referred to her involvement a few years ago around developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the village and outlined some of the work that had taken place; she said she would be happy to be involved again.

(24/17) RESOLVED: that

(a) No action be taken on a Neighbourhood Plan at the present time.

(b) The neighbouring parish councils in Marbury Ward be contacted to see if there are common concerns around possible future changes to settlement boundaries or the Green Belt and whether there is support for a joint approach to CWAC.

7. Highways and Streetscene

7.1 The Council considered the data from the Speed Indicator Device for February. Councillor Chandler noted that the overall speeds had reduced though there was still the occasional high speeding vehicle. Members discussed the current static speed indicators that flashed a reminder of the 30mph speed limit. It was felt that a device that showed actual speed may be more effective. It was noted that permission would be needed from CWAC. The Clerk agreed to contact Sutton Weaver Parish Council regarding their device. It was agreed that designs and costs would be researched and information considered at the next meeting.

7.2 The Clerk had written to CWAC Head of Highways regarding the poor quality of repairs on Cogshall Lane and Gibb Hill. The Council discussed the response and the follow up information from Highways. It was noted that works would take place in April and that the failure and poor workmanship at Cogshall Lane had been acknowledged by the contractor and it had been agreed to replace all of what was originally laid with a new surface. A site visit by Highways had also identified a number of blocked gullies which would also be addressed. Members noted that since the original works had been carried out, there had been a number of additional potholes on Gibb Hill and the Clerk would write to Highways to ask that these be addressed.

7.3 The Clerk had written to CWAC Highways regarding gulley cleaning. Members noted that the website was unhelpful in terms of providing updates but at the meeting with the CWAC Chief Executive it had been explained that a more informative system was to be introduced imminently.

7.4 Members noted that Traffic Regulation Orders had confirmed that road closures were planned on Warrington Road and Marbury Road later in March to undertake road surface repairs and surface lining. Members would monitor the progress.

(24/18) RESOLVED: that

(a) Designs and costs for alternate speed indicator devices be considered at the next meeting.

(b) The Clerk write to CWAC Highways regarding blocked drains and additional potholes on Gibb Hill and Cogshall Lane and requesting that these be addressed when the original poor repair is made good.

8.0 Recreation Area and Pump Track

8.1 The Chairman updated: following the NTC inspection report it was noted there was a trip hazard by the MUGA court; this had now been filled and painted. The stop tyre on the zip line had been investigated by himself and Councillor Chandler but there was no apparent damage. The recreation area inspection by Rospa was booked for April and the report would be considered in May. The pathway had now started to dry out and the moss around the teen swings and pump track had been sprayed. Members noted that the feature pencils were deteriorating and agreed to seek a quote for their removal and making good the wet pour surface. The replacement legs for the zip wire had been collected and arrangements would be made with Shane Ross to fit the legs.

8.2 The Inspection Reports for January and February were considered; the identified issues had been considered as noted above.

8.3 The Council discussed the vandalism that had damaged one of the benches. The RFO had contacted the insurance company and there was £100 excess to pay, Members agreed to pursue a claim via insurance.

(24/19) RESOLVED: that

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

(b) A quote be sought for the removal of the pencils and making good the wet pour surface.

(c) Shane Ross be confirmed to fit the zip wire legs.

(d) The RFO pursue a claim on the insurance for the cost of a replacement bench.

10. Accounts and financial matters

10.1 The accounts for 30 January 2024 were listed in Appendix 1

10.2 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

10.3 The fete committee had requested the Council pay the deposit for the marquee.

(24/20) RESOLVED: that:

(a) The accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £8,244.23 and £28,616.42 in reserves be noted.

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

(c) The fete deposit of £558 be approved.

11. Projects

The Council discussed commemorations for the 80th Anniversary of D Day. On 6 June there would be a national lighting of beacons; Members agreed to adapt the beacon to read Comberbach so it could be used on other occasions in the future. Councillor McDermott would speak to the bowling club about lighting the beacon. A proposal to hold a free event on Sunday 9 June at the Memorial Hall from 2.00pm – 4.00pm was agreed to include sandwiches and cakes and a brass band; the Bowling Club had agreed to open the bar to enable commemorations to continue after the event. Councillor McDermott would speak to the primary school about making bunting based on the boats used for D Day. The Clerk advised that the Memorial Hall would be available for the day free of charge.

(24/21) RESOLVED: that costs be approved for the D Day commemorations including adapting the beacon; paying for the brass band; and refreshments for the event on 9 June. Approval was also given to a separate flyer to promote the event. Councillor McDermott will liaise with the primary school.

12. Planning

12.1 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3

12.2 There were no enforcement matters.

(24/22) RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

13. Future meeting dates

The proposed list of meeting dates was considered.

(24/23) RESOLVED:

That meetings of the Parish Council be held as set out below:

Tuesdays – 21 May – Annual Parish Meeting at 6.15pm; Annual Meeting of the Council at 6.45pm; and ordinary meetings of the Council – 9 July, 3 September, 15 October, 26 November, 14 January, 11 March.

14. Correspondence

The list of correspondence had been circulated.

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

15. 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**None**

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next meeting of Comberbach Parish Council will be on Tuesday 21 May 2024 at 6.45pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will precede this meeting at 6.15pm

Signed Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 30 January 2024 were approved:

Current account	£8,244.23	Reserves	£28,616.42
Cash book	£36,860.65	Reconciliation:	0

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Power
Synchroprint – Inv 6042, CVN Jan 24	£232.32	LGA 1972 s 111
Groves Town Planning – Inv 2312002, Advice	£200.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Northwich TC – Inv 7332, Inspection Jan 24	£60.00	LGA 1972 s 111
J Ryder – various materials reimbursement	£387.93	LGA 1972 s 111
HAGS – Inv 094270, Replacement Zipwire legs	£1,780.84	LGA 1972 s 111
Shane Ross – Inv 23-04, Winter Maintenance	£450.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Starboard Systems – Inv 5435, Scribe 24/25	£414.72	LGA 1972 s 111

Pre-Authorised Payments

Item	Amount	Power
PAP2322 – NTC Inv 7099, Inspection October 23	£60.00	LGA 1972 s 111

PAP2323 – OJT Tree Services inv 2546	£360.00	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Tesco Mobile, Dec 23	£7.50	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Babble, MSOffice license Dec 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) of planning permission 19/01832/FUL), 31 Senna Lane	Fri 30 Apr 2021	Awaiting decision
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	26 September 2023	Awaiting decision

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		
<u>24/00172/FUL Rear dormer extension and alterations to loft conversion to include new rooflight.</u> - 39 Senna Lane Comberbach	22 January 2024	Awaiting decision
<u>24/00177/FUL - Two storey, part single storey side extension, single storey rear extension, front canopy porch and detached garage to replace existing.</u> 18 Senna Lane Comberbach	23 January 2024	Awaiting decision
<u>24/00342/FUL Proposed single storey side and rear extension</u> - 5 Broadacre Comberbach	20 February 2024	Awaiting decision