

Minutes of the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 September 2024

Present

Councillors:

John Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)

Bill Briggs

Richard Chandler

John Darwin

Bob Holt

Jill Johnston

Denise French (Clerk)

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 and approved from Councillors Cameron and McDermott due to family reasons.

An apology for absence was also received from the RFO, Stephen Penwill, due to family reasons.

Apologies for absence were noted from the Cheshire West and Chester Councillors Gibbon, 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 9 July 2024

(24/48) RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 July 2024 be approved as a correct record.

4. Progress Reports and Updates

4.1 Resilience Plan – the Council welcomed Julie Barnard, Planning & Exercise Officer, Joint Cheshire Emergency Planning Team who was attending to discuss the production of a Resilience Plan. Julie had transferred the contents of the draft Comberbach Plan onto a template which had been circulated for Members to consider.

Members explained their queries which related to concerns about liability and insurance cover should Members of the Parish Council take action in an emergency

such as putting out cones, installing road closure signs, cutting down a fallen tree or driving someone to hospital. Julie explained that a Resilience Plan would not expect anything beyond what a Parish Council would already do in its role of representing and supporting a community. Members asked about the reference in the draft Plan to identifying vulnerable people and asked if this meant the Parish Council should hold a list of specific names and addresses? Julie explained that this did not mean holding individual details but referred to having local knowledge of areas of the village where there may be older people's accommodation etc.

The Plan included details about taking action in the event of a major incident and this would usually be under instruction from the Emergency Planning Team.

Julie advised setting up a What's App group to communicate quickly in any emergency situation.

Members suggested the introduction should be amended to specifically refer to the Council's role in support of the community rather than suggesting the Parish Council was the first point of response in an emergency.

Julie was thanked for her attendance and helpful information.

4.2 Funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cheshire – the Clerk advised that the PCC website stated that the Commissioner and his team were working on his priorities for the coming year and were yet to determine what funds may be available for community groups.

(24/49) RESOLVED: that:

(a) The Resilience Plan be updated based on the discussion at the meeting and considered further at the next meeting.

(b) The information from the PCC be noted.

5.0 Cheshire West and Chester Councillors updates

There were no CWAC Councillors present to give an update.

Members noted that CWAC was currently conducting a consultation on the Design Code. Members commented the consultation was not user-friendly.

6.0 Recreation Area and Pump Track

6.1 The Chairman updated that the Recreation Area remained in a good position. The zip wire posts and stop tyre had now been replaced.

6.2 The recent inspection report was noted.

6.3 The Chairman referred to the annual play inspection held in April using a company that was Rospa licensed. The Parish Council had not conducted an audit of the inspection company to assess value for money for a number of years. It was

proposed that an alternate supplier be contacted for a quote for the cost of an annual inspection. The quarterly inspection regime with Northwich Town Council would continue.

(24/50) RESOLVED: that:

(a) The update and recent inspection be noted.

(b) An alternative supplier be contacted to seek a quote for the cost of an annual inspection of the Recreation Area and be supplied with photos and a description of each piece of equipment.

7. Highways and Streetscene

7.1 Members discussed gulley clearing and the inconsistent cleaning regime that meant gulleys located in the same area were not all cleared at the same time. Members also felt that advice on road closures was often received with short notice. The Clerk mentioned that an online CWAC Connexions event was taking place with Highways on 18 September which Members may like to attend.

7.2 Members welcomed the resurfacing works on Gibb Hill that had taken place the previous week and noted the standard of work.

7.3 The Council discussed wildflower planting and areas where planting may take place.

(24/51) RESOLVED: that

(a) The Clerk write to CWAC Head of Highways regarding inconsistent gulley clearing and short notice of road closures.

(b) The Chair write to Antrobus Parish Council and visit their next meeting to see if their Members would be in agreement to write to CW&C regarding the basis of the costs incurred in repairing the road since 2017.

(c) The Clerk contact CWAC Highways regarding potential wildflower planting on areas fronting a hedge and highway.

8. Accounts and financial matters

8.1 The accounts for 31 July 2024 were listed in Appendix 1

8.2 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

8.3 The Council noted that in accordance with the Financial Regulations and following consultation with the Finance Committee members, a replacement defibrillator was purchased for installation at the Post Office. The existing defibrillator was out of warranty and would require £1,000 to repair. The new defibrillator had an 8 year warranty and CPR pads suitable for both adults and children. The Chairman

said he had returned the old battery and unused pads to the Defib supplier Zoll in case they could be used elsewhere. Members requested a further Defib training session be held.

(24/52) RESOLVED: that:

(a) The accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £24,285.65 and £28,616.42 in reserves be noted.

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

(c) The Clerk investigate a further training session on using a Defibrillator to be open to all residents.

9. Projects

9.1 Christmas Music concert – the Barnton Silver Band had been booked for a Christmas Concert to take place on Saturday 23 November and a deposit had been paid. Members agreed to serve mulled wine and mince pies at the event. It was noted that there would be a limit on numbers based on the fire limit of the building.

9.2 VE Day – VE Day was Thursday 8 May 2025 and communities were encouraged to hold a Beacon Lighting Ceremony as part of a national commemoration. Members discussed holding an event similar to the D Day commemorative event which had been extremely successful and popular. It was agreed to arrange an event on Sunday 11 May 2025.

9.3 Footbridge in Marbury Park – Councillor McDermott had requested the Parish Council considered exploring contributing funding towards the repair/replacement of a foot bridge in Marbury that joins Marbury Park to the Anderton side of the Hollows and meant pedestrians did not have to use the dangerous path along the main road. The Chairman reported that this issue had also been discussed at Anderton with Marbury Parish Council who had not supported using Parish Council resources towards any solution. It was noted that the footbridge was located in AwMPC and stood on land run by CWAC on one side and Forestry England on the other side. For these reasons, Members did not support taking any action.

9.4 There were 3 consultations on the agenda – campaign regarding the safety of Lithium ion Batteries and e-bikes and scooters; Manchester Airport Noise Action Plan (NAP) and CWAC Housing Strategy. Members made no comments.

9.5 Access to broadband

Some residents have been in contact with Councillors about difficulties with connecting to broadband. Members discussed the drop in session organised by Freedom Fibre in November 2023 when it had been confirmed that all houses in Comberbach (excluding some outlying areas) were available for a connection. It was

agreed to write to the Director of Customer Services about the issues some residents were experiencing.

(24/53) RESOLVED: that:

- (a) The details of the Christmas Concert be noted and discussed further at the next meeting.
- (b) The Parish Council will commemorate VE Day 2025 by participating in the Beacon Lighting Ceremony on Thursday 8 May 2025 and will hold a commemorative event on Sunday 11 May, with details to be discussed at future meetings.
- (c) No further action be taken on the footbridge at Marbury Park.
- (d) No action is taken on the campaign regarding Lithium batteries; no comments be made on the Manchester Airport NAP and no comments be made on the CWAC Housing Strategy.
- (e) That the Clerk write to the Director of Customer Services at Freedom Fibre regarding access difficulties experienced by some residents and requesting that the Director contacts the approved Internet Service Providers.

10. Planning

- 10.1 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3
- 10.2 There were no enforcement matters.
- 10.3 The item relating to the dropped kerb on Cogshall Lane would be deferred to the next meeting.
- 10.4 The new owners of the parcel of land fronting The Avenue to the corner of Budworth Lane had contacted the Chairman to say they intended to manage this land for nature. The owners had queried whether the land fronting the gate entrance on Budworth Lane could be left unmown.

(24/54) RESOLVED: That:

- (a) The update be noted.
- (b) The item on a dropped kerb on Cogshall Lane be deferred to the next meeting.
- (c) The owners of the land fronting The Avenue be recommended to contact CWAC Highways regarding their request that the highways land in front of their land be left unmown.

11. Correspondence

The list of correspondence had been circulated.

(24/55) RESOLVED: that the correspondence be noted.

12. Representative Reports

- Comberbach Fete – nothing to update.
- Comberbach Memorial Hall Management Committee – nothing to update.
- Police Liaison – the latest PCSO reports had been circulated. The Clerk had circulated the contact number of the PCSO.
- School Liaison – nothing to update.
- Litterpick – Councillor Johnston updated that there were no coordinated sessions arranged but instead individuals could undertake their own litterpick; there was equipment that could be borrowed. There would be an event in spring to undertake a community litterpick.
- Bowling Club – nothing to update.

13. Exclusion of Public and Press – Part 2

(24/56) 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 item of business due to the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed.

13. Tarmac works at the car park

The Council considered one quote for tarmac works on a small area of the car park.

(24/57) RESOLVED: That no action be taken for the time being.

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

The next meeting of Comberbach Parish Council will be on Tuesday 15 October 2024 at 6.45pm.

Signed
Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 31 July 2024

Current account	£24,285.65	Reserve £28,616.42
Cash book	£52,902.07	Reconciliation: 0

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Power
PKF Littlejohn – External Audit 23/24, inv 0213	£252.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Northwich Town Council – Inspection, inv 7763	£60.00	LGA 1972 s 111
J Ryder – Timber for repairs	£135.05	LGA 1972 s 111
Northwich Town Council – Zipline works, inv 7796	£1,218.00	LGA 1972 s 111

Pre-Authorised Payments

Item	Amount	Power
PAP2413 – HAGS, zipwire beams inv 96988	£654.38	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2414 – Barnton Silver Band, deposit for Nov	£100.00	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2415 – Synchroprint, CVN July inv 6608	£232.32	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2416 – Defib Warehouse, inv 154265	£1,576.80	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Babble, MS Office license Jul 24	£23.50	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Babble, MS Office license Aug 24	£23.50	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Tesco Mobile, Jun 24	£7.50	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Tesco Mobile, Jul 24	£7.50	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
23/03026/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	Approved
24/00177/FUL - <u>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
24/00595/FUL - Relocation of existing equine building and the siting of a new stable block with access track and hardstanding area Land Off Senna Lane, Comberbach	26 February 2024	Awaiting decision
24/00958/FUL - Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling - Resubmission of planning application 23/02023/FUL, Hill View, Hough Lane	28 May 2024	Awaiting decision
24/00647/FUL - steel framed building, Ivy Lodge Farm	3 June 2024	Awaiting decision
24/02049/FUL – single storey garden room, 11 Kennelwood Road	12 July 2024	Awaiting decision
24/01734/FUL - Demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuildings, including removal of the mobile home, and the erection of a replacement dwelling - Brookside Farm, Cogshall Lane	27 June 2024	Awaiting decision