

Minutes of the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 11 March 2025

Present

Councillors:

John Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)
Bill Briggs
Sandy Cameron
Richard Chandler
John Darwin
Bob Holt
Jill Johnston
Val McDermott

Denise French (Clerk)
Stephen Penwill (RFO)

Also present:

CWAC Councillor Phil Marshall
PCSO Di Wiggins

The Meeting started at 6.45pm.

Public Open Forum

There were two members of the public present. They were new residents to the village and interested in getting involved in the community. Members suggested the Village Newsletter for general information and also the Fete Committee. The Clerk would share any relevant details.

PCSO Di Wiggins had shared reports for January and February which had been circulated to all Members. There were no issues in Comberbach. She continued to hold regular police surgeries for residents.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 January 2025

(25/13) RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 January 2025 be approved as a correct record.

4. Progress Reports and Updates

4.1 Resilience Plan – the latest version of the Resilience Plan was circulated. Members identified some minor amendments.

(25/14) RESOLVED: that the Clerk make minor amendments to the Resilience Plan as discussed at the meeting and share it with the CWAC Emergency Coordinator.

5. Cheshire West and Chester Councillors update

Councillor Gibbon had shared a Marbury Ward update by email which the Clerk had circulated. Councillor Marshall referred to the update and the following matters:

- Budget Council – CWAC had approved a budget which would mean a 4.99% increase on Council Tax. The Conservative Group had submitted two amendments as below:
20mph limits outside all schools across Cheshire West & Chester (24 schools will be impacted) - **Agreed**
Additional (£425k) budget allocation for siding out pathways and gully clearance – **Refused**
- The Ward Councillors were to undertake a site visit with the Director of Place. They were also working with officers, Parish Councils, residents and landowners to implement some long-term solutions to the growing number of flooding hot spots across the ward.
- He and Councillor Gibbon had been out and about in the Ward undertaking cleaning of road signs and general tidying. They were happy to help with any Parish Council or locally organised cleaning and litter picking initiatives.
- Devolution plans were progressing including a consultation running to 14 April. An information session had been arranged for Parish Councils later this month.
- CWAC had a number of current consultations on the website.
- The Local Plan was being reviewed.
- There would be a new Members' Budgets programme from 1 April 2025.
- There crowd funding initiative Space Hive was to reopen on 1 April for new applications.

Members thanked the Ward Councillors for their funding support towards the new noticeboard at The Avenue.

6. Recreation Area and Pump Track

6.1 The inspection reports for January and February were noted; the issue with the Zip Wire had been addressed by Northwich Town Council and the Zip Wire was now fully working. The inspections had noted signs of rot on the toddler multi-play unit. The unit had been identified in the budget for replacement. The Chairman and RFO had met with a play design company and indicative costs were within the budget of £10k including installation.

6.2 The inspections had also noted a need to clean the safety surfacing and the Committee approved the purchase of cleaning products.

(25/15) RESOLVED: that:

- (a) the recent inspection reports be noted.
- (b) The purchase of Algon and ProKleen Simply Spray and Walk Away, be approved at a total cost of £120.

7. Accounts and financial matters

7.1 The accounts for 28 February 2025 were listed in Appendix 1.

7.2 The updated Asset Register was considered.

7.3 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

7.4 The Council considered the purchase of a new noticeboard for The Avenue, the previous noticeboard had been maintained but was now damaged beyond repair. Funding of £500 had been received from the CWAC Ward Members towards the cost.

7.5 The Council considered the payment for the Barnton Silver Band who were performing at the VE Day commemoration events.

7.6 The Council considered annual subscriptions. It was noted that the Council usually subscribed to Cheshire Association of Local Councils, Cheshire Community Action, CPRE the Countryside Charity, the Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society. The Council also supported membership for the Clerk and the RFO of the Society of Local Council Clerks and paid the annual fee to the Information Commissioner.

(25/16) RESOLVED: that:

- (a) The accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £13,031.95 and £28,916.95 in reserves be noted.
- (b) The updated Asset Register be approved.
- (c) The list of payments in Appendix 2 be approved.
- (d) The budget of £710 for the purchase of a new noticeboard for The Avenue, be approved.
- (e) The payment of £150 for the Barnton Silver Band be approved.
- (f) The annual subscriptions to the organisations as listed be approved - Cheshire Association of Local Councils, Cheshire Community Action, CPRE the Countryside Charity, the Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society, SLCC and Information Commissioner.

8. Highways and Streetscene

8.1 The Chairman referred to pothole repairs on Warrington Road. Two large potholes had been marked along with a number of others but the two large potholes

had not been repaired at the same time as the others. This had been discussed with CWAC Councillor Marshall during his update and he had recommended contacting CWAC Head of Highways and the Director.

8.2 The latest SID data was considered, this was from October 2024 and January 2025, on both occasions the SID had been placed on The Avenue where the speed limit was 30mph. The average speed was 32 mph with 45% doing speeds of between 30-35 mph and around a quarter of vehicles were recorded as having speeds of over 35mph. There were 8% of vehicles travelling at over 40 mph.

(25/17) RESOLVED: that:

- (a) the Clerk contact the CWAC Head of Highways and the Director of Place regarding the issue of potholes on Warrington Road that were marked but not repaired including sending photos to show the issue. The Clerk to also ask for a progress update on the suggestion made at the Marbury Ward meeting on 28 February 2024 that road crews have an element of discretion when out doing repairs based on the conditions they find on the day.
- (b) The SID data be received and noted.

9. Projects

9.1 The 80th Anniversary of VE Day was on 8 May. The Memorial Hall was booked for the evening of 8 May and Barnton Silver Band was booked. The beacon would be lit and it was agreed to buy a 'tilley lamp' to use as a lamp light of peace. There would be light refreshments and display of memorabilia. The budget was £1000. The Clerk would complete the Event form for CWAC. The event would be publicised on the website, noticeboards and in the Village Newsletter.

9.2 The Defib training session was now confirmed for Saturday 22 March between 10.00am and 12 noon and would be publicised.

9.3 Members considered participating in the Great British Spring Clean taking place between 21 March – 6 April. It was felt that as residents often undertook their own litter picking and the timescales were short, to not take part.

9.4 It was noted that Anderton with Marbury Parish Council had arranged an open meeting regarding funding for a replacement for Hopyards Bridge. The Parish Council had previously indicated its support towards the use of fundraising. Members agreed to wait for any formal approach to the Parish Council.

(25/18) RESOLVED: that

- (a) The arrangements for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day be noted and that approval be granted for purchase of decals for lampposts, a tilley style lamp, memorabilia and refreshments.
- (b) The arrangements for the Defib training session be noted.

(c) No action is taken on the Great British Spring Clean.

(d) The meeting about Hopyards Bridge be noted.

10. Governance

The Council considered including a provision in the Standing Orders that a Chairman's term of office should not exceed three years. This had been discussed with Chalc who advised that the provision could be included but the Council could not be bound by the wording as the law required a Chairman to be appointed annually.

(25/19) RESOLVED: that no action be taken on amending the Standing Orders to include a provision relating to the Chairman's term of office.

11. Planning

11.1 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3. There was one current appeal.

11.2 There were no enforcement matters.

(25/20) RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

12. Correspondence

The list of correspondence had been circulated.

(25/21) RESOLVED: that the correspondence be noted. Councillors Johnston and McDermott agreed to attend the meeting with CWAC on 26 March.

13. Representative Reports

- Comberbach Memorial Hall Management Committee – Councillor McDermott said no issues had been raised with her.
- Police Liaison – the updates from the PCSO had been circulated and she had attended earlier.
- Comberbach Fete – a new Fete Committee had now been formed and was progressing the arrangements.
- School Liaison – Councillor McDermott had contacted the school about the VE Day commemorations to encourage involvement.
- Bowling Club – a new Chair had been appointed and the Club was ready to open for the new season.

14. Exclusion of Public and Press – Part 2

(25/22) 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.

15. Grounds maintenance

The Council considered a report on appointing a contractor to undertake grounds maintenance for the next three years.

(25/23) RESOLVED: that Shane Ross be appointed to provide grounds maintenance services to the Parish Council for the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2028.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next meeting of Comberbach Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 6.45pm. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held prior to this at 6.15pm.

Signed
Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 28 February 2025

Current account	£13,031.95	Reserve	£28,916.95
Cash book	£41,948.90	Reconciliation:	0

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Power
CPRE – Subscription 25/26	£60.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Northwich Town Council – Jan inspection, inv 8209	£60.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Synchroprint – CVN Jan 25, inv 7287	£199.40	LGA 1972 s 111
S Penwill - replacement laptop	£895.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Northwich Town Council – Zip Line repair inv 8227	£708.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Starboard Systems – Scribe Accounts 25/26 inv 9115	£414.72	LGA 1972 s 111
J Ryder – VE Day and maintenance costs	£91.28	LGA 1972 s 111
Shane Ross – 4 th payment for maintenance work	£600	LGA 1972 s 111
Barnton Silver Band deposit	£75.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Barnton Silver Band balance	£75.00	LGA 1972 s 111

Pre-Authorised Payments

Item	Amount	Power
PAP2419, R Chandler, Grit Salt	£23.95	LGA 1972 s 111
PAP2420 – TWM Traffic Control Systems, SID repair inv 929	£354.19	LGA 1972 s 111

DD – Babble, MS Office license Jan 25	£23.50	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Tesco Mobile, Dec 24	£7.50	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Babble, MS Office license Feb 25	£23.50	LGA 1972 s 111
DD – Tesco Mobile, Jan 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, <u>Single storey side and rear extension and creation of first floor</u> (Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (materials) of planning permission 19/01832/FUL), 31 Senna Lane	Fri 30 Apr 2021	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	Approved
24/02049/FUL – single storey garden room, 11 Kennelwood Road	12 July 2024	Approved

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	Refused, appeal submitted
24/03284/TPO - 1x Maple - crown reduce by 1m back to previous cuts. 2 x Oak - crown reduce by 1.5m back to previous cuts and crown lift to 5m. Small area of field Maples - reduce back into former hedgerow – 2 Freshfields	4 November 2024	Approved
24/03344/FUL - Single storey side and rear extension including alterations to roof and installation of rooflights - 57 Senna Lane	7 November 2024	Approved
25/00071/FUL - Single storey side extension, front canopy porch, alterations to window/door openings, partial cladding/render finish to elevations – 5 Broadacre	3 February 2025	Awaiting decision