Draft until signed

Minutes of Combs Parish Council Meeting
Monday 12th October 2015 at 7.30pm, Battisford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battisford

Present: S Scarff (Chairman), D Thorpe (Councillor), D Stephens-Row (Councillor), T Whitehead (Councillor), J Crooks (Councillor)

Attending: S Meech (Clerk), Cllr J Truelove (County Councillor)

1. Apologises for absence

S Reynard (Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Crooks – Item 9 (a) (i) – Copelands, Little London

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th September 2015

Agreed and signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting

4. Matters arising from minutes

Cllr Crooks advises that the location of all benches has been resolved, however, a location still needs to be agreed. The triangle of grass opposite Hill House at the junction with Little London (Badley Lane/Moats Tye junction) is a consideration. Cllr Truelove is to clarify this location with the highways officer.

5. Public Forum

No public in attendance

6. Country Councillors Report

See Appendix 1

Cllr Truelove does advise that there have been no reports of any issues with Prospect Place since the last parish meeting. **Action –** Martin Render from the Community Heartbeat Trust to be invited to next parish meeting to discuss defibrillation machines

7. District Councillors Report

No apologises or report received from Cllr Whybrow

8. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Nothing to report

9. Planning

a. Applications received for consideration

i. 3031/15 – Copelands, Little London, Combs IP14 2ES – Erection of an annexe – All councillors agree objection for planning application due to feeling the size of the annexe is too large for the site, overdevelopment of the site and the annexe is more like a separate dwelling than an annexe and this would not normally be allowed within planning rules

b. Decisions received from MSDC

i. 2692/15 – Tannery Cottage, Combs – Granted

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ii. 1509/15 – 4 Fens Cottages, Combs Lane, Combs – Granted

10. Finance

a. Accounts review to date

b. Payments received – None received

c. Payments to hand

i. Battisford Village Hall Management – Hall Hire - £120.00 - Cllr Crook proposes payment, Cllr Thorpe seconds. All councillors agree payment. Chq No. 022060 written and signed

ii. Clerks Salary and Expenses - £245.86 – Cllr Thorpe proposes payment, Cllr Crooks seconds. All councillors agree payment. Chq No. 022061 written and signed

17. (b/f) Vice Chairman

Cllr Scarff (Chairman) asked for nominations for the role of Vice Chairman. Cllr Thorpe proposed Cllr Stephens-Rows, Cllr Whitehead seconded this. Cllr Stephens-Row confirms he is willing to stand as Vice Chairman. The Parish Councillors voted and all agreed for Cllr Stephens-Row to be Vice Chairman.

11. Signatories for bank account

All councillors agree that old signatories need to be removed from the bank account and that the newly nominated Vice Chairman (Cllr Stephens-Row) and Cllr Whitehead should be added as new signatories. **Action** – Clerk to arrange an appointment at the bank for Cllr Stephens-Row and Cllr Whitehead to be added to bank account as signatories

12. Standing order for clerks salary

Cllr Thorpe proposes the setting up a monthly standing order to pay the parish clerk's salary, this is seconded by Cllr Crooks. All councillors agree to standing order of £199.49 per month.

13. ID for bank account change of address

Cllr Scarff and Cllr Thorpe provide clerk with copies of their passports in order for the address to be changed on the parish council bank account. **Action –** Clerk to send this information off to bank

14. Transparency Code application for funding

S Meech (Clerk) and Cllr Whitehead explain briefly about the funding available to local parish councils following the introduction of the Transparency Code for smaller authorities in April 2015. All councillors agree that funding should be applied for. **Action –** Application process to be investigated before next meeting

15. Dog bin – Little London – Cllr Crooks

Cllr Crooks wanted to query as to whether we could get a dog litter bin fitted and how much it would be for one to be placed on the corner of Halfpenny Hall in Little London where footpath 42a meets the road on the bend. It was also raised as to whether the dog little bin close to the new bench on Scothes Corner could be relocated by 15 yards. **Action –** Clerk to raise both queries with Mid Suffolk District Council

16. Insurance Documents

Councillors review and are happy with insurance documents. **Action** – Clerk to enquire as to how insurance is paid for as no invoice received

18. Combs cemetery update and regulation review including Christmas wreaths

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Cllr Stephens-Row informs the parish council that every grave has now been turfed and just a few letters need to be forwarded out for grave owners to collect or arrange delivery of items removed. There has been positive feedback received from grave owners at the cemetery including some thanks and congratulations at the action that the parish council have taken. Cllr Stephens-Row advises that an amendment on the regulations regarding Christmas wreaths will need to be made.

19. St Marys Churchyard

Cllr Scarff advises that he is hoping that Rev C Childs will be able to attend a parish council meeting to discuss plans for St Marys Churchyard. Cllr Scarff has been looking through paperwork and the maintenance of St Marys Churchyard was signed over to Combs Parish Council in 1995 which includes paths, footpaths and driveways but is for just maintenance and not improvement. The skip is currently unsightly in the churchyard but the skip hire company were unable to remove it due to a bollard being erected. **Action** - Cllr Scarff is to meet with Rev C Childs to discuss plans over the skip and whether once removed it should be replaced with some bins

9.07pm Cllr Stephens-Row vacates meeting

20. Correspondence

All forwarded by email.

21. Any other business raised by councillors for inclusion on the next agenda

- Pension information from Cllr Whitehead
- Payment to hand for turf
- Christmas wreath proposal
- Combs sign repair at Mill Lane Corner
- Anglia Water repairs in front of Rosemount
- Highways update on Willow Tree at the front of Red House

22. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 9th November 2015

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

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Appendix 1

PARISH REPORT OCTOBER 2015 BOSMERE DIVISION

County Councillor Julia Truelove

DEVOLUTION BID

The Government, whilst not rejecting the Suffolk led bid for devolution has now directed the County to work with Norfolk on joint proposals. Meetings between cross- County Councillors have taken place, hosted by the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership. The current deadline for submitting proposals is now October 22nd. The Government will consider which bids will go forward to be announced at the Exchequer's autumn statement. S.C.C.'s leader, Colin Noble has said 'Devolution is all about making government services more efficient'.

ROAD WORKS IN THE DIVISION

I remain concerned about some issues relating to the recently completed broadband works to establish connection to Wattisham Air Base and now the long awaited project by Anglian Water to replace much needed water repairs through Barking. Both have needed many weeks to complete. They have affected close and nearby residents, who are still having to travel along diversionary routes, confused by road signing, and not knowing when the road will be open. I am also concerned about these two lengthy projects being undertaken one after the other, both affecting many residents with little respite. I am following up the 'lessons learned' from the broad band project, expressed by Somersham Parish Council and reporting issues causing concern at Barking.

TRAVELLERS SHORT TERM SITES SOUGHT

S.C.C. is working with District Councils across the County to establish three short-term sites for travellers following problems arising from them occupying unofficial encampments. The sites are sought in the north of the County, the Ipswich area and in west Suffolk. Without official transit sites in place, it is more difficult for councils to get the legal powers to move travellers on. It is hoped that sites will be identified by the end of the year so that unlawful occupation can be avoided.

RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROPOSALS UNDER SCRUTINY

Proposed changes in the running of rural transport facilities such as dial-a-ride, Suffolk links and community car services which is currently funded through grants and contracts were discussed at the recent Cabinet meeting. It is reported that the current level of anticipated funding would increase by £570,000 each year and was not sustainable. However, the proposals were called in for scrutiny and rejected. The loss of yet more rural transport amenities was the main reason. The proposals will now be considered again at Cabinet.

COURTS CLOSURES PROPOSALS

S.C.C. unanimously supported a motion debated at the recent full Council meeting objecting to the potential closure of two magistrates' courts in Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft. The long distances people would have to travel and the loss of equality reflected in the need to ensure locally administered justice were amongst the reasons given. S.C.C. would become the worst served in the Country with one magistrate's court covering 1,466 square miles.

COUNTY COUNCILS EXTENDED PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES

Public health responsibilities for the under fives have now transferred to local government. This completes the joined up pathway between education, social care and health services at key points in children's lives up to age 19. Children and young people with special education needs are now supported up to age 25. Health visitors, family nurses and school nurses will continue to develop further their important role in helping the transition. It is recognised that strong partnership across the services is needed and should underpin working and understanding the needs of local communities.