Draft until signed

Minutes of Combs Parish Council Meeting
Monday 8th February 2016 at 7.30pm, Battisford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battisford

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

Attending: S Meech (Clerk), Cllr J Truelove (County Councillor), Cllr D Whybrow (District Councillor), Mrs Pepper (Public)

1. Apologises for absence

D Thorpe (Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Scarff – Item 13 – Combs Fete

Cllr Whitehead – Item 9 a) i) & 9 b) i) – White House Farm

3. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 18th January 2016

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

4. Matters arising from minutes

No matters arising from minutes

5. Public Forum

Member of public attending for item 9 a) i) – brought forward

9. (b/f) Planning

a. Applications received for consideration

i. 4406/15 – White House Farm, Moats Tye, Combs IP14 2EY – To illuminate horse area for recreational use – comments to be considered

Parishioner concerns are that the area is very dark where the ménage is located and that the skyline will be spoilt. Part of rural living is dark nights with no light pollution. It is felt that it is unnecessary to ride so late into the evening and even a very large livery in Mendlesham Green has lights out by 9pm, the livery for this planning application is much smaller. Concerns are also raised over the effect that could occur to wildlife within the area such as owls or bats that may be flying at dusk. It is a concern that if this planning application is agreed it could set a precedent for other applications. All councillors object to the planning application. **Action –** Clerk to submit consultee comments to MSDC advising that excessive breakout of light could create a loss of amenity to neighbouring properties and have a negative impact on the ecological biodiversity of the surrounding area.

b. Decisions received from MSDC

i. 2680/15 – White House Farm, Moats Tye, Combs IP14 2EY – Proposed conversion of brick outbuilding and barn to single dwelling with link in between – Granted

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ii. 4161/15 – Little London Cottage, Little London, IP14 2ES – Erection of ground mounted PV solar system - Granted

6. County Councillors Report

See Appendix 1

The slow down speed sign that is now in the village of Combs was funded by Cllr Trueloves locality budget and she believes that it will have to be moved around villages within the area and that parish councils will fund the money to aid removal.

Action – As an application of £2,000 has been accepted from Cllr Trueloves locality budget she would therefore like Combs Parish Council to move forward with the installation of the defibrillation machine and to arrange the relevant training.

7. District Councillors Report

See Appendix 2

Action – Cllr Whybrow to investigate section 106 as Combs Parish Council have previously attempted to claim monies from this without success

8. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Cllr Scarff has contacted the police regarding some concerns with vandalism and congregations of cars at the cemetery and cars parking inappropriately. The police have advised that they regularly patrol the village and any issues raised will be investigated.

10. Finance

a. **Accounts review to date**
b. **Payments received** – None received
c. **Payments to hand**
   i. Stowmarket Skip Hire - £135.00 – Cllr Crooks proposes payment and Cllr Reynard seconds. All councillors agree payment. Cheque Number: 022074 – written and signed
   ii. SALC – Training – Cllr Stephens-Row - £120.00 – Cllr Whitehead proposes payment and Cllr Crooks seconds. All councillors agree payment. Cheque Number - 022075 written and signed.
   iii. Battisford Parish Council – Donation for play area - £100.00 – Donation agreed at meeting on 18th January 2016. Cheque Number – 022076 written and signed.

11. Transparency fund application accepted

Clerk advises Combs Parish Council that their application for funding under the transparency code has been accepted by NALC and monies applied for have been paid into Combs Parish Council bank account.

12. Purchase of laptop from transparency fund monies

Clerk advises Combs Parish Council that now the money has been transferred to the bank account from the transparency fund a laptop for Combs Parish Council needs

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to be ordered. **Action –** Clerk to research relevant laptop for parish clerk role and Cllr Scarff to order a laptop up to the value of £349.00

13. Combs Fete

Cllr Scarff wanted to raise awareness of the Combs Fete with Combs Parish Council and hope that near the time they will offer some support for the fete.

14. Receipt of precept

Clerk advises Combs Parish Council that she has received confirmation from MSDC that their precept application has been received and accepted.

15. Defibrillation application

Clerk advises Combs Parish Council that their application of £2,000 from Cllr Truelove's locality budget has been accepted. Cllr Scarff proposes the purchase of a defibrillation machine for installation in the parish of Combs, Cllr Stephens-Row seconds the payment and all councillors agree to payment. **Action** - Clerk to order a defibrillation machine from Community Heartbeat Trust.

Action – Clerk to send quotation received from Community Heartbeat Trust for defibrillation machine to all councillors.

Action – Cllr Reynard and Cllr Whitehead to investigate and organise training session for defibrillation training for the community – date, booking hall, arranging for all of Combs Parish Council to attend, refreshments, promotion, publicity, flyers etc.

Action – Cllr Scarff and Cllr Stephens-Row to liaise with Martin Render for discussion over installation and location of defibrillation machine

16. Rooks Nest Letter

Action – Cllr Crooks and Cllr Whitehead to draft a letter for clerk to send out

17. Graveyard

Action – Cllr Scarff and Cllr Stephens-Row to arrange a meeting with Stowmarket Town Council at St. Marys Churchyard to arrange a topple test. Ann Cole has been chasing for a topple test before an egg hunt at the church, it has been too wet previously to have organised this sooner.

18. Lights out Moats Tye phone box

Cllr Stephens-Row advises that this light was working on his way to the meeting tonight.

19. Groves/Waspes footpath broken tread

Action – Clerk to email Cllr Thorpe to see if this has been reported as more treads appear to be broken

20. Highways Issues

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Some improvements have been made at the junction of Burnt House Lane with Mill Lane, although, some issues are still there. **Action** – Clerk to report issues online to MSDC

21. Queens 90th birthday celebrations

Clerk advises Combs Parish Council that Battisford Parish Council are considering an event for the queens 90th birthday celebration in June 2016, dates do not clash with the Combs fete and Combs Parish Council will consider whether they are interested in getting involved if more firm plans are arranged.

22. Refuse Collection – St Marys Churchyard

All councillors agree to keep the refuse collection as it currently is at St Marys Churchyard as it appears to be working well. **Action –** Clerk to forward email received from MSDC regarding collection dates for refuse at St Marys Churchyard to Cllr Scarff

23. Correspondence

All circulated

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

None

25. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 14th March 2016

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Appendix 1

PARISH REPORT FEBRUARY 2016 BOSMERE DIVISION
County Councillor Julia Truelove

BUDGET PROPOSALS

SUFFOLK C.C.S Cabinet met on Tuesday 26th January. Amongst agenda items presented were the revenue Budget 2016-2017 and the capital program for 2016-19. The level of savings being targeted over the next two years totals £73 million. Major issues which have be addressed include the implementation of the single state pension from 2016, the cost of the new demand in adult care services due to the increasing complexity of care needs and the new, 'National Living Wage'

Amongst the savings proposals concerning the public , are the Fire Authority's proposals to close one fire station and remove some functional fire engines at others. This proposal is under consultation as is the closure of the Park and Ride at Copdock.

County Councillor's locality budgets will be reduced from the present annual £12,000 to £10,000 in 2016/17 and £8.000 in 2017/18.

S.C.C.'s Council Tax 2% increase, specifically to fund increased social care costs is proposed, whilst the freeze on general council tax rates has been maintained. The County Council input into the council tax will be £17-50 a year for a Band B property.

The Budget Proposals will be debated at the forthcoming meeting of the full council on Thursday February 11th.

NEW SCHOOLS IN SUFFOLK

The Cabinet agreed the proposals to build seven new primary schools for nearly 1,500 pupils to be opened in 2018 or 2019. Two new schools are proposed for Ipswich, others across the County

including Stowmarket where the Cedars Park school has long been over subscribed. Two new schools are also proposed for children with special needs.

INITIAL FEEDBACK FROM OFSTED INSPECTION RELATING TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND THOSE LEAVING CARE.

The inspection started on 23rd Nov.2015 and concluded on 17th December. The report will not be published until mid-February. However all areas were inspected to cover what is working well and what needs improving. Rigour is needed and apparently exercised, as some of the children 'in care' have complex needs.

SUFFOLK'S G.C.S.E. AND A LEVEL RESULTS RISE

For the first time in several years, G.C.S.E., A level academic and vocational qualifications are above the national average. Suffolk's results have increased by 2.08% from last year. The rise in the overall league table out of 151 Local Authorities is from125 up to 106.

Appendix 2

Report to Combs Parish Council for Full Council Meeting on Monday 8th February 2016 From David Whybrow, Mid Suffolk District Councillor.

1.0 Planning (since last written report 14th December 2015 to date of report)

1.1 Validated

1.1.1 5, Model Farm, Park Road, Combs IP14 2JG

Reference 4145/15

Installation of exernal flue to serve wood burner and installation of external boiler and oil tank to serve oil fired central heating (Listed Building Consent)

Validated 1 December 2015

Consultation Expiry 6 January 2016

Target Determination 26 January 2016

1.1.2 5, Model Farm, Park Road, Combs IP14 2JG

Reference 4255/15

Installation of exernal flue to serve wood burner and installation of external boiler and oil tank to serve oil fired central heating (Full Planning Permission)

Validated 2 December 2015

Consultation Expiry 6 January 2016

Target Determination 27 January 2016

1.1.3 Fenns Farm, Bildeston Road, Combs IP14 2JZ

Reference 4434/15

Repair existing cracked render and associated timber repairs. Raise up chimney and add a chimney pot. Replace modern windows. Add new layer to thatch. (Listed Building Consent) Validated 18 December 2015

Consultation Expiry 10 February 2016

Target Determination 12 February 2016

1.1.4 Fenns Farm, Bildeston Road, Combs IP14 2JZ Reference 4433/15

Repair existing cracked render and associated timber repairs. Raise up chimney and add a chimney pot. Replace modern windows. Add new layer to thatch. (Full Planning Permission) Validated 18 December 2015

Consultation Expiry 3 February 2016

Target Determination 12 February 2016

1.1.5 White House Farm, Moats Tye, Combs IP14 2EY Reference 4406/15

To illuminate horse exercise area for recreational use. (Full Planning

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Permission)

Validated 7 January 2016

Consultation Expiry 10 February 2016

Target Determination 03 March 2016

1.2 Decisions

1.2.1 Windy Ridge, Park Road, Combs IP14 2JR

Reference 3990/15

6 Oak trees – raise canopy to approximately 20' above road level and trim back lower branches from over pavement. Validated 10 November 2015

Target Determination 22 December 2015

Decision made 17 December 2015

Planning Permission has been Granted

1.2.2 White House Farm, Moats Tye IP14 2EY

Reference 2680/15

Proposed conversion of brick outbuilding and barn to single dwelling with link between (Full Planning Permission) Validated 14 August 2015

Consultation Expiry 29 December 2015

Target Determination 19 October 2015 Decision made 8 January 2016

Planning Permission has been Granted

(Listed Building Consent Granted previously)

1.4.2 Little London Cottage, Little London, Combs IP14 2ES

Reference 4161/15

Erection of ground mounted solar PV system

Validated 25 November 2015

Consultation Expiry 23 December 2015

Target Determination 20 January 2016 Decision made 07 January 2016

Planning Permission has been Granted

1.3 Appeals

1.3.1 High View, Little London, Combs IP14 2ES

APP/W3520/W/3134858 (previously 1874/15)

Appeal against refusal of planning permission

Lodged Date 18 September 2015

Validated Date 13 November 2015

Appeal process ongoing

1.4 Other Planning matters

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At the Full Parish Council Meeting held on 18th January 2016 a query was raised regarding whether Planning Permission had been sought or was required for the ground mounted PV array installation erected in the meadow adjacent to Yew Tree Cottage, Mill Lane, Combs. IP14 2NF. I have made an enquiry of the Planning Department but am yet to receive a response.

2.0 "One-off" Mid Suffolk Locality Award Programme.

I was extremely disappointed at the response to this initiative within the Ringshall Ward. There was up to £5,000 available for award. This was an opportunity for not-for profit groups or organisations to receive direct financial support for their activities – the qualification criteria was very wide and the application process was simple. The only application received from within Combs parish was from Battisford & District Cricket Club which was successful.

3.0 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

At a Full Council meeting in January Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was adopted. CIL is a framework to collect funds for infrastructure from new developments. From the 11th of April this year MSDC will charge CIL on residential and convenience retail developments in the district, collecting between £50 and £115 in CIL per square metre of floor space depending on the type, size and location of the development.

This will work alongside contributions collected under Section 106 of the Town and County Planning Act and will deliver a clearer and more transparent system for funding infrastructure, providing clear information on costs to both developers and the local authority throughout the development process. MSDC will be responsible for managing the CIL funding.

CIL will give the District Council a predictable funding stream that allows councillors to plan ahead more effectively, while giving developers much more certainty from the start about costs they would expect. As a result of development communities will receive a direct allocation of either 15% or 25% of the CIL funds. Great Bricett Parish Council will receive allocation at 15% of the CIL for development in the parish.

The proposals for CIL in Mid Suffolk have been through a strict planning process, including consultations, engagement and an examination by an examiner appointed by the Planning Inspectorate who described the evidence informing Mid Suffolk's charging schedule as "robust, proportionate and appropriate".

Developments on Mid Suffolk's Strategic Sites will continue to collect funds via Section 106 payments rather than CIL.

4. You can leave your cap on.

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has launched a campaign to encourage residents to recycle the aluminium screw tops from glass bottles such as wine, spirits and cooking ingredients, along with the glass bottles on which they came.

The 'Leave Your Cap On' campaign aims to increase the recycling of aluminium screw tops and collars by encouraging people to screw the tops back onto the empty glass bottles before taking them to one of the 1500 glass recycling banks located throughout Suffolk.

The 'Leave Your Cap On' campaign highlights the importance of recycling the aluminium closures which, like all aluminium and glass packaging are 100% recyclable; so every screw top and bottle deposited in a glass bank can be transformed into something new, including more bottles, metal packaging, mobile phones and even car parts.

So when you next recycle your empties remember you can 'Leave Your Cap On.'

5. Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk.

Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk is an independent charity, reliant on grants and donations. Mid Suffolk District Council provides an annual grant to the CAB to help them provide their important advice services to meet the needs of the most vulnerable within our communities. Mid Suffolk CAB has provided their free, confidential and impartial advice service to nearly 3,000 clients in the past 12 months.

During the first 9 months of 2015/16 they have helped residents living in the MSDC Ringshall Ward resolve 125 issues by providing them with free help and advice.

For your further information I've attached a copy of the Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk News. This issue provides you with a detailed insight into the range of problems they helped the residents and workers across Mid Suffolk resolve during 2015.

6.0 Town and Parish Newsletter for January 2016

I've appended the above to this report for your information.

7.0 Conclusion

I trust the forgoing is informative and relevant.

Finally, if there are specific matters that you would like me to investigate or report on – just ask.

Contacts details as follows:

david.whybrow@midsuffolk.gov.uk david@dswhybrow.com
07799 068 926

Or visit me at The Old Rectory, Stowmarket Road, Ringshall. IP14 2HZ

8.0 Appendices

- MSDC Town and Parish Newsletter January 2016
- MSCAB newsletter Jan 16

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