Minutes of Combs Parish Council Meeting
Monday 12 January at 7.30pm, Battisford Community Centre

Present: Cllr D Eade (Vice Chair), Cllr J. Henson, Cllr S. Scarff; Cllr J. Crooks, Cllr T Durrant
Also present: District Cllr P Godden, County Cllr Truelove, Mrs A New (Clerk)

1. **Apologies –** Cllr I Clark (Chair), Cllr S Reynard, Matt Brown [Community Police Team]

2. **Declarations of Interest –** Cllr Eade, item 12(ii) 3912/14 – 4 Combs Green

3. **Public Forum**
No members of the public were present

4. **Community Police Team Report**
The report was circulated in PC Brown's absence. No crimes had been reported.

5. **County Councillor**
Cllr Truelove informed the Cllrs on the revised mechanism for reporting issues to Highways. The clerk to feedback to Cllr Truelove on any process delays.

6. **District Councillor**
Cllr Godden circulated her report emphasising MSDC had been shortlisted as a housing zone (unlocking brown fill sites) and transformation funds for Suffolk wide schemes had been agreed.
Babergh & MSDC policy on banning sky lanterns and balloons was noted and it was agreed by all Cllrs that a note would be put on the Combs website and an additional paragraph relating to the banning added to the cemetery regulations.

7. **Approve Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 8 December 2014**
The minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

8. **Matters arising from previous minutes**
Item 9b – Reports from Councillors – Cllr Scarf informed the meeting that the next Combs Village Fete would be held on 4 July 2015.
Item 17 - Any Other items **–** change of venue. The Clerk reported that St Mary's hall, Combs did not have availability for the sessions Combs Parish Council required for their meetings.

9. **Reports from Councillors**
a. Visits and meetings – None reported.
b. Matters raised for information and attention: Cllr Scarf reported on the Combs Church Carol Service which had been well attended.
Cllr Crooks queried the timing of street lights and whether they were linked to timers, indicating they were on all through the night. It was suggested the lights were sensor and not time linked. Cllr Scarf commented on the new improved street lighting at Gt Finborough. The clerk to make inquiries as to whether they had been funded by the Parish or District Council. The clerk to report the street light at Combs Green as not working. The clerk to contact Highways/MSDC for update on outstanding issues. A large pothole on Poplar Hill to be reported as a new and urgent incident. .

10. **Report from the Parish Clerk.** The Clerk had contacted MSDC to request an officer attend a future Parish Council meeting to talk about potential benefits from the Community Infrastructure Levy (as recommended by Cllr Godden). Their advice was to wait until the end of the second consultation (end of February) when formal financial details had been agreed. The clerk to contact the Business Support Team in March.

11. **Correspondence received: <u>(a) Post</u>; <u>(b) e-mails</u>**
Correspondence received was noted.

12. **Planning**
(a) Consider applications received:
(i**) 3730/14 – Kersey Hall –** No comment
(ii) **3912/14 – 4 Combs Green** – Comment to include concern regarding access during the build with limited access for lorries/skips

(b) Decisions made by MSDC – **1528/14 Ebbs House, Bildeston Road** – Consent given.

13. Finance

a. Current balance - Reports were circulated and discussed.

b. Payments received - £80.00 Cemetery fees.

c. Approve payment of invoices received.

(i) Clerks Salary and expenses of £179.00 was due. Cllr Durrant proposed this be paid, seconded by Cllr Scarf. All Cllrs were in favour. Chq no. 022022 was written and signed.

(ii) HMRC clerks tax was due - £40.60. Cllr Durrant proposed this be paid, seconded by Cllr Scarf. All Cllrs were in favour. Chq no.022023 was written and signed.

d. Charity requests – (i) Headway – declined at this time. (ii) St Elizabeth's Hospice – declined financial support at this time but agreed to support in other ways where possible i.e. forwarding used ink cartridges as indicated in their letter.

14. Parish Polls Consultation

The Clerk to respond with confirmation that the paper had been read and discussed at today's meeting.

15. 2015 budget

Cllr Clark had circulated a revised draft. The costings were discussed at length with justification for the increases agreed by all present at this meeting. Cllr Eade recommended agreement of the draft with the proposal that any additional funding needed during the course of the year for extraordinary expense could be covered by surplus funds. Cllr Henson proposed agreement, seconded by Cllr Durrant. All Councillors agreed. Cllr Henson requested that acknowledgement be given to Cllr Clark for his work in preparing the figures. All Councillors were in agreement.

16. Ipswich to Peterborough Passenger Rail Service Consultation

The Councillors requested that the response to this consultation includes a comment on raised concerns regarding potential closure of level crossings in the area, affecting many village residents. The Clerk to respond via the website.

17. Burial Grounds: (a) Combs Cemetery (i) Cemetery Regulations (b) St Mary's Churchyard

(a) The clerk to feedback at the next meeting on response to the letters sent regarding regulation compliance.

(b) The clerk to arrange skip removal.

17. Any other items [for inclusion on the next Agenda]

Cllr Henson reported on the new link to Neighbourhood Watch - Malcolm McKessar, Community Watch Liaison Officer, (Mid-Suffolk Region). Neighbourhood Watch signs had been requested and it was agreed by Cllr Crooks that he would replace and install new signs, to be provided by Cllr Henson. Cllr Scarf suggested Cllr Henson man a stall at the village fete in July to promote Neighbourhood Watch with possible police representation.

18. Date of next meeting – Monday 9 February 2015, at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm