Minutes of Combs Parish Council Meeting
Monday 13 October 2014 at 7.30pm, Battisford Community Centre

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

1. **Apologies –**had sent apologies Community Police Team and County Councillor Truelove.

2. **Declarations of Interest –** Cllr Clark declared an interest in item 11c.iii.

3. **Public Forum –**There were no members of the public attending.

12. Item 12 was bought forward as Cllr Clark requested dedicated time to discuss issues concerning regulations.

Burial Grounds

a. Combs Cemetery

(i) Combs Parish Council had received complaints from members of the public regarding potential non-compliance of cemetery regulations. Some headstones, surrounds and statues did not meet with regulations. Whilst some work had been carried out to address previous complaints there was still many areas which appear to be in conflict with public opinion as to the standard acceptable to the Parish. The Parish Council noted that overall the cemetery is in a neat and tidy order. All Councillors agreed that whilst the cemetery needs to be maintained in line with regulations, consideration should be given to avoid distress and offence when addressing areas which may appear to be nonconforming.

The current regulations were discussed. It was recognised that the public have access to a variety of options when purchasing headstones etc. directly rather than purchasing from stonemasons who are required to meet cemetery regulations. The issue of Health & Safety was discussed given the possible liability issue for those headstones not professionally positioned. It was agreed that whilst the regulations are robust in their present form it is beneficial to revise the words recommendation to read required with regard to using a stonemason.

All Councillors agreed a proposal that the Parish Council write to all grave holders reiterating the need to maintain the cemetery to an acceptable standard in line with the cemetery regulations, giving a timescale for implementing compliance. Cllr Clark to draft a letter for circulation to the Councillors for agreement. Further discussion considered future burials given the restricted area of the cemetery and the possibility of retaining the ground for Combs residents only with discretion given for previous residents of the Parish.

ACTION: Cllr Clark

b. St Mary's Churchyard

4. **Community Police Team, County Councillor and District Councillor Reports**

Cllr Clark read the Community Police Team Report in the absence of Matt Brown. The County Councillor's Report was distributed in the absence of Cllr Truelove. Cllr Godden delivered the District Councillor Report.

10 Item 10 was bought forward.

Planning

(a) Consider applications received:

(i**) 2817/14 – The Thatches, Moats Tye, Combs**

Reconstruction of dwelling house involving removal of existing building, repair of plinth and chimney stack and erection of new building on existing plinth – Strong support.

(b) i) 2046/14 – White House Farm, Moats Tye, Combs

Conversion of brick outbuilding and barn to single dwelling with link between - Planning Permission GRANTED

11. **Finance**

a. Current balance

Reports were circulated and discussed.

b. Payments received. £2,310.50 Precept.

c. Approve payment of invoices received.

(i) David Windle (cemetery maintenance) - £100.00. Cllr Henson proposed this be paid, seconded by Cllr Durrant. All Cllrs were in favour. Chq no. 022006 was written and signed.
(ii) Pearce & Kemp Ltd (street lighting). A payment of £2.50 was due. Cllr Henson proposed this be paid, seconded by Cllr Durrant. All Cllrs were in favour. Chq no. 022007 was written and signed.
(iii) Parish Insurance. A cheque for £253.83was due. Cllr Henson proposed this be paid, seconded by Cllr Durrant. All Cllrs were in favour. Chq no.022008 was written and signed.
(iv) Clerks Salary and expenses of £129.76 was due. Cllr Henson proposed this be paid, seconded by Cllr Durrant. All Cllrs were in favour. Chq no. 022010 was written and signed.
(v) HMRC - £32.40. Cllr Henson proposed this be paid, seconded by Cllr Durrant. All Cllrs were in favour. Chq no.022011 was written and signed.
(vi) Councillor Expenses. A cheque for £52.90 was due. Cllr Henson proposed this be paid, seconded by Cllr Durrant. All Cllrs were in favour. Chq no. 022004 was written and signed.

13. Suffolk Local Code of Conduct

This item had previously been circulated and discussed at the Parish Council Meeting on 8 September. Cllr Clark proposed the Parish Council accept and adopt the new Code of Conduct, seconded by Cllr Eade. All Cllrs were in agreement.

14. SALC – Elections/recruitment of candidates to become Parish Councillors.

Cllr Clark reported on oncoming elections (May 2015) and encouragement to widen nominations. Notices to be put on the noticeboards and on the website. An advert to be included in the Barclif.

5. Approve Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 9 June 2014

Item 6 – amendment to action to read Cllr Clark.
Item 11b - amendment to remove name against fee.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

Flooding – CAS Emergency Newsletter gave details of contact when floods occur.
Cemetery – Cllr Clark reported on discussion he has had with the Contractor.

7. Reports from Councillors

a. Visits and meetings - There was nothing to report.

b. Matters raised for information and attention:

(i) Garden fires/bonfires causing concern given proximity and timing when lighting fires. Cllr Clark suggested putting a notice on the noticeboards.
(ii) Cllr Clark reported on adverse condition of road on Jacks Lane. County Council have been notified. Mill Lane is still awaiting repair.
(iii) The hedge by the Rectory still not cut despite complaints.
(iv) Speeding at Scotches Corner caused recent accident. It was noted that the widening of the footpath had not been carried out. Cllr Clark proposed to notify Highway/Council regarding clear pathways.
(v) Cllr Durrant reported Footpath Bridge (32) was in need of repair as handrails were missing.

8. Report from Parish Clerk – None.

9. Correspondence received – Correspondence received was noted.

15. Any other items for inclusion on the next Agenda.

(i) The grass area at Moats Tye corner requires maintenance. Cllr Clark proposed revised grass cutting contract to include Moats Tye.

16. Date of next meeting Monday 10 November 2014, at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm