

Draft until signed

**Minutes of Extraordinary Combs Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 17th August 2017 at 7.30pm, Battisford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battisford**

Present: S Scarff (Chairman), D Stephens-Row (Vice Chairman), D Thorpe (Councillor), C Todhunter (Councillor), T Whitehead (Councillor), J Crooks (Councillor), S Reynard (Councillor), Cllr D Whybrow (District Councillor) and four members of the public.

Attending: T Bamber (incoming Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr A Whybrow (County Councillor), S Meech (outgoing Clerk)

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Public Forum

Four members of the public were present to hear and discuss item 4 below

4. Planning

a. Applications received for consideration

- i. DC/17/03824 – Moats Tye Livery, Moats Tye, Combs, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 2EY – Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered) – Erection of two detached dwellings (self-builds). Mr C Oliver provided an outline of the proposal, and Mrs Linda Noller presented some opposing comments. Some questions were raised by the councillors following which the matter was put to the vote. Due to equal votes for and against, the chairman exercised his casting vote in favour of raising no objections.

Cllr D Whybrow and the members of the public left the meeting at 7.50pm.

5. Finance

- a. **Account review to date** – Current Account balance as of 26th July 2017 is £4,762.41 and the savings account balance as of 2nd August 2017 is £10,301.10
- b. **Payments received**
 - i. None received
- c. **Payments to hand**
 - i. S Meech – Clerk's salary, overtime & expenses – £256.42 - Cllr Stephens-Row proposed payment, Cllr Todhunter seconded payment and all councillors agreed payment. On that authority a cheque is to be drawn and signed when the cheque book is available (currently with S Meech).

Action – Cheque to be drawn, signed and sent (T Bamber).

6. Street Lighting

15 LED lanterns have been installed together with isolator boxes, which are necessary to comply with current safety requirements, at a cost of £6989.81 plus VAT. The concrete lamp posts were not included in the work as these would be much more expensive. There remain 6 lamp posts in Little London to be updated and this will be the subject of further consideration in light of available funds. It

was observed that this work has achieved an ambition of the council for over 25 years. Cllr Crooks proposed payment, Cllr Thorpe seconded. All councillors agreed payment. On that authority funds will be transferred from the savings account to the current account and a cheque is to be drawn and signed when the cheque book is available (currently with S Meech).

Action – Fund transfer letter to be signed and sent, following which cheque to be drawn, signed and sent (T Bamber).

7. Combs Cemetery

Due to the absence of the outgoing clerk, who has greater familiarity with the regulations and how they may be altered, it was agreed that the new clerk would seek to arrange a separate meeting between S Meech, Cllr Reynard, Cllr Stephens-Row and Cllr Todhunter.

Action – Clerk to email councillors with possible dates for a meeting with S Meech.

8. Any other business for inclusion on the next agenda

No items were put forward for inclusion on the next agenda but several comments were made about maintenance issues around the village:

- The hedge opposite the Gardner's Arms, owned by Philip Waspé, is overgrown. Cllr Crooks will ask Mr Waspé to arrange a further cut.
- The hedge near Walnut Tree Cottage has now been cut back and the improvement is much appreciated.
- The HGV warning sign at the junction of Deadman's Lane/Burnthouse Lane has been removed. Cllr Thorpe reported that Suffolk County Council had said this would be attended to.
- The post for the dog waste bin near the beginning of Mill Lane has broken: Cllr Thorpe will replace it.
- The trees opposite the Tannery have been tidied significantly and the improvement is greatly appreciated. Cllr Thorpe will formally thank James Portway for arranging this.

9. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 11th September 2017 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 8.30pm