

Minutes of Combs Parish Council Meeting
Monday 19 November 2018 at 7.30pm, Battisford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battisford

Present: S Scarff (Chairman); C Todhunter (Vice Chairman); D Thorpe (Councillor); J Crooks (Councillor); S Reynard (Councillor). Tracey Chaplin (councillor); Kay Oakes (County Councillor)

Absent: Cllr D Whybrow (District Councillor)

The chairman welcomed Tracey Chaplin as a new councillor and confirmed that the procedure for co-opting had been completed.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr T Whitehead

2. Declarations of interest

(none)

3. Public Forum

No members of the public present.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 8 October 2018

Minutes for 8 October 2018 were reviewed and were signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting by Cllr Scarff (Chairman).

5. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising that are not covered elsewhere.

6. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Oakes was welcomed by the Chairman and introduced to the Parish Council. She distributed her newsletter and emphasised that there were funds available that should be utilised or committed before the end of this financial year. A discussion ensued on the various traffic calming measures available and Cllr Oakes mentioned that she is currently assisting Somersham to acquire a device that not only displays speeds but also saves the data: she will arrange for details to be sent to the clerk.

7. District Councillor's Report

Cllr D Whybrow was not present.

8. Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked all present for their help with the commemorative beacon ceremony, which was very well supported and well thought of by all who attended.

Other than this he had nothing to report that is not covered elsewhere.

9. Clerk's Report

Nothing to report that is not covered elsewhere.

10. Planning

- a. Applications received for consideration
 - i. APP/W3520/W/18/3214324 - Erection of up to 160 houses, land To The East Of Poplar Hill - *Appeal has been lodged by developers.* Cllr Todhunter distributed a draft response and it was unanimously agreed that the clerk be instructed to send this to the Planning Inspectorate.
 - ii. DC/18/04850 – Tannery Cottage, Tannery Road – *works to tree protected under TPO*
- No objection
- b. Decisions received from MSDC
 - i. DC/18/03923 – Erection of 2 dwellings – Jockeys Hall, Jockeys Lane- *Outline Planning Permission refused.* Noted
 - ii. DC/18/04066 – 1 Ivydene Cottages, Bildeston Road – insertion of window to attic room. *Planning permission granted.* Noted

11. Finance

- a. **Accounts review to date** – Current Account balance as of 26 October 2018 was £11,209.56 and the savings account balance as of 2 November 2018 was £1,909.79.
- b. **Payments received**
 - i. Inscription fee – T/L M Theobald - £250.00
 - ii. Inscription fee – T/L T Hughes - £ 90.00
 - iii. Interment fee – T/L T Hughes - £250.00
 - iv. Interment fee – T/L J Filby - £250.00
 - v. Interment fee – T/L S McLelland - £370.00
 - vi. Donation for beacon from Combs Fete Committee - £1,800.00
- c. **Payments to hand**
 - i. Leaflets for WW1 Beacon -£43.75 (paid by clerk). Payment was proposed by Cllr Crooks, seconded Cllr Reynard, all agreed. Cheque number 22184 was written, and signed by Cllrs Thorpe and Scarff. (*Local Government Act 1972, s. 137*).
 - ii. Barking Forge (final payment for beacon) - £630.00. Payment was proposed by Cllr Chaplin, seconded Cllr Todhunter, all agreed. Cheque number 22185 was written, and signed by Cllrs Thorpe and Scarff. (*Local Government Act 1972, s. 137*)
 - iii. Additional insurance for beacon- £ 9.52 Payment was proposed by Cllr Reynard, seconded Cllr Todhunter, all agreed. Cheque number 22186 was written, and signed by Cllrs Thorpe and Scarff. (*Local Government Act 2000, s.101*).
- d. **Budget for 2019/20**
It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr Whitehead and the Clerk should meet prior to the next meeting to discuss and draft proposals for the next year's budget and precept.

Action: Clerk to arrange budget meeting

12. Street Lighting

Cllr Thorpe reported that the contractors have procured the lamps but are being delayed awaiting the necessary license to work in the specific roads.

A very old streetlamp has been noted in the church grounds that has not been used for many years. If permitted, the Council will investigate the possibility of refurbishing it, however it was noted that this may be prevented if it is considered to be maintaining or improving church property (Local Government Act 1894 S.8(1)(ii)).

Action: Clerk to investigate

13. WW1 Memorial beacon

Cllr Scarff reported that the commemorative ceremony on 11 November was very well supported by around 300 people, with all who commented expressing appreciation. A cheque for £1800 has been received from the Combs Fete Committee towards the costs. The Clerk will formally thank the committee.

Action: Clerk to write to Fete Committee

14. Neighbourhood Plan

The chairman and three councillors had attended the last Battisford Parish Council meeting, during which this was discussed and Cllr Chaplin summarised the information gleaned. Cllr Todhunter observed that, given the fact that any such plan would be subordinate to the Local Plan, it may be prudent to arrange a meeting with the district council to ascertain their view on the matter: a neighbourhood plan would require a great deal of work, time and funds and would be of no weight unless it clearly showed that residents were in agreement on future housing in the village. If the district council saw the village as suitable for a small number of houses only then the work needed for a neighbourhood plan may be less justified.

It was agreed that Cllrs Chaplin and Todhunter would arrange a meeting with the Planning Department. Until full facts are ascertained and discussed, it was agreed that the Council was not in a position to respond formally to the suggestion by Battisford Parish Council that the two villages might share ownership of a neighbourhood plan.

15. Parish Magazine – a proposal by Rev Childs

Cllr Todhunter presented an updated draft of a purely Parish Council newsletter, comprising one sheet of A4 paper, which was well received. This was discussed and it was agreed that further thought be given to the matter with a decision being sought at the next meeting.

16. Combs Cemetery

Cemetery is still looking neat and tidy.

- i) It was agreed that a full width gate could be fitted to replace the damaged post and that Cllr Crooks will proceed.
- ii) Following a request from a local undertaker to utilise another gravedigger it was agreed that the regulations be amended to provide that graves may only be dug by a gravedigger approved by the Council. It was noted that the clerk would obtain references in the event of an unknown gravedigger being proposed.

17. St Mary's Churchyard

The wildlife area has also been cut as required and the churchyard is looking very good.

18. Correspondence

Correspondence had been received from:

- Headway, in the form of a circular to all councils, inviting donations. In accordance with usual practice, and recognising the absence of any budget for the matter, no donation will be made.
- Citizens' Advice Bureau, explaining that their funding from Suffolk County Council was to cease. It was agreed that this would be taken into account in drafting next year's budget.

19. Any other business – potentially for inclusion on the next agenda

It was agreed that the default date for meetings in 2019 would remain the second Monday in the month.

20. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 10 December 2018 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.32pm