

**Minutes of Combs Parish Council Meeting  
Monday 14 January 2019 at 7.30pm, Battisford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battisford**

**Present:** S Scarff (Chairman); C Todhunter (Vice Chairman); V Whitehead (Councillor); D Thorpe (Councillor); J Crooks (Councillor); S Reynard (Councillor). T Chaplin (councillor); K Oakes (County Councillor)

**Absent:** Cllr D Whybrow (District Councillor)

**1. Apologies for absence**

None

**2. Declarations of interest**

None

**3. Public Forum**

Two members of the public were present to discuss item 10 (a)(i) and three more arrived later (with permission of the Chairman) to discuss item 10 (a) (ii)

**4. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 10 December 2018**

Minutes for 10 December 2018 were reviewed and were signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting by the Chairman.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising that are not covered elsewhere.

**6. County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Oakes has sent to Highways department a copy of the review of speed and road signs in need of attention in the village. She distributed a report on funding for CAB and the Council instructed the Clerk to post a copy on the village noticeboards.

**7. District Councillor's Report**

Cllr D Whybrow was not present, but Cllr Oakes again invited councillors to route any enquiries of the district council to her and she will ensure they reach the appropriate person.

**8. Parish Council Chairman's Report**

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. DC/18/05259 -Land At Bowl Road, Battisford Tye- Erection of 9 dwellings and provision of 7 parking spaces for the Punch Bowl Inn. Ben Reay, representing the agents for the application, made a short presentation, following which the matter was discussed, It was AGREED that the clerk be instructed to inform the Planning Office that the council did not object to the application but that there were some concerns. Viz:
    - a. Access to parking for the pub is along a narrow lane past two bungalows: surely it would be better to have a separate entrance to the parking area?
    - b. These additional dwellings are likely to exacerbate the existing sewage and surface water drainage problems.
  - ii. DC/18/05570 – Land South of Finborough Road – Erection of 4 dwellings (discussed at a later point in the meeting but recorded here for simplicity). This application is not in Combs nor was it an agenda item but following a request from concerned residents it was agreed to hear their comments. A representative of ‘Keep Tinklers Meadow Green Network’ made a short presentation and Councillors agreed to instruct the clerk to write a letter supporting their objection to the Planning Office, expressing concerns over flood risk, traffic and the danger of compromising a separation belt between villages and the town of Stowmarket.
- b. Decisions received from MSDC
  - i. (none)

## 11. Finance

- a. **Accounts review to date** – Current Account balance as of 26 December 2018 was £12,172.13 and the savings account balance as of 3 January 2019 was £1,907.79. The Budget analysis was reviewed and accepted.
- b. **Payments received**
  - i. Interment fee – T/L G Stammers - £ 250.00
- c. **Payments to hand**
  - i. Carl Folley – street lights upgrade - £1,381.66. Payment was agreed by all councillors. Cheque number 2219 was written, and signed by Cllrs Thorpe and Scarff. (*Parish Councils Act 1957,s.3*).
- d. **Budget and Precept for 2019/20**

These having been agreed at the December meeting, the formal precept form was signed by the Chairman and Cllrs Crooks and Whitehead.

## 12. Street Lighting

In consequence of the refurbishment of three more lamps, Cllr Thorpe is pursuing the energy company for a reduction in charges to reflect the lower power consumption.

## 13. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllrs Chaplin and Todhunter are awaiting a response to a request for a meeting with the Planning Department.

**14. Litter Pick**

Following a suggestion from Cllr Crooks it was agreed that the Council should hold another litter pick around the village in Spring. The date was agreed as 10 March and the Clerk will seek co-operation from the District Council and permission to meet at the Tannery car park.

***Action: Clerk to follow up and report back***

**15. Parish Magazine**

Cllr Chaplin will assist with the layout for a possible newsletter as previously suggested by Cllr Todhunter.

**16. Combs Cemetery**

Some rubbish had been dumped in the cemetery car park but was later found to have been cleared before the Council could respond.

**17. St Mary's Churchyard**

The Chair reported that there has been a suggestion that the driveway through the churchyard to the church be improved. The clerk was instructed to ascertain if this is something that a parish council has the power to consider.

***Action: Clerk to investigate and report back.***

**18. Training**

It was agreed that Cllr Whitehead would attend a seminar on grants and funding and that the clerk should attend an election briefing arranged by SALC.

**19. Correspondence**

A request for support has been received from Battisford and District Cricket Club. It was AGREED that the Council should donate £200, to be formalised at the next meeting.

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

Nothing to add

**21. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 11 February 2019 at 7.30pm**

Meeting closed at 9.27pm