

**Minutes of Combs Parish Council Meeting
Monday 8 April 2019 at 7.30pm, Battsford Village Hall, Straight Road, Battsford**

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

Absent: Cllr D Whybrow (District Councillor)

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of interest

Cllrs Crooks and Thorpe in respect of 10 a (ii)

3. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 11 March 2019

Minutes for 11 February 2019 were reviewed and were signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters not raised elsewhere.

5. Public Forum

There were no matters arising that are not covered elsewhere (two members of the public attended for 10 (a) (ii))

6. County Councillor's Report

Please see the attached report. Cllr Oakes mentioned that those streetlights which are owned by the county council will now switch off at 11.30 instead of midnight, and that this will result in a saving of £90,000 per year. Cllr Oakes also offered to enquire about stickers for faded speed signs.

7. District Councillor's Report

Cllr D Whybrow was not present however a newsletter provided by Cllr John Matthissen (district councillor for Onehouse) had been circulated earlier

8. Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Crooks and Thorpe for their good work in fixing the cemetery gate. He also thanked Cllr Crooks for organising the litterpick, which was very effective.

9. Clerk's Report

The clerk reported that, following an enquiry, he had written to MSDC Planning office to ascertain that the work being carried out at the Gardener's Arms was in order, as no application had been advised to the Parish Council. No reply has yet been received but it is understood that the department has visited the site and has no problem.

10. Planning

- a. Applications received for consideration
 - i. DC/19/01102 - Application for Listed Building consent Kestrel Barn, Church Road (driveway extension) - *No objection*
 - ii. DC19/01168 – Change of use of land – High View, Little London Deadline extended to 10 April - *No objection (Cllrs Crooks and Thorpe abstained)*
- b. Decisions received from MSDC
 - i. DC/19/00016 — 17 Model Farm – Chimney flue installation. *Listed Building Consent given. Noted*
 - ii. DC 19/00216 – Old School House, Park Road – Erection of rear extension – *granted. Noted*
 - iii. DC/19/00736 – 13 Combs Green – erection of rear extension – *granted. Noted*
 - iv. DC/19/00220 – Ebbs House, Bildeston Road – *Discharge of Conditions. Noted*

11. Finance

- a. **Accounts review to date** – Current Account balance as of 26 March 2019 was £12,183.18 and the savings account balance as of 2 April 2019 was £1,914.07 (£6.28 interest had been earned on the year). It was agreed that for the forthcoming year, £1500 be formally earmarked for streetlight refurbishment.

The Budget analysis and financial summary were reviewed and accepted.

b. Payments received

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------|
| i. T/L Albert Robinson – Memorial- | £250.00 |
| ii. Donation for litterpick (Cllr Oakes) | £251.29 |

c. Payments to hand

- i. Battisford Village Hall contribution for floor - £500.00. Payment was agreed by all councillors. Cheque number 22199 was written, and signed by Cllrs Thorpe and Scarff. (*Local Government Act 1972, s133*).

d. Donation Request - SARS

It was agreed that the work carried out by SARS was very worthwhile. However there is no provision in the budget for donations of this type and it was AGREED that the clerk be instructed to courteously decline. As a result of the discussion it was AGREED that Cllr Todhunter give some thought to drawing up a formal policy on donations.

ACTION: Clerk to write to SARS.

Cllr Todhunter to draft a donations policy

12. Grants and fundraising

Cllr Whitehead discussed the possibility of a questionnaire being included with the forthcoming newsletter, in order to gauge the wishes of villagers. It was pointed out that the amount of CIL benefitting the village as a neighbouring parish would be small, but in any event the council would need to identify a specific need before receiving any CIL funds. The idea of a cyclepath from the village to Stowmarket was considered attractive and cllr Whitehead will put together some further ideas for the next meeting.

13. Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Following the decision last year, the clerk summarised the proposed changes to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, which had been circulated previously. It was AGREED that these be considered and voted upon at the next meeting.

14. Speed Signs

The clerk has written to the only residents who may be affected by the installation of a taller post but has so far received no response. In light of the forthcoming elections, the matter is to be reconfirmed next month.

15. Street Lighting

Folley Electrical Services have been authorised to proceed with the agreed upgrades.

16. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Chaplin will seek to draw up a questionnaire to accompany the May Newsletter.

17. Litter Pick

It was agreed that the litter pick had been a great success and Cllr Crooks was thanked for organising this.

The Clerk was instructed to write letters of thanks to The Tannery for their permission to use the car park, and to the District Council for their speed in collecting the rubbish bags.

18. Parish Newsletter

Cllr Chaplin shared an outline for the next newsletter and contributors were asked to supply their copy.

19. Combs Cemetery

Cllr Thorpe will clear some rubbish from the cemetery. The Clerk will identify gravestones in need of repair and write to the owners accordingly.

20. St Mary's Churchyard

Cllrs will seek suitable tree surgeons who may provide a tree survey report

21. Correspondence

There was a report of a dangerous tree at the bottom of Webb Close. Cllr Thorpe will investigate.

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

- The Clerk is to put recycling collection notices on the notice boards.

The Chairman noted that Cllr Reynard was not standing for re-election and on behalf of the Council he thanked her for all her contribution to the village, and wished her well for the future.

23. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 13 May 2019 at 7.30pm (Parish Meeting to commence at 7.00 PM)

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm

County Councillor's report for April, 2019

Suffolk Record Office achieves national accreditation

On 28 March it was announced that Suffolk Record Office has been awarded Archive Service Accreditation.

Achieving accredited status demonstrates that Suffolk Record Office has met clearly defined national standards relating to management and resourcing; the care of its unique collections and the service it offers its entire range of users.

The Suffolk Record Office has started its transition to create a reshaped service right across the county with its "The Hold: A Suffolk Archive Service for the 21st Century" project.

The new Heritage and Archives Centre in Ipswich, being created as part of this project, is set to open its doors in Spring 2020. It will replace the existing Ipswich Record Office in Gatacre Road, whilst the Lowestoft and Bury Record Offices will remain open.

The accreditation status awarded is provisional, and progression to full Accredited Archive Service status is subject to areas of planned development for the new, revitalised service meeting the national standards. For example, the completion of The Hold building and movement of collections to improved accommodation. A review is scheduled to take place by March 2021.

Suffolk's recycling centres opening hours

The opening hours for recycling centres in Suffolk will change from the beginning of April. All 11 of Suffolk County Council's centres will be open from 9am to 5pm every day from Monday 1 April to September. The new times will give residents an extra hour to recycle their waste during the summer months.

On Thursdays from May to August, all sites will be open until 7pm - a good opportunity for residents to recycle on their way home from work. All sites will be closed on Wednesdays.

On Sundays and bank holidays, the recycling centres will also be open from 9am to 5pm from April to September.

Suffolk successful in winning £1.725 million in extra funding for business broadband roll out

Suffolk County Council, working in partnership with West Suffolk Council, East Suffolk Council of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, and Babergh and Mid Suffolk district councils has been successful in securing £1.725 million from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs.

It will contribute to providing Superfast Broadband access to many businesses across Suffolk's most rural areas, who are not in plans to receive Superfast Broadband as part of the current fibre broadband rollout.

The funding will cover connection to over 550 businesses across the county where current internet speeds are limited to lower speed connection methods. On top of the business connections this funding will also reach a further 600 non-business-related premises who will be able to upgrade to superfast speeds. Suffolk has been at the forefront of fibre broadband rollout, via its Better Broadband

for Suffolk Program, since 2010 and currently the county enjoys a superfast broadband coverage of 93%, with the current contract due to reach 98% by 2020.

The additional funding will contribute towards meeting some of the remaining 2% of the county that is not covered by the existing contracts. Work on connecting these new areas will begin later in 2019.

More than 96% of pupils receive a Preferred Secondary School on National Offer Day

On 1 March, Suffolk confirmed secondary school places for Year 7 and Year 9 pupils in 2019/2020.

This year, Suffolk County Council (SCC) received 7,921 applications from parents indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to be educated at from September 2019.

Over 96.5% of parents were offered a place at one of their preferred schools. Some 7130 applicants received offers for their first preference school and 7651 applicants received an offer for one of their three preferred schools.

DRAFT

Combs PC finances as at:		31.3.19												
Budget analysis:			Budgeted expenditure	projected	Variance (red is over)	Explanation								
Total			£13,405	£12,508	£897.00	some items to spend next year/invoices awaited								
variances over £200														
	Burial grounds St Mary's		£1,200	£690	£510	bills yet to come in								
	Clerk's expenses		£300	£0	£300	Parsimony								
	Community projects		£0	£417	-£417	(i) Defibrillator parts not budgeted (will be from 2019) (ii) Litter pick (paid from donation recorded on other line)								
	Donations		£2,000	£2,466	-£466	Beacon costs £2166 - offset by inward donations (fete, District cllr)								
	Miscellaneous		£500	£20	£480	only unplanned bit was grass cutting Moats Tye								
	Street Lights Maintenance		£1,550	£1,802	-£252	covered by budget B/F last year								
Current Balance at bank														
	savings	£1,908												
	current	£12,183												
			£14,091											
	less													
	unpresented cheques	£494												
	remaining budget to April	£0												
	earmarked funds	£1,500		streetlights										
			£1,994											
	Available funds		£12,097											