

**Minutes of Combs Parish Council Meeting**  
**Monday 3 August 2020 at 7.30pm, via Zoom remote meetings**

(DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED)

**Present:** S Scarff (Chairman); V Whitehead (Councillor); T Chaplin (Councillor); I Walker (Councillor); D Thorpe (Councillor); K Oakes (County Councillor); J Matthissen (District Councillor); T Bamber (Clerk).

**Attending** no members of the public were present

**1. Apologies for absence**

None

**2. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Scarff in respect of 6(a) (ii) and (iv).

**3. Public Forum**

No members of public were attending.

**4. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 13 July 2020**

Minutes for 13 July 2020 were reviewed and were to be signed as a true and accurate copy of the meeting by the Chairman.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange signature

**5. Matters arising from the minutes**

- County Cllr Kay Oakes confirmed that she will obtain details of how to acquire/purchase speed limit stickers to put on wheelie bins and advise the clerk. It was AGREED that the clerk be authorised to purchase 100.
- The speed sign in Moats Tye remains unrepaired. At Cllr Oakes's request, Cllr Chaplin will send her a photograph of the sign and location so that the County Councillor can chase Highways.

**6. Planning**

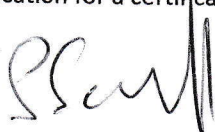
a. Applications received for consideration:

- i. DC/20/02988 – Land to the East of Tannery Road – *Application for lawful development certificate.*

The Chairman provided some background: the mobile home has been on the site since 1995, being the residence for Roy, the maintenance man at the Tannery. Roy died last year and possession of the property has now reverted to the owners of the Tannery. It was acknowledged that the application was in order to validate the lawfulness of what had happened for the last 25 years, and not to approve any future use of the property

The Councillors agreed that the past use of the property was acceptable under the circumstances but went on to consider that this had ceased to be the case following the demise of the resident. They could see no need to seek to validate what was in the past. While the possibility of future applications was not an issue upon which planning decisions should be made, the land there had been used as settling beds for the Tannery and was severely contaminated so there should be no possible consideration of it being the subject of any further planning consideration..

Following further discussion councillors voted, by a majority of four to one, to oppose the application for a certificate of lawfulness as there is now no need for it.



- ii. DC/20/03090 and 03091 – Mattocks Farm, Mill Lane - erection of an outbuilding – *planning and listed building applications*

The Councillors agreed to support this application

At this point the Chairman left the meeting and Cllr Walker took the chair.

- iii. AP/20/0066 – 2 Dwellings adjacent to Model Farm House, Park Road – *Appeal against refusal* (DC/19/05573)

Councillors noted that the appeal will take into account all comments previously submitted. The only comment to be added was the observation that the plot is not within the curtilage of the VIOS (Visually Important Open Space) as applicable to Model Farm and so the Councillors are comfortable that the application does not compromise the character of Model Farm.

- iv. AP/20/0064 – one dwelling adjacent to Four Winds, Bildeston Road - *Appeal against refusal* (DC/20/01191).

Councillors noted that the appeal will take into account all comments previously submitted and agreed that they had no further comments.

The Chairman then rejoined the meeting and Cllr Walker gave up the chair.

**Action: Clerk to post Councillors' views on planning website**

- b. Decisions received from MSDC:

*No decisions have been advised*

## **7. Defibrillator maintenance**


The Clerk reported that the batteries for both defibrillators in the village were due to expire shortly. The cost is not yet known but as the firm that supplied the devices and monitors them is the supplier of batteries it was agreed that the clerk be authorised to order them.

## **8. Request to plant tree in St Mary's Churchyard**

The Clerk had received a request from the Parochial Church Council to approve the planting of a tree in the churchyard. Apparently the grave owner had asked to install a bench but the Church had felt there were enough benches there already and so suggested a tree.

Following a discussion it was agreed that as planting of trees in the cemetery is not permitted, and the planting of a tree in the churchyard could result in additional responsibilities for the Parish Council, permission should not be granted. The Clerk will speak with the vicar to explain this and to suggest that the resident would be welcome to arrange for a tree to be planted in Oaks Meadow in memory of their loved one.

**Action: Clerk to phone vicar**



## **9. Manhole cover in churchyard**

While the work on the collapsed tombstone was being carried out, someone had pointed out that a manhole cover in the driveway of the church had started to collapse, and the Clerk had been asked to ascertain if repairing this was the responsibility of the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that, as the drain was to service the church, not the churchyard, maintenance of it was technically the responsibility of the Church. He confirmed, however, that there was nothing to stop the Parish Council from making a contribution towards the cost of such repairs. Councillors had noted that the manhole had previously been damaged and repaired and it seemed clear that a stronger cover would be necessary. It was AGREED that the Clerk speak with the Church, explaining the situation and confirming that, should a formal request be made, the Council may be minded to assist financially, provided a better quality cover was to be used to prevent recurrence.

**Action: Clerk to phone vicar**

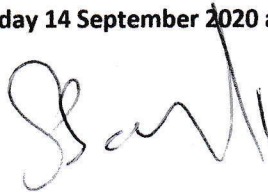
## **10. Any Other Business**

- The Clerk reported that details of another planning appeal had been received, but too late for formal inclusion on the agenda. This was DC/20/01041 – the Appleyard, Bildeston Road (erection of extensions). Councillors agreed that there was nothing they wished to add to their previous comments and so a further meeting to discuss this was not necessary.
- Cllr Whitehead reported that, following a meeting with the clerk to agree a location for a SID in Moats Tye, she had spoken with the residents who live opposite the proposed location and they were more than happy to give their approval. Cllr Oakes advised that they should be asked to provide written confirmation of this to avoid future problems.

**Action: Clerk to follow up.**

## **11. Date and time of next meeting – Monday 14 September 2020 at 7.30pm**

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Smith', is written over the text 'The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm'.