

Draft until signed

**Minutes of Combs Parish Council Meeting  
Monday 13 January 2014 at 7.30pm, Battisford Community Centre**

**Present:** Cllr J. Crooks; Cllr D. Eade; Cllr S. Scarff; Cllr J. Henson; Cllr T. Durrant; Cllr S. Reynard.

**Also present:** County Cllr Truelove; District Cllr Godden; Mrs H. Andrade, Clerk.

1. **Apologies** – Councillor Clark and PCSO Brown had sent their apologies. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Scarff.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Public Forum** – There were no members of the public attending.
4. **Community Police Team, County Councillor and District Councillor Reports**  
Councillor Truelove gave her report. In addition she reported that members of Battisford Parish Council had met with Officers at Suffolk County Council regarding Broadband, and it was thought that news would be distributed shortly. Ben Skinner from Battisford had also been able to install a Wifi Service which would be available to households in Battisford and Combs. Anyone who was interested in the service should contact Ben Skinner for more details.  
  
Cllr Godden gave her report. In addition she reported that she had written to Elizabeth Truscott at Mid Suffolk District Council reference Meadow View. Elizabeth Truscott had replied that she had forwarded the information to the Enforcement Officers. She also reported that the planning meeting reference Prospect Place would be taking place on Wednesday 15 January.
5. **Approve Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 9 December 2013**  
It was noted that it was Cllr Durrant and not Cllr Crooks who had removed the tree from the bridge (item 15). The minutes were then agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
6. **Matters arising from previous minutes**  
There were no matters arising.
7. **Reports from Councillors**
  - a. **Visits** – There were none.
  - b. **Matters raised for information and attention**  
Cllr Crooks reported that people were riding horses on footpaths in the village and requested it be reported to Highways, Public Rights of Way, providing details of the riding stables that the horses were coming from. It was agreed that the clerk should do this. Cllr Godden reported that a meeting would be taking place at Needham Town Council reference the Development at Farriers Road and suggested that a member of the parish council should attend.
8. **Report from Parish Clerk** – There was nothing to report.
9. **Correspondence Received**
  - a. **Post**      b. **Emails**      Correspondence was noted and discussed. An email had been received from SALC regarding Councillor Training Courses, Cllr Eade strongly advised everyone that they should receive up to date training. The Clerk was asked to contact SALC to find out dates of future courses and to gather further information e.g. if SALC would run a course for Combs and prices. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.  
  
Another item of correspondence was “Warm Homes, Healthy People” received from SALC, it gave advice on how to stay warm and healthy during cold weather. Cllr Scarff reminded the parish council that they needed to make a list of all the vulnerable people in the village, who would benefit from this kind of advice. He requested that all councillors listed vulnerable people that they know in their area for the next meeting.  
  
Cllrs Eade, Henson and Reynard would be attending the Neighbourhood Planning event on 3 February.
10. **Planning**

- a. **Consider applications received** No applications had been received.
- b. **Decisions made by MSDC**  
One decision had been received after the agenda had been printed; the application for the Pole Barn, Holy Oak Farm had been refused.
- c. **Variation of planning permission to be reported to planning committee on 15 January 2014.**  
This had been discussed above.

#### 11. Finance

- a. **Current balance**  
Reports were circulated; and discussed. It was agreed that the current balance was as expected.
- b. **Payments received** – £280.50 had been received from Cemetery Fees.
- c. **Approve payment of invoices received**  
There were none.
- d. **Consider Budget for 2014**  
Cllr Clark had produced a draft budget for the year 2014-15. Each item was discussed and it was agreed that the budget would have to be finalised at the next meeting, as some changes were needed. The training budget would need to be increased significantly, for all councillors to be trained. The Burial Fees also needed to be reviewed and increased; this would be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- e. **Consider and set precept for 2014-15**  
Cllr Clark had recommended that the precept be raised this year to £4750 and had provided calculations for the parish councillors to review and discuss. After an in-depth discussion, Cllr Eade proposed that the precept be increased to £4750; this was seconded by Cllr Henson. The parish councillors then voted and all voted in favour of the increase. The form was then completed and signed.

#### 12. Burial Grounds

- a. **Combs Cemetery**  
There was nothing to report.
- b. **St Mary's Churchyard** –Cllr Scarff reported that there were no plans of the Churchyard and his wife was currently in contact with the Suffolk Record Office to find out if they had copies of the plans.

#### 13. Street Lights

There had been problems of lights not working, Cllr Scarff said he would drive round the village and note each light which wasn't working for the Clerk to report to the Contractors Pearce and Kemp. Cllr Clark would be asked what was happening regarding the stress testing of columns when he returned from holiday.

- 14. **Meadow View** – Further to Cllr Godden's letter to MSDC, detailed above, the Clerk was asked to write a letter to James Buckingham, Enforcement Office to follow this up.

#### 15. Discuss possibility of improved signing for bend on Park Road, near Mill Lane.

Cllr Eade had requested that this be discussed at the last meeting. Cllr Truelove had asked the Highways Engineer to have a look and he had agreed that it was a danger, but there was little he could suggest for improvement. It was agreed to wait and see what result the new speed sign would have when installed in February and another speed measurement would be requested after the sign had been installed. If vehicles weren't slowing down, this would be looked at again.

#### 16. Discuss solution to narrowing of road outside Ebbs House

The clerk was asked to write to Highways to inform them that the hedge was overgrown again and needed attention.

A response had been received from Highways to say that the footpaths would be cleared from Park Road to Combs Ford and along Tannery Road. Cllr Henson reminded the parish councillors that the whole length of Tannery Road needed attention and it was agreed that once the work had been done, if it didn't cover the whole area, a request would be put in again for more work to be done.

#### 16. Date of next meeting

Monday 10 February 2014, at 7.30pm.  
The meeting closed at 9.15pm.