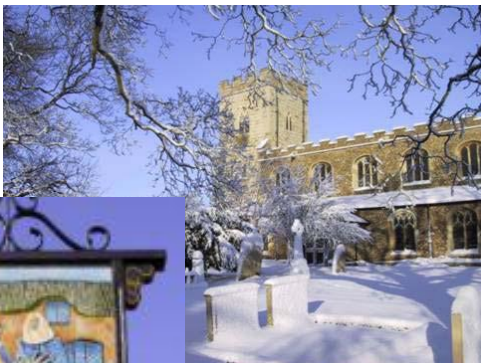


COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2009



Chairman's Report

This year I am pleased to report that Comberton Parish Council has achieved Quality Council Status. This I believe reflects the commitment and dedication of the council. Affordable housing, exception sites, policing, traffic problems, planning and conservation continue to be areas that have been high on the topics for debate and decision this year. The additional recreational sports area to the north of the present recreation ground has, after a long drawn out affair with lots of discussions with EDF, had the overhead power cables placed underground, at no cost to the council.

The annual Christmas Lights event took place in December and again was well supported, with around 200 people turning out on a cold evening. The Salvation Army band then played at Nursery Way and enjoyed a cup of coffee in the community room.

The Connections bus service continues to visit on a Tuesday and is well received by the youth of the village. The visits have included activities such as sand art, balloon modelling and badge and jewellery making. Discussion topics have included parents and families, violence, knives and guns, college work, exams and unemployment.

We have had a few changes on the Parish Council this year. We have welcomed Mr Ted Halford who replaced Mr David Ellis. Mr Tom Serby was co-opted following the resignation of Dr Howard Roscoe and Miss Amanda Bacon has replaced Mr David Charge. As always I am indebted to my fellow councillors and parishioners who serve on committees and working groups (Tree Group, Transport Working Group, Recreation Group, Focus and Planning Committee). As always thanks and appreciation are also due to Gail Stoehr our hard-working Clerk.

The Parish Council continues to support a number of village groups and activities through the S137 grants. The majority of the sections in the Parish Plan (written in 2003) were reviewed and a high proportion of the tasks completed. The Parish Council intends to survey the village, then review and re-write the plan as appropriate.

Members' reports

Footpaths – Parish Path Partnership (P3)

Comberton has been a member of The Parish Paths Partnership since 2000. Our aim has always been to work with the County Council to ensure that the footpaths are well maintained and accessible to all.

Work is still ongoing on Footpath 5 (Barton Road to Swaynes Lane) at the northern end and includes replacing the parish pump that was stolen. This work has been delayed several times due to planning applications and appeals by an adjacent landowner. Difficult stiles have, over the course of the last few years, been removed and replaced with 'mobility' kissing gates.

Annual maintenance of Footpath 8, the ancient cobbled causeway that leads to the church, has taken place. More work will need to be completed on this pathway and grass seed sown to prevent further erosion of the verge. We have surveyed all the rights of way within the parish and are working with local landowners to improve access for all.

Tree Group

Throughout the year we have regularly commented on planning applications and looked at work needed on trees as and when consulted.

A visit was made to Watt's Wood to monitor the work being done to follow the schedule devised when the wood was purchased. This is going well at present, the habit being particularly diverse as not all the plantings are native and some are normally considered garden plantings. It is worth a visit at any time of the year offering pure enjoyment of nature.

We also commenced logging the parish trees with GPS location so that we can develop a database of the trees, a task that needs continuing as after Long Road and Royston Lane we suffered

some very wet weather and other commitments have caused a delay.

The trees in The Valley have been replaced with further planting and look to be doing well.

In the near future work will commence on the tree on the post box green in Harbour Avenue and some Horse Chestnuts in Long Road.

Sadly we do not seem to be able to have any meaningful dialogue in regard to all tree work in the village with the District Council. The felling of the trees on the old Glasshouse site in Barton Road has devastated the treescape of the village. Hopefully sense will prevail and some replacement planting can take place, although because of the size of the trees that were removed that area will never look the same. It does seem a shame if we cannot be either involved or informed in decisions that seem to go against what we are trying to achieve – an ecological balance where we preserve the best nature has to offer, removing only when that is the right decision and nurturing where that is better.

Transport Working Group

The Transport Working Group has recently resumed meeting after an interregnum. Current issues under discussion include the need for speed reduction in the village, particularly in Barton Road, the sections of Barton Road/West Street around Meridian School, and the section of West Street around Comberton Village College. Problems with parking around the Village College and at the top end of Hillfield Road are also priorities for discussion.

Who and what is the Parish Council?

The Parish Council comprises 13 voluntary councillors who serve for a term of 4 years and represent an electorate of 1763.

The Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month except August with additional Planning Committee meetings being held as necessary. The agenda is displayed on notice board in South Street.

The public are welcome to attend these meetings and a short time is allocated on the agenda for comments and observations from members of the public. The Chairman and other members are available in the village hall to talk with parishioners before the meeting.

The Parish Council has representatives on other bodies outside the Parish Council and Councillors attend meetings on the Council's behalf.

Each member of the Council either serves on a committee or working group or has an area of responsibility. Many members have multiple responsibilities.

Parish Council Meetings

All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the public and at the beginning of the meeting there is a short period on the agenda when residents may speak with the Council. During the rest of the meeting however members of the public may listen to but not take part in the discussion of the Council's business. Meetings take place in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) usually starting at 7.30 pm and finishing by approximately 9.30 pm. Planning Committee meetings are advertised on the parish notice board.

Anyone wishing to raise a matter for consideration by the Council should write to the Clerk. Any letter received by the day before a Parish Council meeting will be reported to that meeting. If information is readily available the Council may decide its action right away. If not then the item will be dealt with at the next meeting. Members will be available in the Village Hall for a short period before the start of the meetings to talk to residents about any Comberton Parish Council related matters.

Budget for the financial year ending 2009

EXPENDITURE	Budget 2009	Actual Mar-09	Budget 2010
Agency Expenses (499.36	500
General Administration	13370	12867.50	12900
Salaries & NIC	1872	1736.28	1950
S137 Grants	200		4710
St Mary's Churchyard Maintenance	750	750.00	
Comberton Warden Scheme	1500	1500.00	
Reading Challenge/ Library Services		40.00	
Comberton Twinning Association		200.00	
Village & assets maintenance	15950	13713.79	14500
Special projects			
Additional Litter Bins, benches	600	0.00	0
Village Events	750	145.13	0
Parish Plan proposals	200	0.00	3500
VH Loan repayment	13500	13,499.32	13500
Rec extension Loan repayment	3366	3366.08	3366
Registration of land	0	37.50	0
Recreation ground Phase II	5000	0.00	0
Youth projects	5000	3539.81	5000
Recreation ground survey	0	0.00	1000
Village Hall loan (air conditioning)	0	0.00	4500
Footway lighting	350	0.00	350
Contingency fund	3500	0.00	3350
BUDGETED EXPENDITURE	65908	51894.77	69126

INCOME			
Precept	57858	57858.00	57826
Interest	2000	2298.15	2000
Other Income	300	352.90	
Agency Services parish paths and CCC verges	500	1166.37	1100
Special projects grants & donations	0	0.00	500
Recreation Ground and Pavilion	2250	2322.56	3200
New Build Contribution	3000	0.00	0
VH Insurance	0	816.75	0
Reserves			4500
BUDGETED INCOME	65908	64814.73	69126

NB Earmarked reserves income & expenditure is not included in the budget figures. For a copy of the full accounts please contact the Clerk

Summary income and expenditure accounts

2007/2008			2008/2009	
		Assets		
25914.85		Nat Savings D&M Account	100328.83	
40489.03		Alliance & Leicester	20381.91	
<u>0.00</u>	66403.88	Cash in hand	<u>0.00</u>	119893.26
	-504.24	Outstanding at bank		-817.48
		Debtors		
3605.73			2265.75	
<u>0.00</u>		Payments in advance	<u>0.00</u>	
	3605.73			2265.75
	1577.28	VAT recoverable		442.75
	71082.65	Total Assets		122601.76
	-6508.69	Liabilities		-3678.16
	64573.96	Total Assets less Liabilities		118923.60
	0.00	Long term liabilities		0.00
	0.00	Provision for doubtful debts		0.00
	<u>64573.96</u>	Net Assets		<u>118923.60</u>

Parish Clerk

Mrs Gail Stoehr

PO Box 857, Comberton, Cambs, CB23 7DP

Tel & Fax: 01954 210241 (home) or 01223 264553 (answerphone)

Email: parishclerk@comberton.org.uk

Website: www.comberton.org.uk

Contact Details

Parish Councillors

Mrs Amanda Bacon	92B Swaynes Lane	264711
Dr Charles Chambers	16 Green End	264638
Mr Ted Halford	69 Swaynes Lane	262531
Mr Andrew Hollick	73 Swaynes Lane	263089
Mrs Sandra Hyde	57 Long Road	262075
Dr Janet McCabe	3 Westcroft	263387
Mrs Dorothy Morison	5 The Valley	263027
Dr Robert Rintoul	57 West Street	262601
Mr Richard Rowlands	43 West Street	264508
Mr Tom Serby	Home Farm, 250 Barton Road	262303
Mr Jock Walsh	38 Fox's Way	263225
Miss Chris Westgarth	85 Barton Road	263242

Email: initial followed by surname @comberton.org.uk, eg
cwestgarth@comberton.org.uk.

