

# COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Report 2011/2012



QUALITY  
PARISH  
COUNCIL

## Chairman's Report

Following a review of the Parish Plan (written in 2003), the Council distributed the questionnaire and has had a good response. A small group is working on producing a summary of the findings. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire.

We have had a few changes on the Parish Council this year. Regrettably Mr John Cornell, Mr Tom Serby and Mr Ted Halford resigned from the council. Unfortunately we have been unable to fill the vacancies despite several articles in Contact. Consequently the work of the council has fallen on fewer members.

Planning and conservation matters, affordable housing, exception sites, policing and traffic problems, continue to be areas that have been high on the list of topics for debate and decision this year. Work on the affordable housing site has begun and the road will be named Normandy Close – Normandy, recognising the area we as a village are twinned with, the number of Comberton residents that lost their lives in Normandy during world wars and Close, the old English name for an enclosure or field.

The Connections Youth Bus continues to visit on a Tuesday, meeting on the recreation ground carpark. It is well received by the youth of the village and provides a vital service and a safe place for young people to meet and chat. The visits have included activities such as balloon modeling, sand art, badge and jewellery making. Discussion topics have included exams and unemployment, parents and families, youth clubs, violence, knives, guns, homework and college work.

The annual Christmas Lights event took place in December and again was well supported, with a good number people turning out on a very cold evening.

The Parish Council continues to support a number of village groups and activities through the S137 grants – St Mary's Church, Scouts and The Summer Reading Challenge.

The recreation ground extension is taking shape with new trees planted in the north west corner to provide a small copse. Thank you to residents who kindly offered funding for the trees. New bridges from the Spinney and the corner of the Meridian field will provide a safe, new access onto the Rec extension and should be installed shortly.

As always I am indebted to my fellow councillors, Gail Stoehr, the Clerk, and parishioners who serve on committees and working groups – the Tree Group, Transport Working Group, Recreation Group, Focus and

Planning Committee, and you will be able to read about their many and varied activities in this report. *Chris Westgarth, Chairman*

## **Members' reports**

### **Footpaths – Parish Path Partnership (P3)**

For the last year Comberton has continued to be a member of The Parish Paths Partnership. As a village we joined 11 years ago and enjoyed working with the County Council to ensure that the footpaths are well maintained and accessible to all. The Parish Council through membership of the P3 scheme received a small amount of grant funding to help with specified projects, that grant funding is no longer available. All public rights of way (PRoW) have numbers and different definitions, Footpath, Bridleway and Byway. Essential work on footpath between Swaynes Lane and Barton Road (Footpath 5) has been delayed several times due to planning applications and appeals by former landowner. We continue to hope that the work can be completed on this ancient right of way in the centre of the conservation area and protected village amenity. Annual maintenance of The Causeway (Footpath 8), an ancient cobbled pathway that leads to the church, has taken place. In the autumn the County introduced a scheme to improve countryside access and safety linking the Coton Bridleway (Bridleway 3) with the Bridleway on the west side of Long Road (Bridleway 1) and further south. The new bridleway runs parallel to the road. New permissive pathways have opened linking The Drift (Byway 7) with The Causeway (Footpath 8.) This does indeed make a delightful edition to the areas for walking and enjoyment. As with all rights of way and permissive paths walkers are reminded to show consideration for nature and wildlife and to ensure they do not leave litter and clean up after their dogs. The last stretch of this link path crosses the new church yard, walkers are asked to respect this area and keep dogs on leads.

## **Planning Committee**

This year has seen the departure of Dr Ted Halford from the Parish Council's Planning Committee and we now have our new member, Andrew Hollick.

We have dealt with two to three applications per month, making strong representations in controversial cases such as proposals at 17 Long Road and two applications at 3 Long Road. In

the case of 17 Long Road the Parish Council's views have been upheld thanks to a site visit but unfortunately in the case of 3 Long Road the Parish Council's views were narrowly defeated by South Cambs District Council planning committee.

## **Affordable Housing Working Group**

We are pleased to report that, after many delays, work has now started on a development of Affordable Housing on the site off the Valley. This will comprise 4 x 3 bedroom and 7 x 2 bedroom houses and will be managed by a Housing Association. There will be a mixture of properties to rent and shared equity homes.

In May members attended a meeting to explore a proposal for Affordable Housing funded by a development of private houses on the Bennell Farm site (in Toft Parish). For a number of reasons the Council felt it could not support such a proposal.

## **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 approx. 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.

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.

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

## Budget for the FY 2011 & 2012 (R&P)

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Budget 2011</b>	<b>Actual Mar-11</b>	<b>Budget 2012</b>
<b>Advertising</b>	0.00	405.00	200.00
<b>Agency Services (Parish Paths &amp; CCC Verges)</b>	560.00	792.88	800.00
<b>General Admin</b>	13575.00	13241.14	15100.00
<b>Salaries</b>	2444.00	2085.72	4400.00
<b>S137 Grants/Donations</b>	2000.00		2000.00
St Mary's Churchyard Maintenance		750.00	
Comberton Brownies		50.00	
Comberton Reading Challenge		40.00	
Comberton Scouts		300.00	
<b>Village &amp; Assets Maint.</b>	14483.33	14772.71	15750.00
<b>Special Projects</b>			
Additional Litter Bins/Benches	200.00		200.00
Village Events (Christmas lights)	100.00	96.51	100.00
Parish Plan Proposals	596.69		600.00
VH Loan Repayment	13500.00	6749.68	0.00
Rec. Extension Loan Repayment	3366.00	1683.02	0.00
Rec. Ground Phase III	0.00		15000.00
Rec. Ground Phase II	10000.00		7000.00
TWG – Interactive signs & road markings	0.00		1000.00
Youth Projects	5000.00	3974.18	5000.00
Footway Lighting	500.00		0.00
<b>Contingency Fund</b>	3000.00		3000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>69325.02</b>	<b>44940.84</b>	<b>69950.00</b>

Any under spend on the budget headings is considered by the Parish Council and as appropriate may be carried forward in an earmarked fund.

<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget 2011</b>	<b>Actual Mar-11</b>	<b>Budget 2012</b>
<b>Precept</b>	56987.88	56987.88	65000.00
<b>Interest</b>	2000.00	302.34	500.00
<b>Other Income</b>	5000.00	561.06	0.00
<b>Agency Services (Parish Paths &amp; CCC Verges)</b>	1225.00	1224.96	1225.00
<b>Lands, Rec Ground &amp; Pavilion Income</b>	3200.00	3849.40	3200.00
<b>Reserves Funding</b>	912.14		0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>69325.02</b>	<b>62925.64</b>	<b>69925.00</b>

## Summary income and expenditure accounts

<b>2009/2010</b>			<b>2010/2011</b>	
		<b>Assets</b>		
100780.45		Nat Savings D&M Account	101082.79	
<u>28547.43</u>		Alliance & Leicester	<u>44808.79</u>	
	129327.88	Cash in hand		145891.58
	-1010.51	Outstanding at bank		-873.39
		Debtors	7783.02	
8117.47		Payments in advance	<u>0.00</u>	
<u>0.00</u>				
	8117.47			7783.02
	1252.92	VAT recoverable		944.33
<b>137687.76</b>		<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>153745.54</b>
-5536.01		Liabilities		-6947.92
<b>132151.75</b>		<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>		<b>146797.62</b>
	0.00	Long term liabilities		0.00
	<u>0.00</u>	Provision for doubtful debts		<u>0.00</u>
<b>132151.75</b>		<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>146797.62</b>

## Contact Details

### Parish Councillors

Miss Amanda Bacon	92B Swaynes Lane	264711
Mr Andrew Hollick	73 Swaynes Lane	263089
Mrs Sandra Hyde	57 Long Road	262075
Dr Janet McCabe	3 Westcroft	263387
Mr Simon Moffat	86 Swaynes Lane	
Dame Veronica Sutherland	12 Hines Lane	362050
Miss Chris Westgarth	85 Barton Road	263242

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

### Parish Clerk

Mrs Gail Stoehr PO Box 857, Comberton, Cambs, CB23 7DP  
Tel: 01954 210241 (home) or 01223 264553 (answerphone)  
Email: parishclerk@comberton.org.uk  
Website: www.comberton.org.uk

# COULD YOU SERVE YOUR VILLAGE ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL?

Comberton Parish Council has six vacancies and warmly invites all parishioners who would like to serve on the Parish Council to contact the Clerk with their details or for more information on what is involved being a parish councillor.

Initially, you may have little knowledge of Council work but this, together with experience and confidence, will follow.

As a new Councillor you will bring to the Council fresh enthusiasm and new ideas, a care for your community and a willingness to learn.

## **You should consider becoming a Parish if:**

You Want To Do More for Your Community  
You Want To Spend Your Time Productively  
You Can Think, Listen And Act Locally

## **Eligibility and requirements**

A candidate for a Parish or Town Council is qualified if, when nominated

- (a) he or she is a British subject or Irish citizen,
- (b) is 18 years of age, and
- (c) is either in the list of electors for that Parish or Town or has during the whole of the preceding twelve months;
  - (i) occupied land as owner or tenant in it, or
  - (ii) had a principal place of work there, or
  - (iii) resided in or within three miles of it.