

COMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL Annual Report 2012



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

Chairman's Report

Following the questionnaire that was distributed around the village, we have now studied the responses to this and produced a little booklet with the findings in it which you should all have received (if you have not received it, then please let me know, as we have a few spare copies). We, as a Parish Council are trying to implement the findings of this.

In May of last year we held our elections and with several members of the previous council not seeking re-election we had the task of co-opting new members and I am pleased to report that we are now fully manned or personned (to be politically correct!!!). A training course for new Parish Councillors was held recently and we all learned something new. Mrs Sandra Hyde resigned this year due to family commitments and I would publicly like to thank her for all her hard work over many years with the Parish Council.

The Recreation Ground and the Extension, 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.

With the cutbacks announced by the County Council regarding the Library in Comberton, a group was set up to save this and the library has been saved. Thanks go to Suzanne Griffiths and her band of helpers on this achievement.

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. We, as a Parish Council, were invited along to take questions from the young people and one of the items that was raised was they would like portable football posts to be used on a Tuesday night, one of our parishioners donated these to them and they were very grateful.

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

The date for the next one is Friday 7th December 2012 so please put this in your diaries.

Another date to put in your diaries is the 2nd June 2012, the Queens Diamond Jubilee, the Focus Group are busy with an event at the Church, along with the Jubilee Walk but more about this in the report from the Focus Group.

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.

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.

Amanda Bacon, Chairman

Members' reports

Footpaths – Parish Path Partnership (P3)

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 but we are confident 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.

The 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 has been successful. The new bridleway runs parallel to the road.

The permissive pathways linking The Drift (Byway 7) with The

Causeway (Footpath 8.) are well used. We are grateful to the landowner and 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.

Focus Group

The group is responsible for community events and enhancements and this year it has been busy planning events for the Diamond Jubilee.

The usual Christmas Lights event took place in early December, with record numbers turning out on a cold evening to enjoy the Salvation Army band, festive punch, chestnuts and mince pies.

The group is planning a Jubilee Walk and every household will receive a Jubilee booklet. This will include locations such as the church, watts wood, the sensory garden, the memorial and the pond area. The replacement of the village pump on Barton Road will enhance Footpath 5 (Pump Path – linking Barton Road and Swaynes Lane and this will also feature in the new Jubilee Walk.

The Parish Council is very grateful to local businesses and community groups who have supported this project financially. The walk and the booklet will be a lasting tribute to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Tree Group

As a group we have considered a number of applications for tree removal and work. Replacement cherry trees have been planted and funded by residents. All trees under the ownership of the parish council have been recorded using GPS.

2 silver birch were removed on the public open space at the valley.

Routine maintenance on a number of trees in Milner Road has taken place.

The jubilee wood on eastern side of the recreation ground extension is taking shape with several trees being donated by residents. This will provide an area for recreational use as well as commemorate the Jubilee of H M Queen Elizabeth II.

The wood has been planned to benefit the wider environment as part of a network of wildlife corridors connecting the recreation ground and the wood with hedges around adjacent arable and residential land.

The trees in the North East corner (required as a planning condition for change of use from an agricultural field to recreation ground) appear to have survived the dry conditions. Watts wood continues to provide an area for walking and nature and the display board is very useful.

Blue-Green Algae was clearly visible in the pond during the summer months and advice was sought from the Environment Agency. Sadly the fish that had been introduced to the pond (by some residents emptying their fish tanks) all perished - Blue Green Algae is toxic and can be dangerous to humans as well as other animals and marine life in general. The pond water level remains low and it is hoped to place a small parcel of barley in the centre of the pond to naturally treat the pond.

Recreation Ground Working Group

I took over as Convenor of the Recreation Working Group on 23 January, following the retirement of Simon Moffat. Thanks are due to Simon for all his hard work.

Over the last few months, the RWG has been concentrating on two major projects:

1. The development of the Recreation Ground Extension.

2. The development of the playground and purchase of new playground equipment. This project has been conducted in conjunction with Comberton Playground Project.

Both projects will involve substantial fundraising. A good deal of work has been carried out already in identifying sources of funds.

We have sought advice from the Football Association on the development of the Recreation Ground Extension. Our plan is to develop the area into a number of full-size and smaller pitches for the use of youth and adult football teams to complement the facilities at the existing recreation ground. We intend also to improve and extend the facilities available at the pavilion, in accordance with advice from the Football Association. The eastern edge of the recreation ground extension is being developed as the Jubilee Wood.

A great deal of work will need to be done to bring these projects to fruition. The RWG will be consulting with and seeking assistance from Comberton sports clubs and the local community to ensure that we develop the recreation ground, extension and play area into facilities we can all be proud of and which will benefit everyone.

Affordable Housing Working Group

The Group is pleased to report that Normandy Close is nearing completion. This is a development of 11 Affordable Homes off the Valley and will be part shared equity and part rented for people with a Comberton connection.

During last year a developer approached the Council about a possible site in Long Road. The Council agreed that a Public Consultation would be held before it decided whether it would support such a development in principle. However at the time of writing we have not heard anything further.

Who and what is the Parish Council?

The Parish Council comprises of 13 councillors who serve for a term of 4 years and represent an electorate of approx. 1809.

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 2012 & 2013 (R&P)

PAYMENTS	Budget 2012	Actual Mar-12	Budget 2013
Advertising	200.00	375.00	400.00
Agency Services (Parish Paths & CCC Verges)	800.00	662.00	880.00
General Admin	14900.00	14946.15	15601.00
Salaries	4400.00	2692.20	3249.60
S137 Grants/Donations	2000.00		2000.00
St Mary's Churchyard Maintenance		750.00	
Comberton Toddler Group		100.00	
Comberton Scouts		350.00	
Village & Assets Maint.	15750.00	21546.47	19200.00
Special Projects			
Additional Litter Bins/Benches	200.00	190.41	
Village Events (Christmas lights)	100.00	20.00	100.00
Parish Plan Proposals	600.00		
Rec. Ground Phase III	15000.00		
Rec. Ground Phase II	7000.00		
TWG – Interactive signs & road markings	1000.00		10000.00
Youth Projects	5000.00	5360.28	8600.00
Footway Lighting	0.00		185.00
Village Hall Finger Post	0.00	119.69	0.00
Village Hall Shed (Planning Application)	0.00	85.00	0.00
Contingency Fund	3000.00	930.00	3000.00
Reserves Payments		2841.55	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	69950.00	50968.75	63215.60

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

RECEIPTS	Budget 2012	Actual Mar-12	Budget 2013
Precept	65000.00	65000.00	58815.60
Interest	500.00	303.25	300.00
Other Income	0.00	997.21	
Agency Services (Parish Paths & CCC Verges)	1225.00	918.72	900.00
Lands, Rec Ground & Pavilion Income	3200.00	3384.06	3200.00
Reserves Income		7246.43	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	69925.00	77849.67	63215.60

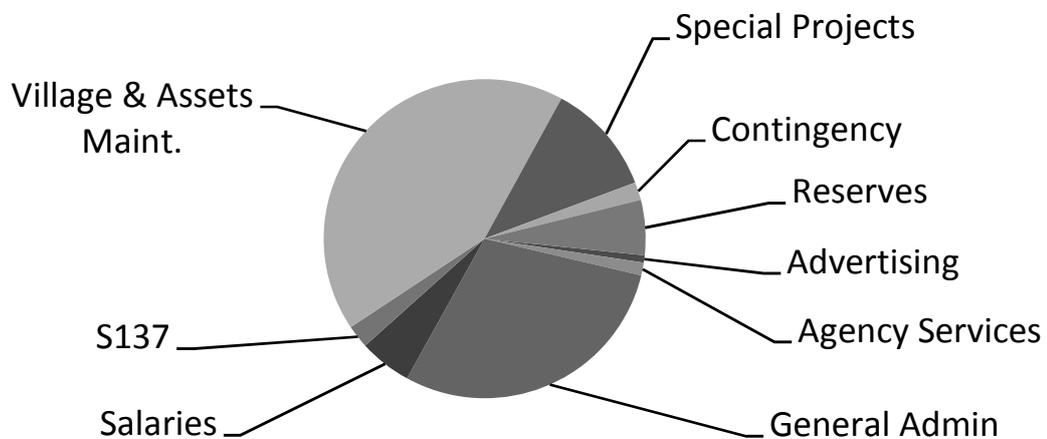
Summary income and expenditure accounts

2010/2011		2011/2012
	Assets	
101082.79	NS&I Acc.	101386.04
44808.79	Santander Acc.	71565.62
<hr/>	Cash at Bank	172951.66
145891.58	Outstanding at bank	-1317.26
-873.39		
	Debtors	1461.36
7783.02	Payments in advance	0.00
0.00		<hr/>
<hr/>	VAT recoverable	1461.36
7783.02	Total Assets	1209.04
944.33		174304.80
153745.54	Creditors	-23537.57
-6947.92	Total Assets less Creditors	150767.23
146797.62	Long term liabilities	0.00
0.00	Provision for doubtful debts	0.00
0.00		<hr/>
<hr/> 146797.62 <hr/>	Net Assets	<hr/> 150767.23 <hr/>

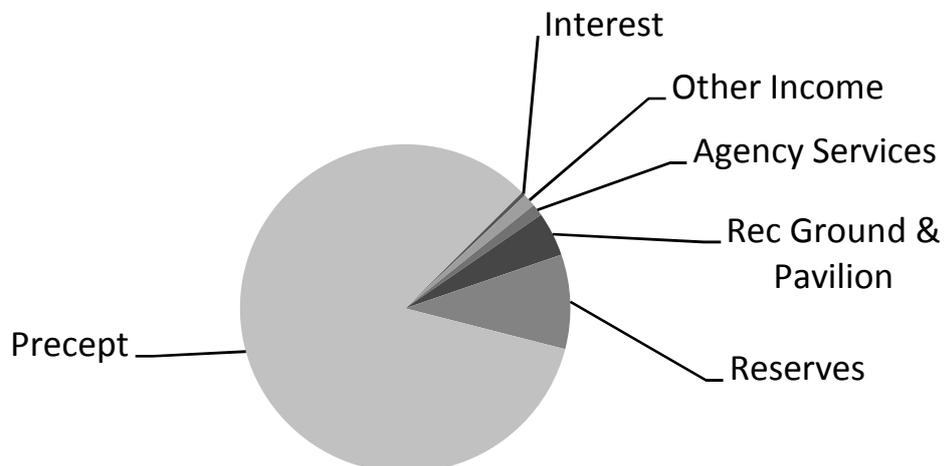
Reserves (R&P)

	Balance b/f	Payments	Receipts	Balance c/f
P3 grant	1140.00		344.00	1484.00
Parish Pump	434.80			434.80
Recreation ground prep fund	4431.08	1772.50	690.00	25348.58
Parish Plan	427.00	230.01		196.99
Youth facilities	350.00	0.00		350.00
Village Hall insurance	-873.39	839.04	1712.43	0.00
Leach Homes (S106)	42115.83			42115.83
General fund	96835.82			97047.90
Long Road S106 (rec ground)	4258.90			4258.90
Village Hall Loan	-4500.00		4500.00	0.00
LH (donation Rec Ground)	397.40			397.40
TWH Highways fund	0.00			1000.00
Total	145017.44	£2,841.55	£7,246.43	£171,634.40

Payments



Receipts



Contact Details

<u>Parish Councillors</u>		(01223)
Miss Amanda Bacon (Chairman)	92B Swaynes Lane	264711
Dr Janet McCabe (Vice Chairman)	3 Westcroft	263387
Mr Anthony Bateman	19 Bush Close	262243
Mr Peter Crossley	59 Barrons Way	262517
Mr Hywel Griffiths	18 Barrons Way	263390
Mr Andrew Hollick	73 Swaynes Lane	263089
Mr Simon Moffat	86 Swaynes Lane	
Mr Ben Pemberton	35 West Street	262445
Mrs Jill Preston	45 Long Road	262445
Mrs Mary Richards	38 Barrons Way	262180
Mr Tim Scott	65 Green End	263077
Dame Veronica Sutherland	12 Hines Lane	262050
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

COMBERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday 23 May 2012 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Approval & signing of the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 27 April 2011
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Report of the Parish Council for the year from Cllr Amanda Bacon, Chairman
4. Report from Gail Stoehr, Responsible Financial Officer, on the Parish Council's finances, including presentation of the audited accounts
5. Report by Cllr S Harangozo on District Council Matters
6. Report by Cllr F. Whelan on County Council Matters
7. Reports on the work and activities of groups and organisations including those which have either received a grant from the Parish Council or which have Parish Council appointees on their charity or organisation including:

Herringland Charity (trustees appointed by the Parish Council), Comberton Village Institute (trustees appointed by the Parish Council), St Mary's Church (grant), CCC Library Services (grant), Comberton Scouts (grant)

Questions on any of the above reports

8. Reports from other village groups and organisations on their activities
9. To consider resolutions of which advance notice has been given (*If you have an item or resolution for the meeting to consider please let the Clerk know before the meeting*)
10. Any other parish matters).
 - The District Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (More information on Comberton's current designation as a Group Village and also on this process is available on the SCDC website.

www.scambs.gov.uk/Environment/Planning/DistrictPlanning/LocalDevelopmentFramework/SHLAA.htm

Comberton Parish Council seeks your views on these proposals. What do you think?

- Open discussion, everyone welcome to contribute

11. Closure of meeting

Please Note:

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting will not be read out at the meeting. Copies are available for viewing by arrangement with the Parish Clerk. Copies will also be available at the meeting. Written reports from the meeting will be available on request following the meeting and the Parish Council's annual report will be delivered to each home.

This meeting is open to all residents and electors of Comberton who may by Law discuss all parish affairs, ask questions, put forward views and pass resolutions at the meeting.

**IF YOU REQUIRE THIS REPORT IN A LARGER PRINT
PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK ON 01954 210241**