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Little Comberton Parish Council

2026/8

Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Wednesday 11th March 2026, 7.30pm Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: N Jamieson, C Rabbette, L Schmitz, N Smithson & D Smaylen.

Clerk/RFO: Nicola Harding

In attendance: Five parishioners

1. Apologies

Received from Cllr D. Smithson, District Cllr B. Hardman & County Cllr A. Hardman.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

3. Parishioner's Comments

Drainage: Updates were requested regarding a blocked ditch near the Great Comberton turning as reported at the February meeting. It was confirmed that the lengthsman had made attempts to clear this but was unable to do so completely. The landowner has been notified and confirmed that they would make contact with a contractor who has previously undertaken this work.

Action: Monitor/check with lengthsman.

Highways: An update was requested regarding white line reinstatement to rectify incomplete sections along Pershore Road, as reported under item 5.

PRoW: Concerns were raised regarding the potential risks posed to livestock by unleashed dogs on local fields, especially during the forthcoming lambing season. It was suggested that awareness be raised with the community to understand these risks, as advised by government guidelines & to explore the possibility of liaising with local landowners and fund appropriate signage requesting dogs be kept on leads where livestock are present.

Action: Cllr Jamieson to draft a village message to share with Cllrs & explore possible signage options for the council to purchase – link to suggested wording to be provided by parishioner for review at the next meeting.

Planning: Concerns were shared with the meeting regarding application W/26/00423/FUL received and the potential for future village development. These were noted and discussed in further detail under item 8, Planning.

A parishioner had reported concerns to a Cllr regarding parked vehicles on the pavement along Pershore Road. This is presenting a potential danger given their siting on a blind bend. There are no road markings to indicate illegal parking, however it was suggested that a courtesy note could be left on vehicles in such a situation, as a reminder that they are obstructing the footway.

Action: Cllrs to check if this becomes a regular occurrence, with a view to posting a courtesy notice using previous wording agreed, if necessary.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 11th February 2026

The Chairman proposed an amendment to minute item 3, lay-by, for accuracy: this action had not been carried out and correspondence had been received as an agenda item for discussion at the March meeting of the Parish Council. This was noted and proposed Cllr N. Smithson, seconded Cllr Schmitz, all in favour to approve the minutes as a true record.

5. Progress reports from Parish Activities: brief updates:

- a. Lengthsman: Cllr Jamieson provided updates of tasks undertaken in the parish, including drain clearance, kerb reinstatement and vegetation removal. Cllrs agreed to renew the contract for the new financial year for the continued number of hours, pending receipt of final budget figures still to be confirmed and received by WCC Lengthsman Scheme.
Action: Clerk to circulate any further budget updates received from WCC & update Cllrs/Lengthsman.
- b. Highways: Confirmation had been received from WCC Highways Senior Highways Liaison Officer that the Wick Road passing bays will be inspected and white line reinstatement along Pershore Road is scheduled for the Spring when the weather improves. It was agreed to request if the Highways Officer could confirm his attendance in the village to enable Cllr Jamieson to discuss these tasks further.
Action: Clerk to request & confirm.
- c. Footpaths/PRoW: There were no further updates to share regarding the Council's proposal for the possible creation of a permissive footway on land parallel to Pershore Road, to enable a safer walking access for residents at the Southern end of the parish into the main village – the land agent had confirmed that the landowner has seen this request but has not yet met to discuss the proposal further.
Action: Clerk to circulate any further updates when received.
- d. Trees/Verges: An update had been received from the tree surgeon that the sweet chestnut tree in Orchard Drive had now been removed and re-sited in one of the gaps recently created along Wick Road, given its likely future size and proximity to overhead National Grid apparatus. The Clerk had requested an additional quote for a replacement tree of suitable size for the existing street scene. It was also agreed that the Clerk liaise with the parish tree warden in order to consider the suitability of the offer of a donation of trees as further replacements in the gaps along Wick Road.
Action: Further updates to be provided at the April meeting, Clerk to liaise with parish tree warden.

- e. Water testing: Cllr Smaylen provided updates following his recent water testing training with a volunteer from neighbouring Great Comberton Parish. Control testing had been compared with three locations along Mary Brook and electric conductivity, temperature, nitrate and phosphate readings taken. These were shared and discussed with the meeting. Firm conclusions cannot yet be drawn, however the results would be shared with the organiser and subsequent testing will continue which will then be downloaded via an app. A parishioner present gave future permission for Cllr Smaylen to also test on land upstream of Old House Farm & it was confirmed that Severn Trent test in these areas on a regular basis too. Cllr B. Hardman has requested to attend a future testing session.

Action: Cllr Smaylen.

- f. Data & Digital compliance: A final invoice had been checked and confirmed as accurate, following the council's approval at the January meeting to approve expenditure for initial set up costs of Parish Clerk & Cllr gov.uk emails accounts. This is in line with a new assertion requiring every authority to have a generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain. Further consideration will need to be given regarding future procedures for official storage and retention of Council data as this will be a time consuming process for the Clerk to undertake once new systems embed.

Action: Revisit as a future agenda item.

- g. Airband: MP Harriet Baldwin had confirmed that further contact had been made with Airband on the Council's behalf in their request for updates, however there was nothing new to report at present.

Action: Retain as an agenda item.

- h. Village organisations: Updates were provided following a recent meeting between village organisation and parish council representatives to discuss shared communications regarding the hall. It was agreed to notify committee members of the confirmed date of the annual parish meeting with a view to a co-ordinated response in sharing updates from the year.

Action: Cllr N. Smithson to notify Clerk of VH contact email, Clerk to make contact with village organisation representatives following the April Parish Council meeting.

- i. Sewers: An area manager has visited the village with a Severn Trent engineer to discuss the water treatment works and areas of concern raised by the Parish Council at the rear of Orchard Drive. It had been agreed to conduct a camera survey of the sewage system every two years to check for tree routes in the pipework. Works scheduled to be undertaken on 9 March had been cancelled on the day, with no further updates at present. It had been advised that the parish sewage system and treatment works run well in comparison to neighbouring parishes and following a suggestion raised at the February Parish Council meeting, Severn Trent will consider implementing a sensor into the chamber of the main sewer in their future work schedule, in order to identify potential issues as they arise.

6. **Pershore Road lay-by:** Correspondence had been received from a WCC Highways officer demonstrating the extent and date the lay-by was adopted as publicly maintainable highway. As owners of the bungalows behind the lay-by have previously contested this with WCC, it was noted that this remains an issue of concern. It was acknowledged that inappropriate parking, particularly of higher vehicles in the vicinity, can cause visibility issues for residents attempting to access or exit their driveways. As had been previously confirmed, this concerns the residents and WCC Highways and is not a matter for the Parish Council to progress further, however it was agreed to relay this discussion to the Senior Highways Liaison Officer at WCC Highways for advice in terms of a possible resolution. Attention was also drawn to signage, details of which would be passed on to Cllr Jamieson.

Action: Cllr Jamieson/WCC Senior Highways Liaison Officer.

7. District and County Councillor's reports:

Cllr B. Hardman and A. Hardman forwarded their report in advance of the meeting, which the Clerk circulated and shared with those present.

8. Planning

W/26/00423/FUL: Land At (OS 9643 4319) Great Comberton (Little Comberton Parish): Erection of four dwellings (Use Class 3) with associated access arrangements from Pershore Road, landscaping, drainage and associated infrastructure.

It was noted that the current planning address identifies as within Great Comberton, however the application site is actually within Little Comberton parish – the Clerk had raised this with the planning officer for further enquiry with the database team. Subsequent to the meeting, the planning officer confirmed they are unable to change the address of the application on the portal, however would note that the details of the application on the website do confirm that the site lies within Little Comberton Parish: [Planning application: W/26/00423/FUL - Wychavon District Council](#).

A discussion ensued regarding the application received and the following key comments were noted and shared with the meeting:

- At a pre-application meeting requested by Morgan Elliott, parish councillors flagged up the kind of comments that the Parish Council has made in response to recent planning applications. Morgan Elliott stated that they would take on board the feedback from the discussion.

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- There are numerous, lengthy documents produced by the agent for information – it was noted that Cllrs are not planning experts and many have work responsibilities, therefore a collaborative village approach would help to share expertise in analysing the documentation.
- Not all villagers have online access, therefore an opportunity to obtain paper copies of the key documents & appendices would be helpful to share. This would also allow the breakdown of tasks into manageable chunks for working groups. It was confirmed that two Parish Cllrs would make themselves available at the next Saturday Pantry to liaise with villagers and note opinions shared to relay to all Cllrs.
- A request for an extension for comments with the planning officer may also need to be considered, given the volume and detail of documentation to consider and assess.

Following a lengthy discussion, the following actions were agreed:

- Cllr Jamieson to extend the date for comments via the online village survey to the evening of Sunday 15th March, collate results anonymously and share with Cllrs and the village during the week beginning 16th March.
- Cllr N. Smithson & Cllr Smaylen to attend the next Saturday Pantry on 14th March as an opportunity to liaise with villagers and communicate updates from the Parish Council meeting.
- Clerk to request 2 copies of the main appendices from the planner as provided in the application, in addition to large copies of the key planning documents: location plan, elevation of houses & surface water connections.
- Cllr N. Smithson to check availability at the hall during the week commencing Monday 23rd March in order to arrange a village meeting, potentially with the developer, as an opportunity to see large copies of the scheme & discuss and clarify any points regarding the proposals.
- Parish Council to consider the approach of defining key sections of the proposals to analyse for information, so that each Cllr take on responsibility for a section, along with the support of interested villagers who may have specific expertise identified at a meeting.

W/25/02773/HP: 10 Orchard Drive: Demolition of existing conservatory & erection of a single storey rear extension and associated works – this application has been approved.

9. Finance

a) Current Balances at 1st March 2026

Treasurer's Account:	£13,221.51
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TOTAL	£13,221.51
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b) Payments to report since the February meeting:

January 26 VH hire	£13.00
January 26 Lengthsman invoice	£190.00
Expenses: Printing – Ink share	£21.21
Salary: March 2026	£439.40
Expenses: March 2026	£12.00
February 26 VH hire	£13.00

TOTAL	£688.61
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Income received:

WCC Lengthsman January 26 invoice	£190.00
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Payments to approve following the meeting:

February 26 Lengthsman invoice	£190.00
March 26 Lengthsman invoice	£133.00
February 26 VH hire	£13.00
Tree removal: Orchard Drive	£50.00
*Annual Council email & domain name:	£350.64

*The Clerk drew attention to an invoice received following circulation of the agenda for the annual Council email account hosting and domain name registration – as a formal quotation for this expenditure had been considered and approved at the January 2026 meeting of the Parish Council, it was agreed to include this as an additional payment following the meeting and:

Proposed Cllr N. Smithson, seconded Cllr Smaylen, all in favour to approve the payments presented.

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10. Correspondence

WCC 2026/27 Draft Budget consultation 23/2/26 – Slides & details had been circulated for Cllr’s information.

11. Councillor’s reports and items for future agenda

Correspondence received – Pool Close.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 7.30 pm

Signed

Date.....

Chairman