

## WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 March 2010 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

---

**Present:** D A Bamforth (Chairman), D J Saberton (Vice Chairman), A Berry, J Bibby, C Watson

*In attendance* Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)  
 Cllr A Bailey (ECDC)  
 Cllr T Goodge (ECDC)  
 Cllr P Read (CCC)

Public question time opened at 7.30 pm – 1 member of the public  
 Full Council business commenced at 7.45pm  
 One member of public present during meeting to Minute 10/045 inclusive

Action

10/039 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr K Mackender (away on business)

10/040 **Declaration of Interest:** Mr C Watson Minute 10/045 (19 Westway Place)

10/041 **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (Droves)**

The Chairman welcomed Kate Day and George Hay, Public Rights of Way Department at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and discussion ensued on the management of the Droves.

CCC supports protecting the droves for users and wildlife. A Management Plan had been prepared in conjunction with the WildlifeTrust and a meeting held last year at Witchford Sedgeway Equestrian Centre to discuss with surrounding villages - unfortunately Witcham was not represented as it had been understood the event was taking place at the Witcham Equestrian Centre on Mepal Road. The following points were agreed:

1. Karen Whymark CCC to organise initial Saturday morning meeting between Witcham, Mepal, Coveney/Wardy Hill, Sutton, Wentworth, Little Downham Parish Council, ie local network. Parish Councils to represent interests of users and farmers. After discussion and plans may take through Neighbourhood Panels. Funding for development may be available from external bodies such as Wren or under new Community Infrastructure Levy proposed (to replace S106 agreements).
2. Signage, although not aesthetic, must conform to Department of Transport signage standards. Gates also unattractive but anything less substantial would get rammed, angle-ground or removed.
3. Parish Councils/users to notify County Council when there is damage to gates. CCC to replace gate support off Witcham/Wardy Hill Road. CCC had amended Notices on closure to give flexibility on re-opening dates so depending on weather conditions may open earlier in April.
4. Repair of Bury Lane membrane. County Council to advise on material used previously and suggested using P3 scheme monies.
5. Flytipping – to be reported to ECDC (along bank off Hive Road)

Chairman thanked County Council representatives who then left the meeting.

10/042 **Minutes of the meetings** of 9 February 2010 and 16 February 2010 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Chairman, seconded by Mr D Saberton, and agreed unanimously.

**10/043 Matters Arising**

There were none.

**10/044 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor Tony Goodge reported on planning application adj 19 Westway Place and will attend the planning meeting.

Councillor Anna Bailey had been working on the ECDC budgets and asked if there were any concerns. Noted that the separate collection of plastics for recycling would cease. Such materials to go in normal black bag refuse from where they will be sorted at the waste centre and sent for making fuel pellets. Introduction of a new Community Infrastructure Levy on new developments, effective from April 2011 being considered. District Council will allocate funds to community on evidence based applications, eg Parish Plan.

Councillor Philip Read reported that the shortage of road gritting salt in the county had been brought about because although the CCC held good stocks, replacement orders were extensively delayed as other users who held less stock had had priority of order. CCC now working hard to carry out initial repairs of potholes.

**10/045 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

10/00067/FUL Erection two 3-bed detached houses adj 19 Westway Place (amendment ) new block plan showing 1200mm wide new footway fronting Westway Place. Host dwelling 2 car parking spaces including space allocated in parking bay at front.

Mr C Watson declared a personal interest as neighbour and withdrew from discussion.

Chairman suspended meeting to receive comments from member of public. Meeting reconvened.

Chairman proposed Council maintain its objection to consent since the amendments did not address local concern and the Council's points of objection were still valid. Agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

Mr C Watson rejoined the meeting.

10/0138/FUL Amberlea Kennels – change of use from staff facility/office building to single include temporary overnight staff accommodation. No objections. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

**10/046 RECREATION GROUND AND VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES**

Chairman reported that he had removed turf which had been planted over goalpost sockets by footballers. Noted the Club had not sought permission to lay turf.

Mr D Saberton reported that at weekly checks of play equipment he had found the cricket net had come adrift and there were faults in net. Chairman confirmed he had contacted Witcham Cricket Club and Nigel Pate would fix the top of the net, repair the net and adjust the carpet.

Chairman advised that the groundsman would clean moss and algae from play safety tiles with power hose soon, using external water supply tap.

2010 Grasscutting at Recreation Ground. Quote from Cricket Club for £450 accepted. Proposed Mr C Watson and seconded Mr A Bamforth, agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

Village Hall Development. Chairman reported that there had been a delay with the Architect but that things were generally progressing, including fund-raising and grant applications.

**10/047 DOG FOULING**

Press notice for parish magazine from Dog Warden received. Chairman to edit and place in next edition "What's On".

*Chairman***10/048 ADOPTION BT RED TELEPHONE KIOSK, HIGH STREET**

Clerk had previously circulated the three consultation responses from members of the parish together with information pack available from BT Payphones website, including contracts. Clerk drew attention to the change regarding electricity, ie the Adoption contract provided that BT would pay electricity for up to 5 years and held the right to remove/cap electricity supply during that 5 years. Chairman proposed adoption of the phone box for £1. Seconded Mr C Watson and agreed unanimously. Noted that BT planned to remove the telephone equipment at some time in the future. No plans for future use of structure at present. Clerk to add to insurance schedule and Mr D Saberton/Mr A Berry to check condition of the phone box prior to Clerk contacting BT to arrange contract.

*DS/AB/  
Clerk***10/049 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 27 APRIL 2010**

Chairman proposed invite Archive Group to provide a presentation of 20-30 minutes. Chairman to prepare his Annual Report for inclusion in the Annual Report and Accounts 2009/10 in conjunction with Clerk for circulation at the meeting and then each householder.

*Chairman***10/050 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT**

Chairman and Clerk to visit cemetery to assess annual maintenance requirements.

*Chairman***10/051 COMMUNITY POLICE**

There were no new issues to report. Clerk reported that the PSCO had been in touch. Noted that there had been 3 break-ins on property in the Hive Road area within a week. The Police had been informed and parishioners were actively reporting suspicious vehicles/occupants to the authorities. Note to go in newsletter to keep up the vigilance.

*Chairman***10/052 REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

P3 Parish Paths Scheme. Mr Berry confirmed he would complete forms proposing work to install interpretation board on the droves, maintenance clearing at Park Lane and to request £500 towards resurfacing repairs at Bury Road.

*AB***10/053 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

The Orchards – Surface water drainage. Chairman reported that he had been called to deal with overburdened ditch (The Slade to Westway Place). This had now been passed to the Environment Agency and a report is awaited.

Martins Lane Highway Drainage. Chairman had received complaints that highway surface water not getting into drainage system but flooding out into highway at top end of Martins Lane and running back down on to private property. Requires verge tidying and kerbing. He had discussed with Highways and it had been passed to Sanctuary Hereward who denied responsibility. Chairman proposed Clerk write to Highways stating unsatisfactory for highway surface water to flood properties and also large standing puddles hazard for motorists. Agreed unanimously.

*Clerk***10/054 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

The following documents and questionnaires had been previously circulated:

ECDC Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. No comments. Clerk to acknowledge receipt.

10/054 **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS (Cont)**

CCC Waste and Minerals including Block Fen and Langwood Fen Mineral extraction and recycling/landfill/lakes. Submission documents. To note Witcham supports other parishes affected by transport issues and trusts suitable arrangements planned for environmental considerations after aggregates removed.

ECDC Guidance on submitting planning applications on land that may be contaminated (SDP/LDF). No comment.

Cambridgeshire Horizons – Green Vision. Mr A Berry to complete questionnaire and despatch on behalf of Council

AB

CCC Third Local Transport Plan. Chairman to complete questionnaire and despatch on behalf of Council.

Chairman

NALC Strategy and Business Plan. Clerk to complete questionnaire and despatch on behalf of Council

Clerk

Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

10/055 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were received and noted

CPALC Role of Service Delivery by Local Councils. Setting up of pilot schemes and establishing codes of best practice.

Chairman proposed respond stating that Council involved with Sutton and Mepal Parish Councils as partnership in Community Development, and including village hall developments.

Clerk

East Cambs Sustainable Community Strategy 2011/31. Councillors to bring any comments to April meeting.

All

Publications circulated  
CPALC Winter 09/10 Bulletin

10/056 **DIARY DATES**

SUSTRANS A142 Cycleway, 18 March 2010 at the Community Room, The Brook, Sutton, 7.00pm

10/057 **FINANCE**

The following Receipts and Payments were presented and approved. Proposed by Chairman and agreed unanimously. Clerk's salary deferred until completion of hours in March.

|          |   | £      | £    | £      |
|----------|---|--------|------|--------|
| Receipts | C Watson Cemetery plot  | 102.00 |      | 102.00 |
|          | RS Memorials inscription  | 56.00  |      | 56.00  |
| Payments | 001002 Witcham Cricket Club<br>Grasscutting 2009  | 400.00 |      | 400.00 |
|          | 001003 J Phillips reimburse copying<br>"Whats On" LGA '72 s142                                      | 39.60  |      | 39.60  |
|          | 001004 Village Hall Hire (meetings)   | 160.00 |      | 160.00 |
|          | 001005 CCC Street lighting energy &<br>maintenance  | 240.65 |      | 240.65 |
|          | 001006 Reimburse Clerk Expenses<br>Postage £10.22, toners £135.81<br>Internet Dec £3.99, Jan-Mar@£8 | 174.02 |      | 174.02 |
|          | 001007 C Walker wages   | 72.00  |      | 72.00  |
|          | d/d Information Commission DPA 1998   | 35.00  |      | 35.00  |
|          | d/d Talk Talk Nov £2.57, Dec/Jan £4.94  | 6.44   | 1.07 | 7.51   |

10/058 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 April 2010 commencing at 7.30 pm for monthly check of payments and receipts and 'open to the public' time. Business to commence at 7.45 pm.

All items to be considered at this meeting must be placed with Clerk for inclusion on agenda by *All* Monday 5 April 2010.

Signed ..... Dated .....