

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22 March 2011 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: D A Bamforth (Chairman), D J Saberton (Vice Chairman), A Berry, J Bibby, K Mackender

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Cllr P Read (CCC)

Public question time opened at 7.30 pm – nil members of the public
Verification of payments and receipts took place by the Chairman
Full Council business commenced at 7.45pm
No members of public present during meeting

The Chairman welcomed Brendan Troy, Planning Department, East Cambs District Council

Action

11/038 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Anna Bailey, District Councillor.

11/039 **Declaration of Interest:** There were none

11/040 **Minutes of the meeting** of 8 February 2011 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr D Saberton, seconded by Mrs J Bibby, and agreed unanimously.

The Chairman proposed moving to agenda item 11/042. Agreed unanimously

11/042 ECDC PLANNING – CORE STRATEGY AND WITCHAM

Mr Troy explained the District Council was keen to liaise with parishes and take the opportunity while reviewing the Core Strategy to work together to manage future growth and recognise the needs of each parish/town. The Localism Bill provides the opportunity for local communities to have more say in their future. The provisions of the Rural Exceptions Policy could be used to provide affordable housing. Timescale: Preparation to October, Consultation Nov/Dec, submission to Government Spring 2012.

Chairman expressed concerns about lack of suitable housing in the village for those starting out on the property ladder and for older people to downsize to, leading to stagnation. Mr Troy invited the Council to review needs and contact him again for further discussions.

The Chairman thanked Mr Troy who then left the meeting.

11/041 Matters Arising

11/021 *Martins Lane Flooding* – Clerk confirmed she had chased Hereward Housing for details of the site meeting with the County Council.

Clerk

11/043 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor P Read reported that the CCC Waste and Aggregate Plan was about to be adopted. New road signs for the A14, preferred routes, were in the process of being erected.

11/044 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

10/00976/FUL Witcham Village Hall, Martins Lane. Following the meeting with the Planning Department the application had been withdrawn. After discussion agreed Chairman to advise Village Hall Committee that it supported a traditional looking building, which would blend in with the surroundings and would not date in the future. Requirement for lift to be installed.

Chairman

Clerk reported that ECDC was proposing to email applications to Parish Councils and was looking for parishes to trial a scheme and set up procedures. Council concerned regarding not being able to view plans on large scale paper – A4 paper or computer screen limits ease of seeing detail.

Clerk

11/045 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Bury Road (Byway 11). Correspondence from the County Council and local landowner was received. Apparently County Council to suspend cutting drove and suggest mediated approach to the future management of the drove.

P3 Scheme: Bury Road. Agreed Mr A Berry to progress the application of lime to the drove surface in conjunction with advice from County Council; also to check if they could provide contractor for spreading the lime, which could be paid for from our P3 scheme grants. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously. *AB*

Mr Berry had quotes for the wooden signposts for Bury Road. Mr Saberton reported that he had noted that the County Council had already erected some signposts. Chairman proposed Mr Berry review needs on the local network. Agreed unanimously. *AB*

Mr Berry gave an up-date on the proposed interpretation board for Bury Road. He will check with County Council regarding permission to erect the signs proposed. *AB*

11/046 2011 LOCAL ELECTIONS (PARISH AND DISTRICT) AND REFERENDUM

Packs and instructions for Parish Council elections available from ECDC website. Nomination forms to be hand delivered to ECDC between 25 March and 4 April. Notices will be placed on noticeboard within next few days. *All*

11/047 2011 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 26 April 2011

Agenda discussed. Chairman proposed Clerk contact Environment Agency to ask them to speak about the proposed Ouse Washes Habitat Creation Project. Agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

11/048 2011 BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION

Mr Saberton to speak to judges to confirm date and arrangements, and to liaise with editor "What's On" to publish notices. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously. *DJS*

11/049 CCC HIGHWAY WARDENS

Proposals considered. Chairman proposed Clerk respond to state that the Council would not appoint a Highway Warden for the village as this function was already carried out in Council and executed by the Clerk. Agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

11/050 RECREATION GROUND

Report of Annual Inspection of Play Equipment by Wicksteed awaited. Chairman reported that the Groundsman had cleaned the tiles and equipment.

Clerk reminded Councillors that the football goalposts were due for rotation. *Chairman*

Chairman reported that the Cricket Club and advised that the sitings for the football goalposts may require maintenance to deal with any wear on the turf. Clerk to write to Cricket Club requesting that they move the goalposts on regular basis so as to minimise wear. *Clerk*

Mr David Saberton reported that there were no issues to report on play equipment.

11/051 QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS RENEWAL

Chairman said he was still to contact the Project Officer for discussions. In the meantime Clerk to begin collating portfolio. Noted it was probable that the Project Officer would not be available after 31 March since it was expected the funding would be pulled. Advice from CPALC on Clerk's contract was still awaited. *Chairman*

11/052 COMMUNITY POLICE

February crime report previously circulated. Nil to report to Police.

11/053 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Ouse Washes Habitat Creation Project. No representative

A142 Cycleway. Mr A Berry reported there was still good support to complete the link to Ely. Parishes, through Neighbourhood Panels, to work together to obtain funding, including Sustrans. Setting up working parties to look at cycleways across the county and to investigate and produce evidence of use to support funding grants. Advised was cheaper to use local contractors than County Council labour force/contractors. Parishes would be responsible for future maintenance of the cycleways, which on a lower specification would be more frequent than on original County Council standards. AB

11/054 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

Nil to report on streetlighting. Complaints had been received about dog fouling at various places around the village including the recreation ground. This will not be tolerated. Names of offenders to be sent to the ECDC Enforcement Officer. All

11/055 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

CCC HCV Strategy – document previously circulated. No comments
More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour – previously circulated. No comments
CCC Changes to bus times and services noted

11/056 CORRESPONDENCE

2011 Census to take place on 27 March 2011. Notices posted up.
Request from William Kent for erection of memorial was approved.

11/057 PUBLICATIONS

Neighbourhood Panel Newsletter – circulated. Also noted that sadly the Co-ordinator's post was to go in the next financial year and staff at ECDC would lead arrangements.

11/058 FINANCE

Date for Annual Audit 6 June 2011

The following Receipts and Payments were presented and approved. Proposed by Chairman and agreed unanimously

		£	£	£
Receipts	William Kent Memorials Saberton	124.00		124.00
	William Kent Memorials balance Few	62.00		62.00
Payments	001052 CCC Joint Funded Minor Improvements Scheme Hive Road. £1 per elector	356.00		356.00
	001053 Sutton Mepal Witcham Youth (2 nd payment)	500.00		500.00
	001054 Pecks	394.68	78.94	473.62
	001055 S J Bell Salary Feb & March, Expenses postage 40.26, internet 16	512.40	56.26	568.66
	001056 DA Bamforth (Chairman's Allowance) Donation in memory L Setchell	20.00		20.00
	001057 P Walker Wages & Expenses	hours & expenses awaited		
	001058 Witcham Cricket Club Grasscutting 2010	450.00		450.00
	001059 Witcham Village Hall hire	invoice still awaited		
	001060 Rod Giles repairs play area	30.00		30.00
	d/d Information Commissioner's office	35.00		35.00
	d/d Talk Talk	2.94		2.94

Witcham Cricket Club grasscutting 2009, cheque No 001002 for £400 unrepresented (lost). Re-issued Cheque No. 001061

11/058 **FINANCE** (cont)

Invoice for hire of hall (13 small room and 1 large) awaited. Clerk asked for consent to pay this before the year end. Consent given – proposed Chairman, agreed unanimously.

11/059 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 April 2011 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.

Any business and payments, to be considered at Parish Council meeting must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 6 clear days prior to the meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed Dated