

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 September, 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: D A Bamforth (Chairman), D J Saberton, D K Saberton, C Watson

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Mrs B Daters (ECDC)
Mr A White (ECDC)

No members of the public present.

372. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr W Wilkin.

Action

373. **Declaration of Interest:** Item 379: Mr D A Bamforth.

374. **Minutes of the meeting** of 15 August 2006 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed Mr David Saberton, seconded Mr Don Saberton, and agreed unanimously.

375. **Matters Arising**

357 *Woodland Burial Site, Hive Road* Chairman reported he would be meeting applicant.

Chairman

360 *Cemetery* Nothing more to report on revised plan at present.

Chairman

361 *Recreation Ground*

Cricket Nets Clerk confirmed order placed and to be paid on invoice. Cricket Club to erect in due course.

Registration of Recreation Ground Due to be considered by adjudication panel 4 October 2006.

365 *Best Kept Garden Competition* Commendations to include speciality.

DKS

376. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

06/01059/FUL 30 Silver Street Witcham. Modified proposal for new build house – Plot 4 – new door from kitchen to garden. No objections.

Clerk

The following ECDC decision was noted:

06/00749/FUL Plot adj 2 Martins Lane. Approved subject to conditions on joinery, boundary, visibility splays, protection of trees and no windows/openings on first floor and above.

ECDC Planning Newsletter No 2 'Design and Access statement' effective from 10.8.06 noted.

Council received report that caravan was now stationed outside 12 Martins Lane. Clerk to check if this constituted part of planning consent.

Clerk

Council received report that there may be a drainage problem on Silver Street where tarmac on access to new houses joins existing in that water had been seeping up, probably having drained through the site via the pavers which had been set on shingle. To be monitored

All.

377. **EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The audit on 2005/6 accounts had been completed and Certificate and Opinion issued. Displayed on noticeboard and website with details of accounts in accordance with regulations.

Clerk

378. **PARISH PLAN**

Chairman reported that questionnaires and sample were discussed at meeting on 30 August. Questionnaire to be made simple and all was on track for completion by end of November. Next meeting 13 September 2006.

All

379. LETTING OF OUSE WASH DROVES

Mr Bamforth declared a personal interest (membership of RSPB) and declined to take part in discussion.

Clerk gave up-date. Mr Don Saberton proposed letting droves to the RSPB again on a 10 year Agreement, starting rate £650pa, with effect April 2006, with index linked increments in April 2009 and April 2012. Seconded by Mr C Watson and agreed. Clerk to instruct Hall Ennion and Young.

*Clerk***380. RECREATION GROUND**

Chairman reported that he had received an urgent request for use of the recreation ground for practice by Mepal and Witcham Football Junior Club for 2 and 9 September (9.30 – 11.00am) and evening of 5 September (6 – 7 pm). This was due to the delay in completing the new drainage system at the normal ground in Mepal. The football club had also contacted Mr Don Saberton seeking permission. The Chairman had checked the application form and evidence of insurance. Temporary consent had been granted and this was confirmed by the meeting.

It was agreed provision should be made for Councillors to deal with urgent requests for use of the recreation ground. Chairman proposed that ‘in exceptional circumstances any 2 councillors have delegated powers to grant permission for constituted organisations to use the recreation ground subject to satisfactory application form and evidence of valid certificate of insurance.’ Seconded Mr Don Saberton and agreed by all. Such consents to be notified to the Clerk and recorded at next available council meeting.

All

Mr David Saberton to check and oil swings at play area, otherwise no other problems on inspections.

381. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Noted cemetery hedge cut, top and outside.

Review of village maintenance and grasscutting 2007. Clerk instructed to place note in newsletter and “What’s On” seeking village handyman/Groundsman (max £7ph), variable hours according to season. Proposed by Chairman and agreed by all.

*Clerk***382. ELEAN POWER STATION**

Issues raised by visitors regarding straw litter dropped by some straw carting vehicles and perceived increase in noise and smoke noted, and will be kept under review.

*All***383. NEWSLETTER No. 3**

Content presented, amended and agreed. Clerk to arrange distribution.

*Clerk***384. COMMUNITY POLICE**

Next meeting 29 September 2006, 12.30 – 1.00 pm by recreation ground.

385. CORRESPONDENCE

CALC AGM 14 October 2006. Clerk to pass to Mr P Chambers
 CALC/ECDC Parish Forum 30 October. Chairman to attend
 ECDC Gambling Act 2005 Details outlined by Clerk. Agreed seek clarification with ECDC
 Standards Committee – 14 June Minutes noted and to be circulated
 ACRE Housing Enabler – arrange to attend November meeting

*PC**Chairman**Clerk**All**Clerk***386. REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

There were none.

387. STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

There was nothing to report.

388. **FINANCE**

| | | | £ | £ | £ |
|----------|--------|-------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Receipts | | Hibbitt & Sons – memorial | 55.00 | | 55.00 |
| Payments | 000794 | Clerk's salary June-September | 561.00 | | 561.00 |
| | 000795 | Moore Stephens Audit 2006 | 140.00 | 24.50 | 164.50 |
| | 000796 | S Bass Grasscutting Aug | 280.00 | | 280.00 |
| | d/d | Talk Talk Direct (Aug) | 2.02 | .35 | 2.37 |

389. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Due to availability of Clerk and some Councillors the meeting proposed for 10 October was rescheduled to **Monday 9 October 2006**. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs B Daters and Mr A White.

Items for agenda and payments must be placed with Clerk by 2 October latest.

All

Signed

Dated