

## WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 November 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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**Present:** D A Bamforth (Chairman), P Chambers (Vice-Chairman), D J Saberton, D K Saberton  
M Wilkin, C Watson

*In attendance* Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)

- Action
407. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mrs B Daters and Mr A White
408. **Declaration of Interest:** Mr D A Bamforth (411) Trees, owner. Personal interest.
409. **Minutes of the meeting** of 9 October 2006 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed Mr David Saberton, seconded Mr Don Saberton, and agreed unanimously.
410. **Matters Arising**
- There were none.
411. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
- To note ECDC decisions:
- 06/01059/FUL 30 Silver Street. Modified proposal for new build house – Plot 4 – new door from kitchen to garden. Approved.
- 4 Silver Street – Trees within conservation area, approval to fell holly and conifer trees, crown lift Ash and Prunus Pissardii.
412. **RECREATION GROUND**
- Registration of Recreation Ground as Village Green. Refused by Cambridgeshire County Council's Development Control Committee on 13 November 2006.
- Erection of cricket nets. Letter raising issues regarding positioning of nets, use of recreation ground including skateboarders, and rotation of football nets received from resident High Street. Issues discussed. Current thoughts of Cricket Club to position nets at rear of bus shelter, diagonally away from the road and possibility of artificial pitch near cricket square to which nets could be moved to. Arrangements for management of cricket and football nets to be raised with Cricket Club, and Clerk to respond to resident. *Clerk*
- Groundsman duties. Clerk reported no response to notice in newsletter. Mr David Saberton had had one response. Chairman proposed Mr Saberton contact applicant to discuss further, based on £8 per hour up to 5 hours per week by timesheet. Seconded by Mr P Chambers and agreed unanimously. *DJS*
- Mr David Saberton reported that there were no issues to report on play equipment. Inspections logged in book.
413. **OUSE WASH DROVES**
- Clerk reported that Solicitors had promised documents for December meeting. *Clerk*
414. **2007/8 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**
- Clerk presented budgets and forecasts, and preliminary estimate for precept. Witcham Youth Club quotation for 2007/8 at £1000 per annum was accepted. After discussion Chairman proposed Precept of £9000, seconded by Mr P Chambers and agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

415. **PARISH PLAN**

Clerk circulated notes of working party meetings of 19 October and 2 November, copy of proposed questionnaire, and costings for questionnaire, analysis and report. Council approved all. Chairman to feedback to working party regarding need to cover wider issues relating to facility requirements for the village in the future, eg adequacy of recreation ground and cemetery.

Chairman

416. **QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS**

Next newsletter to be completed for December.

Clerk

417. **CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN**

Summary documents previously circulated. Council had no further comments to make at this stage, proposed by Chairman, seconded Mr Don Saberton and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

418. **CEMETERY**

New plan awaited.

Chairman

419. **CCC REGISTRATION SERVICE, BIRTH MARRIAGES, CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS AND DEATHS**

Council welcomed new proposals which will make the service more accessible and flexible, and customer focused in the future. Proposed Chairman and agreed by all.

Clerk

420. **COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE – ‘SAVE YOUR POST OFFICE’**

Chairman proposed letter be sent to Jim Fitzpatrick, MP, responsible for Post Offices. Concern that post office facility for Witcham parishioners could be withdrawn. Note to go in next newsletter. Agreed unanimously.

Clerk

421. **CAMBRIDGESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – EEAPTC NEWS**

Comments sought on EEAPTC News, regional report for Parish and Town Councils. Chairman proposed suggest combining with CALC newsletters, sharper and punchier. Agreed unanimously.

Clerk

422. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were noted:

CCC Traffic Management Discretionary Budget – funds finished  
 CCC Road Safety Campaign – ‘Slow Down by Rivers’. Include for website and newsletter  
 CCC Corporate Plan 06/09  
 CCC April 2000 to December 2004 Minute Book deposited in County Record Office  
 East Cambs LDF Statement of Community Involvement Adoption Statement 17October 2006  
 St Martins Church require new heating system  
 Friends of Ely Hospital will not be undertaking Christmas Carol tour of villages this year

Clerk

423. **COMMUNITY POLICE**

PC Humble would like to attend next Council meeting.

Clerk

424. **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

Mr David Saberton reported on meeting of Mepal Outdoor Centre. All going well.

Clerk reported on meeting at Little Downham regarding S106 monies and affordable housing. Community Funds available to tap into in the event of small parishes not having developments to raise S106 monies, and some monies allocated to larger centres for central resource eg swimming pools, car parks etc. ACRE Housing Enabler planned to attend next meeting to discuss provision of affordable housing, of which there is a shortage in the district.

Clerk

425. **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

P4 Headleys Lane not functioning. Clerk to report to CCC.

*Clerk*

CCC notification of 2006/7 charges, maintenance £86.30 pa, energy £106.76, invoices expected December 2006. Proposed charges for 2007/8, maintenance £17.50 per lamp, energy to be confirmed. Agreed to accept services for another year. Proposed Chairman and agreed by all. Clerk confirmed she had informed the County Council that invoices for energy and maintenance from October 2004 still awaited.

*Clerk*

*Clerk*

426. **FINANCE**

			£	£	£
Receipts		NIL			
Payments	000791	Stadia Sports (confirm release)	993.47	173.86	1167.33
	000800	S Bass Grasscutting Sept & Oct	560.00		560.00
	000801	Ely Trophies BKG) s142	35.04		35.04
	d/d	Vartec	1.20	0.21	1.41.

427. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 5 December 2006 commencing at 7.15 pm for monthly check of payments and receipts and 'open to the public' time. Business to commence at 7.30 pm.

All items to be considered at this meeting must be placed with Clerk for inclusion on agenda by *All* Monday 27 November, 2006.

Signed .....

Dated .....