

## WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 August 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

---

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

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

No members of the public present

- Action
353. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr Don Saberton.
354. **Declaration of Interest:** Mr C Watson – application for erection of memorial stone (Min 367)
355. **Minutes of the meetings** of 25 July and 1 August 2006 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed Mr P Chambers, seconded Mr C Watson and agreed unanimously.
356. **Matters Arising**
- There were none.
357. **WOODLAND BURIAL SITE, HIVE ROAD**
- Chairman reported that the applicant had acknowledged his letter and asked for discussion on the Parish Council's views. Agreed Chairman should meet applicant. *Chairman*
- Chairman had received no response from ECDC. Clerk confirmed she had again spoken to ECDC Planning Department who claimed the application had been refused due to insufficient information, and despite attempts to obtain this the applicant had not responded.
358. **PARISH PLAN**
- Chairman reported next meeting scheduled for 30 August 2006. *All*
359. **LETTING OF OUSE WASH DROVES**
- Chairman proposed Clerk to make further investigations with RSPB to renew lease. Agreed by all. *Clerk*
360. **CEMETERY**
- Chairman confirmed he had arranged for the revised plan of the cemetery burial plots and garden of remembrance to be completed. Clerk to then contact Diocese to arrange for the Consecration Act to be drawn up and arrangements made for the Bishop to carry out the service in the very near future. *Chairman*
- Clerk*
361. **RECREATION GROUND**
- Cricket Nets: Stadia had reduced the price to £993.47 plus VAT but would not arrange for erection of the nets. Chairman to contact sales team regarding arrangements for payment and delivery address. Clerk to contact Cricket Club to confirm order placed and request they erect the nets after delivery, in about 2 – 3 weeks. *Chairman*
- Clerk*
- Mr David Saberton had obtained more sandbags, otherwise all equipment and play areas satisfactory.
- Noted Youth Club had had to defer planned sessions for week commencing 21 August.
- Registration of recreation ground as 'Village Green'. Clerk advised that a response from the County Council's Consultant charged with processing such applications was still awaited. *Clerk*

**362. TREES WITHIN CONSERVATION AREA**

Notification of consent to an application to remove overhanging branches of trees adjacent 2 Martins Lane was received from ECDC Trees Officer. Clerk advised that this was the 2 Cherry trees and the Silver Birch, and work was recommended to avoid the trees being damaged during the forthcoming building work on the building plot adjacent to 2 Martins Lane. The applicant had been requested by ECDC to contact the Parish Council prior to commencement of work.

**363. ELEAN POWER STATION - PUBLIC OPEN EVENINGS**

Clerk confirmed 29 and 31 August at 7.00pm. Tickets available from Clerk

*Clerk***364. COMMUNITY POLICE**

Next surgery 18 August 2006 11.30 – 12.00 noon, PC K Humble, Recreation Ground.  
Mr David Saberton to visit on behalf of Parish Council.

*DKS***365. BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

Judging had been completed and Mr Don Saberton would organise shields and plates. Letter of thanks to be sent to the judges. Agreed Chairman to purchase a bottle of wine each for the two judges (Chairman's Allowance), and Chairman to deliver with letter. Proposed Mr P Chambers, seconded Mr C Watson and agreed by all.

*Chairman***366. REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND**

The Council noted that the panel appointed by the Secretary of State to conduct the Examination in Public into the Draft East of England Plan had submitted its report and was now published. The Secretary of State will consider the report together with the representations with the aim of publishing Proposed Changes in late 2006. There will be a period of public consultation, likely to be 12 weeks. The finalised East of England Plan is expected to be published in spring 2007. CCC had published main headlines relating to Cambridgeshire which was circulated to the meeting.

[www.goeast.gov.uk/goeast/planning/regional\\_planning/?a=42496](http://www.goeast.gov.uk/goeast/planning/regional_planning/?a=42496)

*All*

East of England Plan (DraftRSS) – single issue review of provision of Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites – Draft Project Plan and Statement of Public Participation. Noted steering group had been set up and public consultation period 19 July to 11 October 2006. Chairman proposed that at the present time it did not appear that this issue would have a direct impact on Witcham and so no comment currently to be submitted. This issue will be considered and commented upon by the District Council. [www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=583](http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=583)

*All***367. CORRESPONDENCE**

CCC Changes to Local Bus Services – Service 106 to be operated by Dews Coaches from 14 August. Timetables to be placed at bus shelter.

*Clerk*

ECDC Economic Development strategy document 2006 – circulated.

*All*

Cemetery – Chairman presented application from Hibbitt & Sons for erection of memorial stone for Daniel Parish – approved.

*Clerk***368. REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

There were none.

**369. STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

There were none.

370. **FINANCE**

- a) Delivery of Quarterly Parish Council Newsletter. Approved £6 per delivery of newsletters/circulars. Proposed Mr C Watson, seconded Mr P Chambers and agreed by all.
- b) Review of Budgets. Clerk circulated draft summary of budget headings 2006/7 for review. Noted that £1500 had been received from DEFRA for Parish Plan and further £1500 applied for from Fens LeAP Leader+ Programme, of which £750 had recently been received. Summary document approved.

		£	£	£
Receipts	EDF Wayleaves	10.00		10.00
	Fens LeAP Leader+ Programme	750.00		750.00
Payments	000789 Mepal Office Stores Aug	14.00		14.00
	PC Newsletter	14.00		14.00
	000790 S Bass Grasscutting x2	280.00		280.00
	000791 Stadia Sports	993.47	173.86	1167.33
	000792 J Lucas Delivery of Spring/Summer Newsletter LGA'72 s.142	6.00		6.00
	000793 D Rutterford Delivery of Winter Newsletter LGA '72 s.142			
	2005 Chairman's report & letter			
	Flyers for Parish Plan Mtgs (4 deliveries)	24.00		24.00

371. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 September 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 business to be considered must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 6 clear days prior to the meeting.

All

Signed .....

Dated .....