

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 November 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 P Read (CCC)

Public question time opened at 7.30 pm – 2 members of public (BOAT 11 Bury Road)
Full Council business commenced at 7.45pm

10/193 **Apologies for Absence** were received from K Mackender (absent on business) and A Bailey, District Councillor (absent on business) Action

10/194 **Declaration of Interest:** Mr D J Saberton 10/198 (land adj BOAT No 11 Bury Road (personal)

10/195 **Minutes of the meeting** of 12 October 2010 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr D Saberton, seconded by Mrs J Bibby, and agreed unanimously.

10/196 **Matters Arising**

10/134 Standing Orders: Working party had reviewed new guidelines from NALC and revised edition to be presented at next meeting for adoption. Clerk

Chairman proposed taking agenda item 10/198. This was agreed unanimously.

10/198 **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

BOAT No. 11 Bury Road.

Chairman opened meeting to allow members of the public and Mr Saberton to speak. The two members of the public confirmed they had written direct to the County Council expressing concern regarding the proposals to carry out a survey on the width of the droves. Mr Read reported on his discussions with the County Council officers after the droves meeting at the Village Hall earlier in the summer.

Chairman summarised issues

Problems measuring width of drove as County Council in dispute with landowners regarding ownership and responsibilities of ditches, hedges and drove, albeit designated byway open to all. Various documents had been examined and there seemed to be a contradiction in the measurement of the width of the drove.

Problems with users, 4wheel drive and quadbike enthusiasts, damaging surface, especially top end by Headleys Lane. The corner property here is straight out on to the drove; its noisy, intimidating and an impassable mess at certain times of the year.

Members of the public and Councillors prefer drove to not be open to all traffic.

Need to collate evidence from maps, 1894 Enclosures, old Parish Droves Committee, etc to establish traditional and historical rights. Understood historically used for grazing and access to fields adjacent and further on, by horses, tractors etc. Gather evidence from historical sources and local families. DAB

Regarding future management of the drove, Natural England supports high level stewardship of the drove.

County Council providing little information about who the consultees are.

There is no Awarded width on the Definitive map.

10/198 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Chairman closed the 'open to the public session' and Mr Saberton did not participate in discussion.

After further discussion by members of the Council the Chairman proposed the Parish Council respond to the County Council stating that we believe it may well be a private road from our calling on the history and tradition within the village. Council to provide factual evidence and inform the County Council it will continue to produce more evidence for the County Council as it arrives. *Clerk*
Chairman to contact local farmer. Clerk to check archived documents for evidence. This was agreed unanimously.

Mr P Read, County Councillor undertook to discuss and seek clarification from the County Council.

Mr D Saberton rejoined the meeting and the Chairman moved to 10/197

10/197 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor P Read presented his report on his recent activities for the County Council including grants for energy aid and transport, and national proposals for planning fees and regulations.

Mr Read left the meeting

10/198 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (cont)

P3 Projects 2010

Councillors discussed repairs to Bury Road using limestone. Other alternatives may be lime cobble or road planings. Chairman proposed contact Rights of Way Officer to ask if road planings would be a suitable material and advice on rate of application. Agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

Clerk confirmed she was awaiting contact details from County Council regarding website and leaflets re: local walks and linking with other parishes, as discussed at the summer meeting. Lead person required. Clerk to place note in next newsletter asking if anyone could help with these projects. Mr A Berry said he was making enquiries about developing an interpretation board to go on Bury Road, further details to be presented at next meeting. *AB*

10/199 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following ECDC decisions were noted

10/00768/FUL The Hall, 5 High Street, Witcham. Removal of small glazed screen and roof, new single storey room. Approved.

10/00769/LBC The Hall, 5 High Street, Witcham. Removal of small glazed screen and roof, new single storey room. Approved

10/00717/FUL 12A Martins Lane, Witcham. Ground floor extension. Approved

Trees within Conservation Area: The Hall, High Street, Witcham. Fell 2xBird Cherry trees, re-pollard Horse Chestnut and fell dead Elm tree.

10/200 2011/12 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

Proposed budget and associated documents previously circulated.

Clerk recommended moving some of the monies in the parish plan projects directly to Village Hall heading since most of the items in the parish plan, apart from cemetery, had been completed. Chairman proposed transfer monies to bring Village Hall budget heading to £4500. Agreed unanimously.

Clerk presented details from Youth Manager regarding number of children in village for consideration of increasing funding to expand on services. On review it was decided the Council could not increase the Precept to a level which would cover these extra services. Clerk to inform Youth Manager. *Clerk*

10/200 2011/12 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

Chairman proposed Precept be set at £10,600, seconded Mr C Watson and agreed unanimously. This is a modest increase of £350 to cover increased costs on basic expenses.

*Clerk***10/201 RECREATION GROUND**

Safety Surfacing Repairs. Mr D Saberton reported on meeting with Wicksteed. Tiles stuck together and not down on concrete. Could take up, clean, relay but Wicksteed thought tiles in very good condition and this would not be necessary; merely lift and reseal tiles where necessary with silicon rubber. Fill in gap around edge tile/wooden baton with wood, subject to distance from centre bar to edge of new wood being minimum 3.25m. Tiles may be cleaned by sprinkling with sand and then brushed off with stiff brush. Rubber grid mat available from number of suppliers, to place in gateway where grass continuously wears. Mr Saberton proposed arrangements be made to carry out this work in March. Deferred to January meeting to order supplies and form working party.

Wicksteed had also provided sheets/checklists for weekly, 3 monthly and annual inspections, which the Council might like to adopt. Copies distributed to Councillors. Wicksteed also offer independent annual inspections and risk assessments. Mr D Saberton to check costs.

*All**DJS*

Annual service and repair of mowers. Chairman reported that part of the casing on the large mower had broken, and he was asked to make enquiries about repair/replacement.

DAB

Maintenance of trees programme. The Groundsman had met with the ECDC Trees Officer, and an ECDC application for tree works to remove lower branches and remove dead wood on trees identified in submitted plan was received and considered. Chairman proposed approval for the application to be submitted to ECDC and the work be executed. Agreed unanimously.

Three letters of complaint, received and noted. The issues were being progressed.

Mr D Saberton gave monthly report on play equipment. Football goalposts to be moved at weekend.

*DAB***10/202 VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND LICENCE**

Licensing Act 2003: Variation of a Premises Licence for Witcham Village Hall including the recreation ground. Notice received. Closing date for representations 23 November 2010.

10/203 CPALC QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL

Best Practice Event. Invitation for Quality Councils to participate. Chairman proposed to decline invitation on this occasion. Agreed unanimously.

10/204 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

Request for erection of plaque on Garden of Remembrance. Approved.

*Clerk***10/205 COMMUNITY POLICE**

Nil to report

10/206 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Neighbourhood Panel meeting 25 October 2010. Representatives unable to attend. Await notes of meeting.

10/207 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

Street light in Westway Place not working. Clerk to ask if County Council are still going to switch street lights from orange to white, if so when.

Westway Place footway. New access constructed to new development but remains unfinished. Martins Lane – flooding. Clerk pursuing with County Council and Hereward.

Clerk

10/208 **CORRESPONDENCE**

CCC Cambs and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan Pre-Hearing meeting and examination – noted.
 CCC Mobile library service changes – 1st Wednesday of month, crossroads, 2.15 – 2.35pm.
 ECDC Emergency Planning Awareness Seminar 11 November 2010. No representative available.
 Clerk to request notes of meeting.
 ECDC Agendas and Meeting decisions. Clerk advised these will be posted at
www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings for Councillors to view.
 Energy Saving Trust – visiting homes in the village to offer surveys and advice 20 November 2010.

10/209 **FINANCE**

Poppy Wreath. Chairman presented wreath for laying at Remembrance Day Service and sought approval for payment - £25.

The following Receipts and Payments were presented and approved. Proposed by Chairman, seconded Mrs J Bibby, and agreed unanimously.

		£	£	£
Receipts	P Hibble Garden of Remembrance plaque	50.00		50.00
Payments	001038 Groundsman wages Sept & Oct	288.00		288.00
	001039 Clerk salary	256.20		256.20
	001040 RBL Poppy Appeal (wreath)	25.00		25.00
	001041 J Phillips (reimbursement copying for What's On April to Nov editions.	64.34	11.26	75.60
(Approved at October meeting, cheques signed out of meeting)				
	001035 Sutton, Mepal and Witcham Youth 1 st half year payment	500.00		500.00
	001037 ECDC Planning	502.50		502.50

10/210 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7 December 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 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.

All

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Signed Dated