

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 November 2009 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

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

Public question time opened at 7.30 pm – nil members of the public
Full Council business commenced at 7.45pm
No members of public present during meeting

09/399 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr A Berry, Mr K Mackender and Anna Bailey, District Councillor Action

09/400 **Declaration of Interest:** Mr D A Bamforth: Minute 09/407 Citizens Advice Bureau (Serves as Trustee)

09/401 **Minutes of the meeting** of 13 October 2009 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr D A Bamforth, seconded by Mr D Saberton, and agreed unanimously.

09/402 **Matters Arising**

09/387 *Recreation Ground – disposal of old goalposts.* Mr Bamforth to progress with interested parties. DAB

09/403 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

County Councillor P Read advised that Highways had given assurances that aggregate materials would not be transported through villages from Block Fen to carry out work on the A14. Lorries would transport stone overnight. He reported that surveys among Mepal residents revealed 36% were using cycles and he wondered if there was any information about Witcham cycle use in the Witcham Parish Plan since this would be useful data for submission as evidence for completion of the cycleway from Witcham Toll to Wentworth.

District Councillor T Goodge reported that at the AJC meeting the request for laybys (passing places) along the Hive Road to Wardy Hill route had been approved under the small works scheme.

Environment Agency consultations on flood planning Ouse Washes deferred to agenda item 09/410.

09/404 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

09/00784/FUL Land adj 10 The Slade Erection 4bed dwelling. No objections in principle. Note watercourses close to proposed house and these need to be protected to ensure freeflow of surface water through the site, and consent should be conditional upon removal of residential caravan currently on site. To ask if the new dwelling will become the farmhouse. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

09/00802/FUL Amberlea Kennels Change of use from staff facilities/office building to single 1bed living accommodation, and letter from applicant. No concerns other than any consent should be conditional on the proposed residential accommodation being tied to the business. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously

09/405 WITCHAM PARISH PLAN/ACTION PLAN

Councillors reviewed plans. No additional items to Precept for in coming financial year.

09/406 FINANCE – HALF-YEAR ACCOUNTS AND PRECEPT 2010/11

Previously circulated bank reconciliation and budgets to 30 September 2009, and forecasts to 31 March were all approved. Proposed by Chairman, seconded Mr C Watson and agreed unanimously. Estimates for income and expenditure 2010/11, previously circulated, were reviewed and discussed. Chairman proposed Precept of £10,250. Seconded by Mr C Watson and agreed unanimously.

09/407 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Mr D A Bamforth declared an interest and left the room. Mr David Saberton took the Chair. Request for donation towards running costs 2009/10 considered. Agreed to contribute £30 (LGA 1972 s.142). Proposed Mr C Watson, seconded Mrs J Bibby and agreed unanimously.

Mr Bamforth returned and took the Chair.

09/408 RECREATION GROUND

Mr D Saberton advised he had greased the equipment as agreed previously and there was nothing further to report.

Mr Bamforth to arrange for the football posts to be rotated around the field.

09/409 CEMETERY

Request from RS Memorials for erection of memorial stone received and approved. Proposed Mr C Watson, seconded Mr D A Bamforth and agreed unanimously.

Removal of spoil £140.00 approved. Proposed Mr C Watson, seconded by Mr D A Bamforth and agreed unanimously.

09/410 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY CONSULTATIONS: FLOODING

Letter from Littleport and Downham Internal Drainage Board presented. Chairman opened meeting for Councillor T Goodge to explain further. He had attended meetings and communicated with other parishes which included representatives from Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards.

Chairman proposed letter be sent to Environment Agency expressing great concern at the change in flood risk from 1:120 years to 1:20 years.

09/411 ELY MASTER PLAN CONSULTATIONS

Chairman presented summary of contents. Agreed to respond stating the Council appreciated the consultation process and broadly in consensus with the provisions of the Plan. No major cause for discussion but presumes green areas and trees, so characteristic of the city, would be protected.

09/412 COMMUNITY POLICE

Nil to report.

09/413 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Chairman reported that Mr A Berry had attended the Neighbourhood Panel meeting on 26 October and had again pushed for completion of the cycleway between Witcham Toll and Wentworth. Councillor A Bailey had opened discussion on provision of a dog walking area following closure of Alderforth.

Mr D Saberton reported his attendance at the Mepal Outdoor Centre management meeting.

09/414 **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

Nil to report

09/415 **CCC REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS – CONSULTATIONS**

Additional schools required to meet the needs of the proposed growth agenda for area.
Consultation meetings planned for November and Jan/Feb. No one available to attend at present.

09/416 **CORRESPONDENCE**

CCC Self-Directed Support (arrangements for social care), noted and details to go in newsletter.
CALC AGM 21 November 2009 at Bluntisham Village Hall, with speakers on funding sources,

09/417 **FINANCE**

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

			£	£	£
Receipts		RS Memorials	59.00		59.00
Payments	000988	J Lucas (LGA 1972 s142)	6.00		6.00
	000989	Ely Trophies (Best Kept Garden Trophies) (LGA 1972 s142)	30.22		30.22

09/418 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 1 December 2009 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 items, including receipts and payments, to be considered at this meeting must be placed
with Clerk for inclusion on agenda by Monday 23 November, 2009.**

All

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed Dated