

## WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 September 2009 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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**Present:** D A Bamforth (Chairman), D J Saberton (Vice Chairman), A Berry, 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  
Verification of payments and receipts took place by the Chairman  
Full Council business commenced at 7.45pm  
No members of public present during meeting

Action

09/365 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr K Mackender, and Anna Bailey (ECDC)

09/366 **Declaration of Interest:**

09/374 Mr C Watson (Personal)  
09/371 Mr D Saberton (Personal)

09/367 **Minutes of the meetings** of 14 July 2009 and 19 August 2009 were approved and signed.  
Proposed by Mr D A Bamforth, seconded by Mr C Watson, and agreed unanimously.

09/368 **Matters Arising**

*09/358 Community Development Team Launch 22 July 2009, Sutton, and CPALC/Mepal Parish Council – Power of Wellbeing 23 November 2009 – no representatives.*

09/369 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor T Goodge reported on the Committees he now serves on. The District Growth Strategy had been reviewed and fed into the Ely Masterplan which had also been approved by Committee and was now open for public scrutiny.

Councillor P Read reported that he had attended a meeting at King's College, Cambridge regarding planning development.

Signage on the droves was too big but apparently the County Council maintain that the droves are classed as a form of highway and therefore require the same size signage as normal roads.

09/370 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The following ECDC decisions were noted:

09/00354/FUL Amberlea County Kennels – Kennels cattery reception, hydrotherapy pool and covered entrance. Approved  
09/00483/ADI Kings of Witcham Ford Flag Pole. Approved

09/371 **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (Droves)**

Management of Back Lane and Wardy Hill Drive.

Mr David Saberton declared a personal interest.

Chairman reported that he had received complaints about the clearing of these two droves. Mr D Saberton had been instructed by the County Council to cut back the vegetation/hedges to widen the droves between 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August or an Enforcement Notice would be issued. He had complied, trimming and clearing the droves and ditches where he had land adjacent the above two droves.

09/371 **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (Droves) (cont)**

Mr Saberton withdrew from discussion. The Chairman was concerned that once again the County Council had issued instructions which were insensitive to the wildlife and environment of the droves and that since the problems with Bury Road they had switched from using their own contractors to forcing the landowners to carry out the work.

Chairman proposed letter be sent to County Council expressing concern at insensitive handling, and seek clarification on who owns and is responsible for maintenance of the droves. Agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

Noted that the County Council had still not filled the holes on Bury Road.

Mr Saberton re-joined discussion

P3 Scheme

Mr Berry reported that he had received no further communication from the County Council P3 officers. He had met with Mr Fletcher earlier in the year and there was some concern that there was insufficient space for a gate to allow for disabled access and therefore it might be better to get the landowner/tenant to clear the area just inside the field rather than install gate.

Chairman proposed he should progress with the plans submitted under the P3 scheme. Mr Berry to liaise with the land tenant at Park Lane and progress trimming of vegetation/hedges and installation of gate with Mr Fletcher and the County Council. Clerk confirmed the Council had received a further £250 in addition to the £420 held from previous year to complete the work. *AB*

09/372 **NEW TECHNOLOGY**

Clerk reported the completed purchase and receipt of laptop and MS Office software. Broadband internet to be obtained through Clerk's existing home telephone line and it was agreed the Council would contribute for BT to provide internet services which would include router and antivirus software at £7.78 per month for the first three months and £15.65 per month thereafter. (Council to contribute 50% of costs). Proposed Chairman, seconded Mr C Watson and agreed unanimously. Mr Berry agreed to help load-up software on computer. *Clerk*  
*AB*

Clerk presented quotes for request to purchase crosscut shredder. Chairman proposed purchase of Fellowes machine at £49.99 from Argos. Agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

09/373 **RECREATION GROUND AND VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES**

Erection of new goalposts. Arrangements made to mark out pitches after last Cricket match which will be 13 September and posts to be erected Saturday 3 October. Chairman reported receipt of letter asking when posts would be erected and he confirmed he had responded by telephone. *All*

Mr Saberton reported on inspection of play equipment and confirmed he would grease the turnstile. *DJS*

09/374 **CEMETERY MANAGEMENT**

Chairman reported on recent interments and purchase of plots.

Pre-purchase of plots

Mr C Watson declared a personal interest and withdrew from discussion.

Clerk reported on requests for further pre-purchases of plots and presented details. She also drew attention to the cemetery review at the Council meeting of 9 September 2003 and it was noted it had been agreed that the Council would permit interments in respect of those who lived or who had lived in the village, or had connections with the village; otherwise consent was required from the Burial Board/Parish Council for each request.

The requests for pre-purchase were from current and past residents of the village. Mr Watson re-joined discussion. *Clerk*

09/374 **CEMETERY MANAGEMENT (cont)**Removal of spoil

Clerk suggested spoil be removed soon in order to use plots working from back forwards. Cost of skip £80 - £100.

Clerk instructed to arrange for removal of existing spoil. Future spoil to be placed further down hedge by road and cleared intermittently by grab and lorry. Avoid hiring skip for each excavation at present. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

09/375 **COMMUNITY POLICE**

Nil to report

09/376 **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

Nil to report

09/377 **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

Outtages: PC6 Back Lane and CCC9 Noticeboard crossroads.

*Clerk*

09/378 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were noted:

ECDC Parish Council Code of Conduct Training (circulated 15Aug09) All to attend *All*  
 ECDC Parish Councillor – Register of Interests/Application for Dispensation (circulated 15Aug09) and Governance Toolkit (a copy circulated 8Sep09) *All*  
 ECDC Standards Committee & appendices Code Conduct (8Sep09) *All*  
 ECDC Draft Ely Masterplan – noted to be recommended to the Strategic Development Committee for consideration for approval for public consultation.  
 CCC Children’s Centres Development in Cambridgeshire  
 CCC Highway Maintenance Information Leaflet No 4  
 ACRE Fens Adventurers Partnership (£4m investment for sustainable farming, rural business development, sustainable rural tourism and improving basic service provision for local businesses. (Note for newsletter) *Clerk*  
 East Cambs Rural Transport Study – questionnaire (completed)  
 ECDC Mass vaccination – swine flu. Offered village hall  
 ECDC Maps, ownership land/old Elm trees Westway Place. Circulated to Councillors in meeting. Mr Watson advised the dead trees had recently been removed. Request Hereward Housing repair footway by 19 – 24 Westway Place. *Clerk*

09/379 **FINANCE**

The Clerk reported that the annual external audit had been completed and notice posted on noticeboard. Auditors comments of satisfaction were read to meeting.

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

			£	£	£
Receipts		Swearers Funeral Service	558.00		558.00
		Ely Funeral Service	279.00		279.00
Payments	000980	Moore Stephens External Audit	135.00	20.25	155.25
	000981	Clerk’s salary (3m)	574.20		
		postage	25.50		
		stationery & copying	8.30		
		incl PC World software	60.82	9.13	69.95
		<i>Total:</i>			677.95
	000982	Chairman Reimbursement Dell laptop	399.00	59.85	458.85
	000983	Groundsman wages (25.5hrs)	306.00		
		reimburse petrol	10.54	1.58	12.12
		<i>Total:</i>			318.12
	d/d	Talk Talk	1.50	0.22	1.72

**09/380 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 October 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.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed ..... Dated .....