

*Approved*

Witcham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12 May 2009 in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

In attendance Cllr T Goodge (ECDC), Ms Vivien Merryweather (Senior Youth Worker for Ely Area)

Public Question Time opened at 7.15 p.m. – nil members of the public attended

Full Council business commenced at 7.30 p.m.

No members of the public were present during the meeting

09/028 Election of Chairman: Cllr D A Bamforth was proposed by Cllr Watson and Seconded by Cllr Bibby. There were no other nominations; Cllr Bamforth was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

09/299 Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct: Cllr Bamforth then signed the declaration of acceptance of office and Code of conduct.

09/300 Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Berry and from Mrs S Bell.

09/301 Declarations of Interest: Cllr Mackender declared a personal interest and signed the register regarding agenda item 09/311.

09/302 Election of Vice-Chairman: Cllr D J Saberton was proposed by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Bibby. There were no other nominations; Cllr Saberton was re-elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year and he signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct.

09/303 CCC Youth Provision: Ms Merryweather outlined her role and asked what Witcham wanted from its youth service entitlement. The Council agreed to arrange to circulate a questionnaire to the young people of the village. She indicated that our contribution of £1000 per annum would enable the provision of a youth club in the village for one evening a week. Finances would be kept separate from other clubs in the area and all workers and volunteers fully trained. Ms Merryweather then left the meeting. The Council noted that Witchford Village College was intending to arrange a meeting to discuss their part in the provision of youth work. The Council had arranged a meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May with Mr Mick Oliver to discuss the question of the Council joining Sutton and Mepal Parish Councils in their new Community Development venture.

09/304 Committee Representatives: The Council resolved unanimously to continue with the same representatives for the coming year with the addition of Cllr Bibby to the Village Hall Committee in replacement for Cllr Anderson who had resigned. Proposer Cllr Bamforth and Seconded by Cllr MacKender.

09/305 Chairman's Allowance: It was agreed unanimously to continue with an allowance of £50; the Council noted that the allowance had not been called upon by the Chairman in the previous year. Proposed Cllr Mackender and Seconded by Cllr Watson. It was also resolved to purchase flowers for the clerk who was ill.

09/306 Payment of Annual Subscriptions: It was agreed to continue with the same subscriptions to outside bodies as in the previous year. Proposed by Cllr Watson and Seconded by Cllr Bamforth.

09/307 Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Watson and Seconded by Cllr Bibby.

09/308 Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting: It was noted that ECDC were continuing to investigate the complaint of noise nuisance from the Elean Business Park.

09/309 Report from District and County Representatives: Cllr A Goodge (ECDC) reported that it seemed likely that Ely Southern Bypass was coming back onto the highways agenda as increased rail traffic would mean longer closure times for the level crossing near Ely Railway Station.

09/310 2008/09 Year End accounts: The Council received the Accounts and noted the satisfactory Internal Auditors Report. It was reported that the external audit had been fixed for 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009

09/311 Insurance Renewal 2009 to 2010: The Council considered the invitation from Allianz to renew our annual policy for the sum of £1160.95. A letter was considered from Came and Company offering a policy from Norwich Union at a discount of 15% on the premium of £1069.96 to our present insurers. Cllr Bamforth agreed to look at the present policy and compare it with the policy being offered by Norwich Union and to report back to the Council at a future meeting.

09/312 Annual Report and Summary of Accounts of the Council: The Council received and approved the Annual Report and Summary of Accounts.

09/313 Issues raised at the Annual Parish Meeting:

- a) Best Kept Garden Competition: Cllr Saberton agreed to approach Mr and Mrs Heslop from Stevenage, who are frequent visitors to the village, to judge the gardens this year. The Council considered moving the date of judging forward to June in subsequent years and resolved to seek opinions on this course of action by placing a note on What's On
- b) Litter problem on Highway Verges: We agreed to ask ECDC to collect the litter from the verge between the village and Witcham Toll.
- c) Vehicles obstructing entrances on Silver Street: This matter has already been raised with the landlady of the White Horse. It was felt that the pub could display a notice inside the premises asking customers to respect private driveways.

09/314 Issues raised by Parishioners:

- a) Elder trees at bottom of Westway Place: It was noted that ownership of these trees is currently in dispute. The clerk is seeking clarification.

- b) Broken Glass at the Children's Playground: This matter has already been raised with the landlady of the White Horse
- c) Construction of new road at Slade Farm: Following a complaint from a parishioner the Chairman reported that ECDC Planning Officers had been asked to investigate. So far they had reported that the opening to be used was not new as this had served as an entry to the refugee camp during wartime and the succeeding years. He also reported that farmers were allowed to cover a certain percentage of their ground with durable materials without planning permission each year and that ECDC were investigating whether or not this condition had been breached.

09/315 CCC Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements 2010/2011 Bidding Round: Councillors were asked to think about items for inclusion in our bid to this scheme and to bring them to the next meeting.

09/316 Cemetery Management: The Council noted the recent interment of Mrs Robina Steen in a pre-purchased plot. The Chairman reported there had been no reply from Steven Borton as yet.

09/317 Recreation Ground and Village Hall Facilities

- a) Cllr Saberton reported that all facilities remained in good condition apart from the sandbags used to secure the goal posts in place. Cllr Bamforth offered to approach Cambridgeshire County Council Highways section at Witchford for replacements.
- b) A request to use the Village Green for the Church Garden Party on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June from 2.30 to 5.30 was agreed subject to sight of satisfactory insurance cover.
- c) A suggestion was made that all documents for booking the green should be available via the web site. John Wells to be approached to action this.

09/318 Items for reporting to PCSO: No items raised.

09/319 Items for Reporting to CCC Highways and Street lighting: Light number PC 7 (attached to the gable end in Martins Lane of 2 Silver Street) is not functioning.

09/320 Correspondence: The following items were noted:

- a) European and County Elections on June 4<sup>th</sup> 2009.
- b) CCC Advice Sheet on highway advertising for Community Events.
- c) CCC help for residents and business in the recession.
- d) CCC Cambs Play and Pathfinder Project.
- e) ECDC Planning – Communication on enforcement issues currently being reviewed.
- f) ECDC Sports Development- Health Walks and Zone Hockey

- g) ECDC Standards Committee
- h) ECDC Launch of ECDC Community Fund and District Analysis of Community Facilities
- i) CCC Shaping the Future of Cambridgeshire over the next 20 years, Regional Spatial Strategy Consultation. It was suggested that a way forward would be a meeting with neighbouring parishes.
- j) Equality and Human Rights Commission- Public Sector Duties Receipt was noted and a recommendation that this be included in a later discussion was made.

09/321 Finance - Monthly Financial Summary (attached)

- a) To approve the payments listed. The list of payments to be made was approved.
- b) To note the sums of money received.

09/322 Date of next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009