

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 January 2011 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)

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

Before opening the meeting the Chairman reported that Mr Les Setchell, former Councillor and Chairman for many years, had passed away in December. The Chairman had represented the Council at the funeral and made a tribute of £20 on behalf of the Council (Chairman's Allowance). Mr Setchell will be remembered for all his work in the Village, supporting many community activities and serving on the Village Hall Committee for a number of years.

Action

11/001 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr A Berry (work commitments) and District Councillors T Goodge (ECDC meeting) and A Bailey (work commitments), and County Councillor P Read (meeting)

11/002 **Declaration of Interest:** There were none

11/003 **Minutes of the meeting** of 7 December 2010 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Chairman and agreed unanimously.

11/004 **Matters Arising:** None other than items appearing on the agenda.

11/005 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

The Clerk reported that District Councillor, Tony Goodge, was attending ECDC meetings on next year's budgets and cutbacks, and gave details of proposals as posted on the District Council's website..

11/006 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

10/00976/FUL Witcham Village Hall, Martins Lane, proposed extension and alterations to Witcham Village Hall, Witcham Parish Council.

The Parish Council had engaged with the Village Hall Committee and strongly supported this application on the following grounds: Parish Plans of 2001 and 2007 revealed evidence that the vast majority of parishioners wanted to see their village hall improved so as to provide increased and better facilities, including external appearance of building; changing facilities to support a range of sport and fitness activities for all ages, eg cricket club (Cambs Leagues); to ensure sustainability and future of the village hall; sustain and strengthen the sense of community that exists in village; essential for Community Development Plan

11/007 **RECREATION GROUND**

Grass cutting equipment – one quote for mower received. Mrs Bibby undertook to get more quotes. JB

Tree work. ECDC approval for work around recreation ground received. Chairman to liaise with DAB Groundsman.

Monthly report of weekly inspections: Mr Saberton reported that some of the repairs to fill the gaps around the safety tile main perimeter had been done and he would arrange for final work to be finished soon. To review whether tiles need to be cleaned, eg brushed with sand, early Spring. DJS

11/008 LOCALISM BILL

NALC Policy and Parliamentary Briefing, of 13 December, previously circulated to Councillors, discussed. Councillors to wait for further information about the impact on parish councils in respect of localism and the Big Society proposals. *All*

11/009 CEMETERY

William Kent Memorials: Request for new memorial received and approved. *Clerk*

11/010 COMMUNITY POLICE

Monthly crime report for Downham Villages had been previously circulated. No crimes had been reported in Witcham. No issues to report to the Police.

11/011 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

CCC Parish Paths and Future Partnerships meeting, 2 December 2010. Feedback previously circulated to Councillors. Strategies and proposals for dealing with CCC cutbacks noted. This included improving communication links between parishes and mapping a way forward for continued management of the path network.

11/012 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

CCC correspondence regarding energy and maintenance for street lighting received and considered. Agreed to continue working with County Council for provision of energy, and to obtain quote from their new service provider for maintenance. Proposed Chairman, agreed unanimously.

11/013 CORRESPONDENCE

The following were received and noted
 CCC County Budget Planning and Preparation consultation *All*
 Cambs Community Services – consultation on NHS Foundation Trust *All*

11/014 PUBLICATIONS CIRCULATED

Local Government Review *All*
 Littleport Masterplan, latest consultation documents *Al*

11/015 FUTURE DIARY DATES

Neighbourhood Panel 24 January 2011 at Little Thetford *AB*

11/016 FINANCE

The following Receipts and Payments were presented, checked and approved

		£	£	£
Receipts	EPN Wayleaves	50.00		50.00
	Turner & Son interment fees	80.00		80.00
	William Kent memorials	62.00		62.00
Payments	001044 E Lucas (Nov newsletter)	8.00		8.00
	001045 Clerks wages December	256.20		256.20
	001046 AON insurance (addn'l premium Kiosk)	11.31		11.31
	001047 Cambs ACRE	25.00		25.00
	001048 J Wells website	5.98	1.05	7.03

11/017 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 8 February, 2011 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.

Any 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 8.45 pm

Signed Dated