

## WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9 June 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 P Read (CCC) (Items 09/329 to 09/334)

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

The Chairman welcomed Mr Phillip Read to the meeting who had been successfully re-elected as the County Councillor for the area at the elections held on 4 June 2009.

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|--------|---|--------|
|        |   | Action |
| 09/329 | <b>Apologies for Absence</b> were received from District Councillor, Mr T Goodge  |        |
| 09/330 | <b>Declaration of Interest:</b> There were none   |        |
| 09/331 | <b>Minutes of the meetings</b> of 12 May 2009 and 2 June 2009 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Chairman, seconded by Mr C Watson, and agreed unanimously.   |        |
| 09/332 | <b>Matters Arising</b>  |        |
|        | <i>09/313 Best Kept Garden Competition:</i> Mr David Saberton had made the arrangements for judging of the Best Kept Village Competition.   | DJS    |
|        | <i>09/314 Elder Trees, bottom of Westway Place:</i> County Council found it hard to distinguish whether the dead trees were on highway land or land owned by East Cambs District Council. Without prejudice, they had undertaken to arrange for the trees to be examined by their arboricultural contractor.  |        |
| 09/333 | <b>REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES</b>   |        |
|        | Councillor P Read advised that the arrangements for considering planning applications was to change. Applications would no longer be sent out in hard copy but would be available to view on-line and for parishes to submit comments on-line. The weekly list would disappear. 'Householder applications' eg. for new porch, would no longer go before Planning Committee. |        |
| 09/334 | <b>JOINTLY FUNDED MINOR HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME BID FOR 2010/11</b>  |        |
|        | Mr Berry advised that at the last Neighbourhood Panel meeting it had been recommended that the villages supporting the completion of the cycleway link from Sutton to Ely, ie the section between Witcham Toll and Wentworth, submit a group application under the Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement Scheme and a presentation was to be made at the July Panel     | AB     |
|        | Mr D Saberton proposed putting in a bid for additional 'places to pass' to be made on the droves, eg levelled ground covered with plantings – Hive Road to Wardy Hill, Jerusalem Drove, Gravel End, and the droves across to Coveney. Seconded Chairman agreed unanimously.   |        |
|        | It was noted that one of the County Council's gates at Stump Drove had been stolen. Flytipping of bones, presumed beef, had been dumped 200 yards away at Cowcroft Drove on 22 May. Appropriate authorities to be informed.   | Clerk  |

**09/334 JOINTLY FUNDED MINOR HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME BID FOR 2010/11**

Mr C Watson reported that the paths to the houses in Westway Place were breaking up and in poor condition. Chairman proposed ECDC be contacted to ascertain who owns the paths, grassed areas and car parks. Councillor Read suggested that if these were owned by Sanctuary Hereward this could be raised at the Neighbourhood Panel. Agreed unanimously.

County Councillor P Read left the meeting.

**09/335 RSPB LEASE – MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

First review under new lease provides an increase from £650 to £698.75 per annum based on the agreed increments in accordance with the Retail Price Index which between 2006 and 2009 had been calculated at 7.5%. Memorandum of Agreement to be signed and returned to RSPB.

*Clerk*

**09/336 2009 ROSPA ANNUAL PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION REPORT**

Report of 3 April previously circulated. The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow Councillors to inspect the play equipment and review content of the report.

The meeting was reconvened. The following actions were proposed by the Chairman and agreed unanimously:

Goalpost sandbags. New sandbags had been obtained and it was agreed to continue with these as in the past the use of stakes had proved unworkable because they were forever getting lost or left lying around by users. As previously, new notices would be posted up and a note placed in quarterly newsletter and "What's On", with letters to known user groups advising the goals must only be used with the sandbags in position. The Cricket Club would be reminded to ensure they replace the sandbags when they move the goalposts back after *Clerk* cricket matches.

Picnic benches. Noted that slat width had been previously raised with manufacturer's, Wicksteed, who advised they were 30mm and within recommended limits. These had been measured by Councillors in the past and confirmed so this 'low risk' item would be deferred but kept under review. Seat on pathway to be monitored.

*DJS*

Signs at infant play area. Mr Saberton to saw back and file off protruding bolts.

*DJS*

Cleaning pathway and safety tiles. Mrs J Bibby to investigate and report back on suitable materials to use to remove any algae/weed growth which occurs from time to time in damp conditions, eg spring.

*JB*

2-seat large swings. Advice to be sought from RoSPA as Mr Saberton understood from his training course some years ago that the frame was not meant to be rigid.

*Clerk*

All safety tiles – continue to monitor. May require specialist to clean and repair. Mr Saberton reported he had only once found a slippery patch. This was last year and appeared to be a spillage of some sort which he had cleaned off.

**09/337 RECREATION GROUND AND VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES**

Monthly report of weekly inspections by Mr D Saberton. Nothing further to report other than as 09/036.

Chairman presented requests to use recreation ground:

Sutton Youth Group – Monday evenings 7.30 – 9.30 pm, commencing 8 June 2009 – football.

Witcham Village Hall – 11 July 2009 – Witcham Peashoot.

Chairman proposed consent and this was agreed unanimously.

Up-date on Village Hall Facilities – Chairman reported architects were drawing up another plan and the Village Hall Committee was seeking sources of funding.

09/338 **CEMETERY MANAGEMENT**

Chairman reported that he had discussed the consecration arrangements with the Vicar who had undertaken to discuss further with the Bishop's office. Chairman to contact the Vicar again to progress arrangements.

Chairman

09/339 **COMMUNITY POLICE**

No other issues other than under 09/334

09/340 **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

There were none.

09/341 **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

There were none

09/342 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were received and noted

ECDC Community Recycling Programme (information to go in "What's On")

CPALC 2009/10 Training Schedule – availability of courses for Councillors, Groundsman and Clerk. Playground Risk Management course required for Groundsman so that he may begin to undertake the weekly inspections of the recreation ground and play areas but CPALC course on Wednesday 14 October and Saturday 31 October not convenient days due to other commitments.

Neighbourhood Panel Newsletter. Note to be included in June newsletter inviting parishioners to contact Mr A Berry if they have issues to raise at future meetings of the Neighbourhood Panel. Witcham would be pleased to host a future meeting of the Panel.

09/343 **FINANCE**

Budgets: Bank and Receipts and Payments reconciliation presented together with details of expenditure for previous year for Councillors to review 2009/10 budget headings.

All

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

			£	£	£
Receipts		Nil			
Payments	000971	Clerk's reimbursement of expenses	33.10		33.10
	000972	J Wells reimbursement 1&1 witcham.org website May – Nov 09	34.43		34.43

09/344 **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14 July 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.

An extra meeting to consider **Youth Provision** and review questionnaires will be held on **Tuesday 16 June 2009**

*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.*

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

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