

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7 December 2010 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

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

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

- Action
- 10/211 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr K Mackender, Mr C Watson and District Councillor Anna Bailey
- 10/212 **Declaration of Interest:** Mr D Saberton 10/217
- 10/213 **Minutes of the meeting** of 9 November 2010 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr D Saberton , seconded by Mrs J Bibby, and agreed unanimously.
- 10/214 **Matters Arising**
- None
- 10/215 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**
- Councillor T Goodge apologised for not attending the meetings recently, which was due to illness. Passing places on Hive Road had been completed under the Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements Scheme . (Invoice awaited for the Parish Council’s contribution towards this). More passing places required between Gravel End corner and Wardy Hill. CCTV cameras to be kept in place in Ely.
- 10/216 **RECREATION GROUND**
- Annual service/replacement of equipment. Chairman to liaise with Groundsman to obtain quotes. DAB
- Weekly play equipment inspections: Report received from Mr D Saberton.
- Mr Saberton to arrange with local handyman to remove and replace the rotten piece of wood around part of the safety surfacing before Christmas. Proposed Mr D Saberton, seconded Mr A Bamforth and agreed unanimously.
- Wickstead Annual Inspections. Mr Saberton reported that the fee of £45 included quote for replacement/repairs to any equipment. Clerk to obtain quote from Wickstead and RoSPA for next year’s inspection.
- 10/217 **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**
- P3 Projects. There was discussion about interpretation board off Bury Road. Agreed Mr Berry progress with content and costs, for presentation at January meeting. To check with Rights of Way Officers that the P3 funding received over recent years may now be allocated to this project. AB

10/217 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (cont)

Public Byway Open to all Traffic (BOAT 11) Bury Road: Width registration - s.53 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Clerk and Chairman had examined old documents and maps, and responded to the Definitive Map and Records Team Leader at the County Council stating concerns. Adjacent landowner had requested maps and documents to support evidence she had found in old minutes and documents at the County Council's Archive Department, and this request had been actioned.

Mr Goodge offered assistance on interpretation of maps.

TG

10/218 CLERK'S CONTRACT

Clerk, in preparing new contract of terms and conditions of employment, sought clarification on whether the Council meant for the inclusion of paragraphs regarding recompense for use of space, lighting, heating, electricity for office and pension/gratuity provisions, as provided for in the NALC/SLCC master contract. Clerk to seek advice from CPALC again.

Clerk

10/219 VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND LICENCE

Chairman presented Licence document. He reported on the 5 responses received by ECDC during the consultation period on the proposed Licence and these were noted.

10/220 THE FUTURE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Received letter from Leader of Council and Chairman of EC Strategic Partnership requesting parishes make financial contribution to running of Panels due to economic restraints of current funding sources. Contributions varied according to size of parish. Witcham - £150 to cover next three years. It was felt that the panels had worked well and Councillors wanted to see the system continue. If necessary they would be prepared to make a contribution, £50 per year. Clerk to enquire if this is to be discussed further within parish forum. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously. Noted ECDC to provide Service Level Agreements.

Clerk

10/221 COMMUNITY POLICE

Nil issues to report

10/222 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Nil to report

10/223 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

Street lights malfunctioning at Westway Place had been reported. CCC had advised the switch over to white lights had commenced in places but was effective on the replacement of any street lamps from April 2011. CCC scouts normally check lights fortnightly.

CCC Winter Service and Localism Agenda – opportunity for 3rd party working (parishes, town councils) to extend service during severe weather conditions, eg footways, cycleways. CCC would offer training, equipment and insurance on the understanding that footways identified would be treated on a timely basis in accordance with Network Management Winter Service protocols. The Parish Council had already provided grit bins which CCC fill free of charge and Chairman proposed not to proceed with extending the service present. Agreed unanimously.

10/224 CORRESPONDENCE

The following were received and noted:
 ECDC Trees within Conservation Area – 2 Silver Street. Works on trimming Yew, Cypress and Lime trees, Silver Street and Martins Lane. Noted work had commenced last week.
 Ely Soham Dial a Ride – 7th AGM 15 February 2011 Witchford Village Hall and ESDAR 100 Club (1st AGM), fundraising repayments for latest minibus. No representative elected.

10/224 **CORRESPONDENCE** (cont)

Code of Practice Local Authority Publicity - NALC response to Communities and Local Government on above consultation document previously circulated to Councillors, noted.

10/225 **FINANCE**

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

			£	£	£
Receipts	Nil				
Payments	001042	Clerks salary	256.20		256.20
	001043	J Wells Reimburse website costs	35.18		35.18

10/226 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11 January 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.

Agenda items and requests for payments to be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda by 4 January 2011

All

Clerk advised that next newsletter was due and requested items be forwarded to her by the middle of next week

All

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed Dated