

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 11 September, 2007 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
A Bailey (ECDC) (Minutes 07/067 – 07/072)

Public question time opened at 7.30 pm – 2 members of the public to view Planning Application 07/00989/OUT
No members of public present during meeting
Verification of payments and receipts took place by Chairman
Full Council business commenced at 7.45 pm

07/067. **Apologies for Absence** were received from T Goodge (ECDC)

Action

07/068. **COUNCILLORS' DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND CODE OF CONDUCT, NOTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER INTERESTS AND REGISTRATION OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

Completed Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct forms were received from Mrs J Anderson, Mr A Berry and Mr K Mackender.

Completed Notification of Financial and Other Interests and Registration of Gifts and Hospitality (new forms) were received from Councillors to be forwarded to ECDC.

Clerk

Clerk informed Councillors of the joint ECDC/CALC training session on New Code of Conduct on Monday 17 September at ECDC Offices (£20 each).

All

Noted that adoption of the new Code of Conduct had been advertised in the Ely Standard on 6 September 2007 as a group advert and Standards Board informed by CPALC, and the Clerk had informed the Monitoring Officer at ECDC. Copy of Code of Conduct will be placed on noticeboard and website.

Clerk

07/069. **Declaration of Interest:** Mrs J Anderson – 07/073 a): 07/00999/FUL Dwelling, White Horse PH. Chairman proposed moving this item to the end of the agenda as Mrs Anderson would leave the meeting. Agreed by all.

07/070. **Minutes of the meeting** of 10 July 2007 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr C Watson and seconded by Mr D Saberton, and agreed unanimously.

07/071. **Matters Arising**

There were none

07/072 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.**

Anna Bailey (ECDC):

Waste collections will remain weekly and brown bag (composting) remain fortnightly. From April 2008 doorstep plastic collection planned.

Ely Car Parks – Cresswell car park to be removed. New facilities at Angel Drove for commuters – £2.50 per day. Morning restrictions on parking at Barton Road, Ship Lane and Fisherman's Lane to encourage commuters to use Angel Drove. City car parks to remain free subject to vehicles being left after 8.30am – considering permit system for those who start work in the centre before 8.30am. Hope to move coaches from Barton Road to Downham Road to free up more space. Forehill max 4 hrs. 23 extra spaces at St Mary's Street, max 2hrs. Newnham Street max 3hrs.

The Council was concerned about some of these proposals and the Chairman proposed a letter be sent to ECDC.

*Clerk/
Chairman*

Mereham Development (between Stretham and Wilburton). Appeal due to start 9 October, Arkenstall, Haddenham. Opportunity for those concerned to have a slot to speak to express concerns on impact to area, both during construction and on completion.

Chairman proposed Witcham book slot and Mrs Anderson said she would be happy to present our concerns subject to convenient date.

*Clerk
JA*

The Chairman thanked Anna Bailey and she left the meeting

07/073 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

07/00989/OUT 25 Silver Street(adj), Single storey dwelling. Concerns: No turning space on site for old and proposed buildings – access onto narrow road on bend/junction Westway Place upon which there is quite a volume of traffic at peak times, serving 4 cul-de-sacs and a farm. Elevation C, solid brick wall, unattractive as highly visible from road and 3bed bungalow seems over-development of site.

Clerk

07/00999/FUL White Horse PH, Silver Street, Erection of dwelling - deferred to end of meeting.

The following ECDC decisions were noted:

07/00723/FUL Change of use of land - garden area - 2a Martins Lane- approved

07/00647/OUT New dwelling (demolish existing) Park Lane, Market Way – refused

Mereham Development, as item 07/072.

07/074 **PARISH PLAN**

The Parish Plan and Action Plan had been previously circulated. Mr C Watson proposed acceptance. Seconded by Mrs J Anderson and agreed unanimously.

Noted the Action Plan had been submitted to the East Cambs Local Strategic Partnership meeting on 10 September.

Parish and Action Plans to be placed on website and copies available for residents on request. Response to be determined before order for reproduction placed. Supply to be held for grant applications and distribution to partners. Proposed Chairman, and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

Grant monies of £600 – £700 was still held from which printing and final costs would be deducted. Any underspend would be returned to grant bodies.

07/075 **RECREATION GROUND AND VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES**

RoSPA Report 2007: Mr David Saberton and Groundsman to set turf to fill gap under gates at infant play area. Wicksteed had confirmed design of seats was 30mm gaps between slats and their engineer had visited site and confirmed 30mm gaps. Repairs available for tiles £90 plus glues, available when required.

DJS

Groundsman: Mr David Saberton submitted time sheet for payment for Groundsman (25 hours May to July) and advised that he was organising repairs of mowers but that strimming would continue. Chairman had mowed cemetery but was unable to cut hedge on inside. Mr Saberton to work with Groundsman to complete this. Mr Pate had recently arranged to cut hedge at cemetery, on outside - reimbursements outstanding.

DJS

Recreation Ground Weekly Inspections: Mr David Saberton reported all checks satisfactory.

Land rear 2 Martins Lane and village hall drive verge. Clerk to check progress.

Clerk

Chairman presented request from Nicola and Richard Wilkinson, The Old Granary, The Slade (Cambridge Silicon Radio) to use the recreation ground on 13 September, 4.00 – 8.00 pm for a cricket match. Consent was granted subject to evidence of public liability and approval from cricket club members to use the square. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

07/076 **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

Footpath High Street and Back Lane to be cut by County Council week commencing 17 September. Work planned to cut vegetation to manage grass area and prevent scrub encroachment at Bury Road planned in near future. Chairman presented up-date from landowner which was circulated at the meeting. Letter to County Council stating drove too wide, biodiversity issues, fly-tipping now a problem and request they take note of landowner's issues. Copy to Leader of Council and P Read (CCC representative). Clerk to arrange for ECDC to deal with fly-tipping. Proposed Chairman, agreed unanimously. *Clerk Chairman*

Parish Path Scheme P3: Mr David Saberton and Groundsman to review work required on Park Lane. Clerk to get details of CCC contractor. Clerk to pursue erection of kissing gate and noted Mr Goodjohn, tenant, was willing to attend site meeting and held no objections to proposal. Clerk to investigate use of volunteers to undertake clearing work. *DJS Clerk Clerk*

07/077 **COMPLAINTS – ROUNDABOUT AT THE ORCHARDS**

Clerk reported that the County Council's contractors had repaired grass ruts on roundabout but Cleanaway vehicles had caught it again. The refuse collectors had recently omitted some houses and householders had been advised to contact ECDC and their contractors direct.

07/078 **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION 2007**

Best Vegetable: Mr & Mrs Stan Saberton
Best Flower: Mr & Mrs Alan Blahyj
Best Overall: Mr & Mrs Richard Webster

Commendations: Mr & Mrs Stan Phillips - good use of small space/very well cared for.
Mr & Mrs N Jones - good to see a garden that accommodates children but still has interesting planting and a nice feel. Mr & Mrs Alder - lovely design and well cared for.
Mr & Mrs C George - large garden to maintain but well designed, having good flowers in top garden, a vegetable plot, meadow, large pond and screening trees/shrubs.

Presentation of trophies had been carried out at the Annual Pea Shoot and the Clerk had now arranged for inscriptions to be completed. The Best Overall shield was full and will be placed in Village Hall, and a replacement had been ordered. *Clerk*

07/079 **CEMETERY**

Application for erection of new memorial and inscription was received from Ely Funeral Service. Approved. *Clerk*

07/080 **NEWSLETTER**

Draft circulated, discussed and approved for circulation. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

Mr David Saberton advised that it would cost about £250 to have cemetery gates sanded and Re-painted. Ivy needs cleaning off lychgate. To be discussed at future meeting. *Clerk*

07/081 **COMMUNITY POLICE**

No surgery in village planned but PCSO Julie Collins had requested a meeting. Clerk to invite her to October meeting. Reports of attempted vehicle theft received. *Clerk*

07/082 **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

There were none

07/083 **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

Lamp outside Yew Tree House (crossroads) not working.

Clerk

Mr Saberton confirmed the street light column had been replaced at The Slade.

Clerk reported that the second quotation had still not been received despite reminders. County Council would re-confirm their quote since more than 30 days had elapsed since the original quotation, and a response to the enquiry about availability of funds under County Council's recently launched policy for renewing street lights was still awaited. Chairman proposed decision for replacement be deferred to next meeting.

Clerk

07/084 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were received and noted:

CCC Review of Parking Policies and Cambridgeshire Design Guide for Streets and Public spaces, under consultation

CCC Bus Service Changes – no changes proposed for Witcham

CCC Cambridgeshire Scrutiny – services for local people – awareness leaflet

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan – revised timetable

ECDC Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review – no changes proposed for Witcham

ECDC Consultation – Licensing Policy – s.5 Licensing Act 2003

ECDC Agendas and Minutes

East Cambs Sustainability Community Strategy 2008 – no comments received

CALC – Planning White Paper and web-links for comments/consultation process

Cambridgeshire Rural Forum Conference 'Building Sustainable Rural Communities', on 27 September at Abbots Ripton. Councillors to contact Clerk by 21 September if they wish to attend.

All

07/085 **FINANCE**

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

			£	£	£
Receipts		EDF Wayleaves	10.00		10.00
		Ely Funeral Service memorial & insc	110.00		110.00
Payments	000858	ECDC Poll costs (2.8.07)	911.63		911.63
	000859	Mepal Stores Copying "What's On' Jul/Aug/Sep LGA S.142 £54 and Parish Plan and agenda papers £12.88	66.88	11.71	78.59
	000860	Ely Trophies Best Kept Garden and mini shields	28.00		28.00
	000861	J Wells May-Nov07 reimbursement 1&1 internet	35.18		35.18
	000862	Ely Trophies Best Kept Garden inscriptions & shield	48.60		48.60
	000863	Clerk Salary Jul-Sep £561 & reimbursement Flowers (Chairman's Allowance) £25	586.00		586.00
	000864	Groundsman wages May – Jul	200.00		200.00
	d/d	Talk Talk	4.40	.77	5.17

Review of system of internal audit to be examined at October meeting.

07/086 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 16 October, 2007 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

Mrs J Anderson left the meeting.

07/073 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Chairman returned to the following item:

07/00999/FUL White Horse PH, Silver Street, Erection of dwelling. Council supports application as it stands and notes plenty of land for increasing car parking within site if required in the future. Concerned if pond removed will result in loss of habitation for wildlife.

Clerk

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30

Signed Dated