

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 December 2007 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

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

There were no members of the public present for open question time, nor present during the meeting. Verification of payments and receipts took place by Chairman and Mr C Watson. Full Council business commenced at 7.45 pm.

07/125 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mrs J Anderson due to business commitments. Action

07/126 **Declaration of Interest:** Mr David Saberton (relative) Personal interest Minute 07/130.

07/127 **Minutes of the meeting** of 13 November 2007 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr K Mackender, seconded by Mr A Berry, and agreed unanimously.

07/128 **Matters Arising**

07/109 East Cambs Local Development Framework: No further comments

07/117 Cemetery: New plan expected to be completed over Christmas.

07/118 Community Police: PCSO had advised that following the distribution of leaflets seeking issues of concern for residents one response had been received and this related to request for measures to reduce speeding at Martins Lane.

07/129 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Mereham Development: Cllr Anna Bailey, East Cambs District Council, reported that additional dates during December and January had been added for the Public Inquiry. The Highways Authority had objected to the original proposals as they affected A14, however, the developer had now submitted revised plans for A10 which were viewed as material changes by the Planning Inspector, and public notices had been issued in the press and comments were required by the Planning Inspector by 6 December. These revisions were intended to satisfy the Highways Authority regarding the A14, and involved widening the A10 carriageway from Little Chef roundabout to the traffic lights at Waterbeach so that there was a controlled access by vehicles on to the A14, albeit they anticipated this would cause a 200 car tailback. Since the Public Inquiry had begun the developer had also proposed 'Eco town status' which would be favourable with the Government, albeit a late addition as far as the Inspector was concerned. Noted that the original 30 year option on the land between developers and landowners still had 10 years to run so there was still opportunity for further applications. Chairman proposed the Council submit comments to the Planning Inspector expressing concerns on the changes to the A10. Seconded Mr Karl Mackender and agreed unanimously. Clerk to liaise with Councillors to prepare email to send to Lynette Duncan. All

Neighbourhood Panels in East Cambridgeshire: Cllr Anna Bailey stressed the importance of these new panels which will consider a wide range of common problems within each group, and prioritise issues to present to appropriate local government body who will hold the finance. This will help make local government more consultative, open and transparent.

Public Rights of Way: Cllr Tony Goodge spoke about the issues regarding Bury Road and the droves, and offered to speak with Kate Day (CCC) if the Council wished. Noted the County Council had not commenced the gate system to close certain droves off from 4-wheel drive vehicles and the membrane laid to improve part of Bury Road was in need of repair.

07/129 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**Public Rights of Way (cont)**

The Chairman advised he had written to the County Council on these two issues. Copy letter from County Council to landowner regarding site meeting on 2 November presented.

Ely Carparking: Councillor Tony Goodge reported that the Angel Drove carpark would not be ready in time for the changes in parking arrangements in Ely so there would be a softly softly approach regarding fines initially, and details to be released to the press shortly.

07/130 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

07/01240/FUL 36 High Street – 2 storey extension to side and rear (amending existing buildings) Mr David Saberton declared a Personal interest. Chairman proposed Council pleased with overall concept as it does improve the street scene. Suggest consideration of ?window on street elevation to break up solidness of extension and balance with the existing building. Proposed Chairman and seconded Mr A Berry.

Clerk

The following ECDC Approval was noted:

07/00999/FUL Erection of new dwelling at White Horse PH, 7 Silver Street. Special condition regarding erection of sign in PH to warn customers of restricted visibility at access, as agreed by Local Planning Authority, to be in place before new access used and to be retained in perpetuity.

07/131 MEREHAM DEVELOPMENT

As Minute 07/129.

07/132 NATIONAL STANDARD PLANNING APPLICATION FORM (1APP)

The proposed new forms would have two parts, section A containing mandatory core information set by Government and will apply nationally, and section B containing the local validation list requirements as compiled by each Local Planning Authority. Details circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Chairman proposed Witcham Parish Council welcomed the new form and believed it would be more focussed and provide more details when considering planning applications.

*Clerk***07/133 ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL**

Mr A Berry was elected. Proposed Chairman, seconded by Mr D Saberton and agreed unanimously.

07/134 RECREATION GROUND

- a) Inspections of play equipment: Mr D Saberton advised there was nil to report.
- b) Grounds maintenance issues: Mr D Saberton to speak with Groundsman and Clerk to check insurance for equipment.

*DJS***07/135 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

There had been several sightings of teams of 4-wheel drive vehicles using the droves. Note to go in "What's On" urging parishioners to take a note of registration numbers, time, date and place so that this information could be passed on to the relevant authorities. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

07/136 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Parish Forum Meeting – Report received and noted from the Chairman.

Heavy Commercial Vehicles – Mr A Mackender and Mr A Berry had apologised as they had been unable to attend November meeting. Next meeting scheduled for 13 December, Chairman to attend as Mr Mackender and Mr Berry unavailable.

Chairman

07/137 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

Clerk reported that the new street light at the bottom of The Slade was expected to be installed in about a month.

07/138 FINANCE

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

			£	£	£
Receipts		Nil			
Payments	000872	J Lucas	6.00		6.00
	000873	Mepal Stores Ltd What's On			
		S142 Dec	13.50		
		PC qtly newsletter	13.50		27.00
	000874	SJB Grounds Care	50.00	8.75	58.75
	d/d	Talk Talk	2.12	0.37	2.49

07/139 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 8 January 2008 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.

All business item, including receipts and payments 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 meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed Dated