

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 8 April 2008 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)

Public question time opened at 7.30 pm – 2 members of the public present
No members of public present during meeting.

Full Council business commenced at 7.45 pm
The Chairman welcomed PCSO Julie Collins

Action

08/050 **Apologies for Absence** were received from C Watson, and District Councillors A Bailey and T Goodge.

08/051 **Declaration of Interest:** D Saberton (relative) Personal interest Minute 08/055 – 36 High Street.

08/052 **Minutes of the meeting** of 11 March 2008 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Chairman and agreed unanimously.

08/053 **Matters Arising**

08/038 Data Centre and Eco-Village –Elean Business Park: Confirmed there was nothing further to follow up at present. Calculations regarding expected traffic volumes were still awaited from developers.

08/043 Recreation Ground and Village Hall Facilities: The Chairman thanked Mr A Berry and Mr K Mackender for painting the inside of the bus shelter.

08/041 Church Funding: The Clerk reported that she had heard no more about progress on new church heating system. Chairman advised he understood the Church was still fund-raising and the Council will be contacted in due course.

08/061 **COMMUNITY POLICE**

The Chairman proposed moving to item 08/061 and opened the meeting to allow PCSO Julie Collins to report, and a copy of local crime statistics for the area was received. PC K Humble had sent his apologies but will attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 29 April and will present the full year's crime statistics for the area.

The Chairman expressed concern at the recent episodes of vandalism, criminal damage and antisocial behaviour experienced over the last few months. PCSO Collins urged that all such activities be reported to the Police as this builds an 'intelligence picture' and encourages the Police to provide resources in the village. Villagers need to be encouraged to sign up to e-cops which allows an easy confidential reporting procedure. Clerk and PCSO Collins to produce article for next newsletter.

Clerk

Speed checks had been carried out in the village from time to time.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Collins and she left the meeting.

08/054 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

There were none.

08/055 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

08/0227/FUL Slade Farm, detached 3bed house. No objections subject to adequate screening as this is a highly visible site from the approach into the village and on the edge of the development envelope.

Clerk

(Applications for 9 Westway Place and 36 High Street had been received earlier in the morning, comments required by 24 April. These had been made available for public inspection earlier in the evening as requested. These will be considered at a specially convened meeting prior to the Annual Parish Meeting on 29 April (7.15pm) subject to consent for an extension to submit comments from ECDC, otherwise an earlier special meeting will be convened)

Clerk

To note the following ECDC Decisions

07/01433/FUL The Chestnuts, Ely Road. Erection of new offices and staff facilities plus staff and customer parking area. Refused to due height of building and footprint.

08/056 RECREATION GROUND AND VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES

Antisocial behaviour/criminal damage to property – photographs of tracks of vehicle taken on recreation ground received. Police require vehicle details, dates etc. Notices and article for newsletters planned with PCSO.

Clerk

Village maintenance and mowing arrangements. Clerk confirmed receipt of resignation letter. Arrangements for mowing at cemetery and recreation ground were in hand and some cuts had been made.

Contract for new Groundsman had been drafted in accordance with NALC/CALC guidelines and this was presented to the meeting by the Chairman. New Groundsman had asked for £12 per hour and after consideration it was accepted. Proposed by Mr K Mackender, seconded by Mr D Saberton and agreed unanimously, subject to no further increase for 3 years and a maximum budget of £2000 per annum, (Max 4 hours per week as necessary).

Clerk

Mr Saberton had no issues to report on monthly inspections of play area/recreation ground equipment. Clerk to remind Cricket Club to move goalposts after matches. Mr Saberton to remove moss from tiles in play area.

*Clerk
DJS*

Noted that Cemetery plan still awaited so that new consecration document can be drawn up.

Clerk

Land at rear and side of 2 Martins Lane. Documents had been drawn up but there was a delay as the builder had changed solicitors and paperwork still to be completed.

*Clerk***08/057 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (DROVES)**

Correspondence received from landowner regarding recent work on Bury Road.

Noted gates had been installed on selected droves and locks installed last week although gates not always kept locked. Noted membrane on Bury Road breaking up and Blackthorn creeping back.

Mr A Berry offered to contact K Whymark, Rights of Way Officer, to set up meeting. Chairman proposed approval for Mr Berry's offer and it was agreed. Mr Berry to progress P3 scheme, including gates Headleys Lane/Park Lane. Agreed unanimously.

*AB***08/058 POST OFFICE CLOSURES**

Consultation arrangements for impending national Post Office closures received from County Council, Sir Peter Brown – Chairman of Cambs and Peterborough Post Office Network Change Group. Details of proposed closures expected 8 July and consultation period extended to 26 August.

08/059 RENTAL OF GARAGES IN PARISH

Request received for assistance in renting garage from Sanctuary Hereward. Chairman proposed letter to Sanctuary Hereward supporting application since parking at Westway Place is a problem for the residents. Seconded Mr K Mackender and agreed unanimously.

*Clerk***08/060 NOISE NUISANCE – MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB**

Letter received from Wardy Hill parishioner regarding intolerable noise nuisance and potential danger from activities of the club. Noted this issue was already being raised with the appropriate authority, the District Council. There were no known complaints from residents in Witcham. Mr Berry proposed seeking advice from the British Model Flying Association. Seconded by Chairman and agreed unanimously. Clerk to inform complainant.

*Clerk***08/062 REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

Neighbourhood Panel Meetings – details to be placed on noticeboard. Next meeting scheduled for 28 April at Sutton. Issues of speeding, green-laning and fly-tipping raised for Witcham at previous meeting.

*Clerk
AB*

Mr Berry confirmed he would also attend the multi-agency surgery on Sunday 20 April Regarding green-laning issues.

*AB***08/063 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

No new issues.

08/064 CORRESPONDENCE

The following were received and noted

Audit Commission, appointment of Moore Stephens as Auditors for 2007/8 to 2011/12, and appointment of panel of Audit Commission Officers. (In the unlikely event that Moore Stephens is unable to continue with the appointment a member of the panel of Audit Commission Officers would act as the external auditor to the Council.)

CCC Bus Services, new contracts, including services to Witcham

CCC Registered Trader Scheme – local police checked traders available for older, vulnerable people to carry out building repairs and gardening. Details in noticeboard and newsletter
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre – recording details of local ponds by postcard to be distributed, and Chairman to make further enquiries.

*Clerk**DAB*

Standards Board Town & Parish Standard newsletter March 2008 circulated to each Councillor

*All***08/065 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 29 April 2008**

Agenda and arrangements agreed. Further notice to be included in next Council newsletter which had been drafted and was approved by the meeting, subject to inclusion of article regarding criminal damage and community policing which the Clerk was discussing with PCSO Julie Collins. Chairman to make enquiries again about dispensers for clean dog bags.

Clerk

Mrs Anderson reported that the White Horse had been awarded CAMRA Rural Pub of the Year 2008 for Isle of Ely.

08/066 FINANCE

Year-End Accounts. A copy of the receipts and payments, reconciliation, balance sheet and summary of accounts had been previously circulated. Bank statements presented for verification of balances at bank. Total income for the year £12087.29, total expenditure £12227.18. Balance to carry forward £26296.45. Annual Return form awaited from external auditor so Councillors' Statement of Assurance to be completed at a future meeting. The Council accepted the accounts and these will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. Clerk to follow up arrangements for audit.

08/066 **FINANCE**

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

			£	£	£
Receipts	RSPB	2008/9 Rent Ouse Washes	650.00		650.00
Payments	000889	C Walker – mowing Feb/Mar	126.00		126.00

Allianz Cornhill – deferred until revised.

The following payments had been made since the last meeting as part of the 2007/8 financial year, as approved at the previous meeting:

000886	Mepal Stores March Wot's On s142	13.50	13.50
	Copying Parish Plan – Mepal Stores	169.80	169.80
000887	Witcham Village Hall hire	120.00	120.00
000888	Witcham Cricket Club 2007 grasscutting	375.00	375.00

CCC (new street light Headleys Lane) £1130.21 – removal of old lamp and receipt of invoice was still awaited and will be presented in new financial year.

08/067 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The **Annual General Meeting** will take place on Tuesday 13 May 2008 commencing at 7.30 pm for monthly check of payments and receipts and 'open to the public' time. Business to commence at 7.45pm.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will take place on Tuesday 29 April 2008 at 7.30 pm. Clerk to make arrangements for Council to consider the two planning applications (08/055) preferably at 7.15pm prior to Annual Parish Meeting, to be confirmed after consultation with ECDC.

Clerk

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed Dated