

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11 May, 2010 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)

Public question time opened at 7.30pm – 4 members of the public
Full Council business commenced at 7.50 pm
No members of the public present during the Council meeting.

Action

10/083 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr D A Bamforth: Proposed Mr C Watson, seconded Mrs J Bibby and there being no other nominations agreed unanimously.

10/084 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct form as Chairman completed.

10/085 Apologies for Absence. District Councillors T Goodge and A Bailey

10/086 Declaration of Interest:

C Watson, personal interest Minute 10/094 Planning Application adj 19 Westway Place (Neighbour).
D A Bamforth, personal interest Minute 10/090 Subscriptions CAB (serves on CAB Trustee Board)

10/087 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr D J Saberton: proposed by Mr A Bamforth, seconded Mr C Watson and there being no other nominations agreed unanimously.

10/088 ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES

The following appointments were made en-bloc. Proposed Chairman, seconded D Saberton and agreed unanimously:

Burial Board: All Councillors

Village Hall Committee: Mr D A Bamforth

Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils: Mr D A Bamforth and Mr D Saberton

East Cambridgeshire Parish Forum: Mr D A Bamforth

Ely Sector Police Local Liaison Group: Mr C Watson

Strawburner Parish Forum: Mr D Saberton and Mr C Watson

Mepal Outdoor Centre: Mr David Saberton

Cambridgeshire ACRE Parish Plan Working Group: Mr D A Bamforth, Mr C Watson and Mr D Saberton (to be reviewed as Parish Plan progresses)

Citizen's Advice Bureau Trustee Board: Mr D A Bamforth

Play Area: Mr D Saberton responsible for weekly inspections of equipment

Youth Team: Mrs J Bibby and Mr C Watson

10/089 CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE (LGA 1972 s15(5))

It was agreed to set aside an allowance of £50. Proposed by Mr C Watson, seconded Mr K Mackender and agreed unanimously.

10/090 PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Citizen's Advice Bureau – Approved £30. LGA 1972 s142. Proposed Mr D Saberton, seconded Mr C Watson and agreed unanimously.

10/091 **Minutes of the meeting** of 13 April 2010 and 27 April 2010 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr D Saberton and seconded by Mr C Watson, and agreed unanimously.

10/092 **Matters Arising**

10/069 Public Rights of Way: Gravel End. Response awaited from Environment Agency about use of haul road by the quadbikes. Mepal and Sutton Parish Councils had been contacted and advised the issues had been referred to the Neighbourhood Panel and PCSO. Little Downham/ Pymore not aware of problems at present. To be kept under review and resident informed.

Droves Meeting 22 May 2010: Kate Day had understood our request was for meeting of parishes in the first instance but in any case she was planning to hold further meetings afterwards, and to include other bodies such as the Wildlife Trust.

10/070 Drainage Issues: The Orchards - nothing to report from Environment Agency and ECDC at present. Martins Lane - CCC had advised that the problem of highway surface water running on to property was due to an improper access and they were following up with resident. Mrs Bibby advised that the access had been created some 20 years ago during a Hereward Housing resident's tenancy. Three families had since taken the tenancy. CCC to be informed and Mrs Bibby to speak to resident to advise of our continued support with this issue. *JB Clerk*

10/074 Adoption Red Telephone Kiosk: Contract ready and it was agreed Clerk to sign and despatch with the £1 adoption fee. Clerk to check when equipment to be decommissioned and finally removed since the Council is required to display a notice for the public advising change of ownership and the fact that the equipment is no longer in service. Insurance company to be informed. *Clerk*

10/093 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

There were none

10/094 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

10/00324/FUL land adj 19 Westway Place, Proposed erection of two 3-bed detached private dwellings and associated works.

The Chairman presented the issues regarding carparking, raised by members of the public in the open session at the beginning of the meeting. These comments, as based on previous submissions, to be forwarded to Planning Officer at ECDC suggesting amendment to plan to extend existing carparking area and removal of bottle neck into the carpark area to relieve congestion and improve access for large vehicles, such as the weekly waste collection vehicles, and improve turning for residents at 19 Westway Place and adjacent new house. Clerk asked to send copy to District Councillors, and in view of the overwhelming public rejection of this application, to request site meeting with Councillor Read to discuss options for improving parking. Noted Sanctuary Hereward appear to own the footway although in the past there has been issues with their responsibility for maintaining it. Understood ECDC own the green. *Chairman Clerk*

10/095 **ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL AND SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS**

Copy previously circulated. Approved for circulation to each household. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

10/096 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting previously circulated. The following issues had been referred to the Council:

- a) Frequent power supply cuts. Clerk confirmed she had written to EDF. Mr Watson reported further power cuts on 4 May 2010 at around 9pm and 10:50pm. Response awaited from EDF.
- b) Plastic bottle recycling facilities. Problem with finding suitable location within the village and noted facilities at Sutton and Mepal, and Tesco and Waitrose in Ely. After careful consideration agreed to not pursue installation of banks in the village for the time being. Proposed Mr K Mackender, seconded Mr A Berry and agreed unanimously.

10/097 RECREATION GROUND

Monthly report on inspection of recreation ground and play equipment. Mr D Saberton had nil to report.

Clerk reported that report on Annual RoSPA inspection scheduled for April was awaited.

10/098 VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES

Chairman advised the plans had been revised and meetings set up for advice on obtaining grants. Estimated cost £250,000.

10/099 COMMUNITY POLICE

Nil to report

10/100 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Joint Funded Minor Highways Improvement Scheme – Passing places at Hive Road/Jerusalem Drove. Chairman, Mrs Bibby and Mr Saberton had met with County Council Highway representatives on 4 May to discuss locations. Plan 2 passing places on Hive Road, one towards bottom before bend and the other by Clare Farm. If funds permit existing passing places and gateways may be tidied up to improve conditions. Further details awaited.

Neighbour Panel Meeting 19 April 2010. Chairman confirmed issues regarding the proposed cycleway at Witcham Toll and problems with quadbikes at Gravel End had been raised.

Heavy Commercial Vehicles and Speedwatch. Mr Mackender reported that there had been no further meetings but he was still looking for volunteers for the Speedwatch scheme. Note to go in next newsletter again.

Parish Paths (P3) scheme. Mr Berry reported he had received a message about surface material for Bury Road and would make further enquiries and obtain quotes. The Clerk reported that £100 had been allocated to the village under this year's P3 scheme. Training courses and changes within the Rights of Way office noted. CCC to undertake grasscutting on footpaths in May and July.

Chairman had met with owner of land at Bury Road and inspected pond and wildlife habitats. Examining higher level stewardship scheme and owner was getting drove widths for at the front of each field down the road.

10/101 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

Nil to report

10/102 CORRESPONDENCE

The following were received and noted:

CCC Witcham and Wardy Hill Byway Management Plan
ECDC Trees within conservation area: Work to be carried out on 1 Yew and 2 Sycamore at Manor Farm House, The Slade.

10/103 FINANCE

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

		£	£	£
Receipts	EDF Wayleaves	17.47		17.47
Payments	001021 AON Insurance renewal	1241.20		1241.20
	001022 Clerk's salary & reimburse internet Apr-Jun £24	512.07		512.07
	001023 BT Payphones Adoption Red Box fee	1.00		1.00

10/103 **FINANCE** (cont)

Clerk presented details of alternative bank accounts at Lloyds for better rates of interest. 1.37% for 1 yr and 2.35% for 2 yr fixed periods. Mr K Mackender proposed check if money could be transferred to a building society for longer period at around 4%.

10/104 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 8 June 2010 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.

ITEMS for next agenda: Consultation – ECDC Decision Making arrangements *All*

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*

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

Signed Dated