

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 February 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: D A Bamforth (Chairman), P Chambers (Vice-Chairman), D J Saberton, M Wilkin

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Mr A White (ECDC)
There were no members of the public.

Action

Chairman proposed amending agenda order to check matters arising and view planning applications until Mr David Saberton returned. Agreed unanimously.

465. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr Don Saberton, Mr C Watson and Mrs B Daters. Mr David Saberton had left for 10 minutes to return home.

Chairman proposed that a letter expressing the sincere condolences of the members of the Council be sent to Mr and Mrs Don Saberton. Agreed by all.

466. **Declaration of Interest:** There were none.

468. **Matters Arising**

461 Street sign for The Slade – Clerk advised that ECDC had agreed to erect signs part way down The Slade, in the vicinity of the concrete road.

461 Seepage of water – new development – Westway Place/Silver Street. To be kept under review. *All*

430/449 Affordable Housing Options – Clerk reported that she had advised the ACRE Rural Housing Enabler that this issue would be re-examined once the new Parish Plan was available. *All*

Mr David Saberton returned to the meeting at 7.40pm.

467. **Minutes of the meeting** of 9 January 2007 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr David Saberton, seconded by Chairman, and agreed unanimously.

469. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

07/00083/FUL 1 Market Way Carport to side of property. No comments to make. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

06/01362/FUL The White Horse, 7 Silver Street. Minor design changes plus clarification of proposed parking arrangements for public house. Council pleased to see improvements. Proposed Mr P Chambers, seconded Mr M Wilkin and agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

470. **CHURCH – NEW HEATING SYSTEM**

Letter of 6 February from Treasurer reported to meeting. Chairman proposed Clerk write to confirm again that the Council is keen to assist but does still require specific details of costs and sources of funding. *Clerk*

471. **OUSE WASH DROVES**

Clerk had collected revised document from solicitor that evening but on examination the signatories were incorrect. Clerk to arrange for correction again and agreed she and the Chairman should sign off the revised document upon return before the next meeting. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously. *Clerk/Chairman*

472. **PARISH PLAN**

Clerk reported that the working party had arranged for extension of the FensLeAP Leader+ grant as timescales for completion of the plan were unfortunately overrunning, and had been extended to end of February. Grant income to-date £2250 (2nd instalment of £750 from FensLeAP Leader+ outstanding). Expenditure to-date £176.13. Invoices awaited for hire of village hall and also the Youth consultation process which took place at the end of October.

Clerk

Winner of £30 prize for completion of Parish Plan questionnaire was Mr M Housden, drawn by Mr A White. Clerk to raise cheque from funds.

*Clerk*473. **RECREATION GROUND AND VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES**Football Matches

The Chairman reported a request to use the recreation ground by the Mepal Sports U10s Football Team for home games while work was being undertaken on their normal pitch at Mepal.

Fixtures: 20 and 27 January, 3, 17 and 24 February, 10, 24 and 31 March, 21 April.

In accordance with delegated powers, Chairman had checked application and insurance, and consented to use and now sought confirmation from Council. Mr Mark Wilkin proposed confirmation, seconded Mr David Saberton and agreed unanimously. Notice to go in "What's On" to keep local residents informed.

Clerk

It was noted that the football club had offered to cut the grass of the pitch. Clerk advised that she believed the Council's insurance would not provide public liability for grasscutting undertaken by another party. Clerk to inform football club that it is responsible for ensuring that anyone mowing the recreation ground for the football matches has insurance cover. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

*Clerk*Registration of Recreation Ground as Village Green

Clerk reported that she had contacted County Council for confirmation of the status of the recreation ground following the refusal of the application for registration as a Village Green.

*Clerk*Building Plot adj 2 Martins Lane

The Chairman presented a paper following an approach by the builder adj. 2 Martins Lane. The builder was asking to make electricity and sewer connections into systems running along the verge by the roadway which currently serve the Village Hall only, and to replace existing boundary fence with close boarded 2m high wooded fence around back garden.

The builder would also like to acquire the 10 foot strip of land parallel with the village hall road to extend the building and remove silver birch. Council considered requests and Chairman and Mr Chambers to pursue enquiries regarding costs of sewer and electricity connections and value of pieces of land in question. Clerk to gather evidence including contact with Village Hall Committee, Cricket Club and local landowners to explore options for improving facilities for Village Hall, eg car-parking and changing facilities, whilst still protecting the recreation ground from encroachment.

*Chairman/PC**Clerk*Weekly Play Area Inspections

Mr David Saberton reported that there were no issues to report on play equipment. Noted that following replacement of telegraph pole at rear of infant play area, boundary fencing and hedging had not been cleared up and made good. Mr David Saberton to make enquiries.

DJS

474. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The new Groundsman had attended prior to commencement of the meeting. The Chairman confirmed arrangements and checks were in hand. Clerk had circulated contract and job description at previous meeting.

Mr David Saberton to organise and purchase, as necessary, health & safety equipment, (eg shoes, goggles, ear defenders, protective clothing and gloves), training in use of equipment and to task Groundsman with trimming hedge at cemetery and repairing seat and tidying at recreation ground. *DJS*
He will also arrange for purchase of petrol and sundries for grasscutting equipment and submission of receipts for reimbursement. Proposed Chairman, agreed unanimously.

475. ELEAN BUSINESS PARK – STRAWBURNER

Mr David Saberton gave report of liaison meeting on 31 January. Clerk to circulate notes on receipt from EPR. Gas burner to be replaced by bio-diesel. Community funds to be made available to neighbouring villages. Meetings to be held half yearly. Chairman proposed Clerk obtain details of energy audit for inclusion in next newsletter.

*Clerk***476. CEMETERY**

Chairman had met with Mr Thomson and confirmed he will re-draw plan. This will then be submitted to Diocese legal department so that a new consecration document can be drawn up prior to arrangements for the ceremony in a few weeks.

*Chairman
Clerk***477. QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS**

Clerk advised the portfolio was almost complete and she and the Chairman had had a meeting with Mr Dewar, adviser on Quality Parish Council Status for CALC. Panel next meets in April and she was intending to make the submission in March. Consent given for payment of cheque for registration fee. Application to be made to CALC for funding for additional hours worked by Clerk to complete portfolio (50%)

*Clerk***478. PARISH PATHS (P3) SCHEME**

Chairman and Clerk to complete documentation for submission and report back to next meeting.

*Chairman
/Clerk***479. CCC BUDGET 2007/8**

No further comments received.

480. EAST CAMBS INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL – COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCE

Paper circulated prior to meeting. Mr David Saberton proposed the Council would not participate. Seconded by Chairman and agreed unanimously.

*Clerk***481. COMMUNITY POLICE**

No issues to report.

482. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

HCV Route Meeting 31 January 2007 at Haddenham. Clerk reported that the County Council is developing a Satnav system for lorries as a commercial project with a provider and in conjunction with other County Councils across the country. Website already established and allocating budgets to improve identified roads and facilities to encourage lorries to stay on main trunk roads instead of cutting through villages.

The people of Haddenham had issues with lorries involved in gravel extraction, travelling between Waterbeach and the Chatteris area. These lorries travel through Haddenham instead of using the A10/A142 via Ely. Heavy volume of traffic between Earith Bridge and Sutton, and Earith Bridge and Haddenham. County Council do not see weight restrictions, zoning and closures as a suitable solution.

482. **REPORTS OF MEETINGS (cont)**

Increased waste recycling facilities in the area and proposed increases for gravel extraction will increase lorry movements. However, the County Council was making proposals in the new Waste & Minerals Development Plan so that in future as part of the consent to extract gravel there would be a requirement for the extraction company to provide a new road.

483. **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

No issues to report.

484. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were noted:

CCC East of England Plan – proposed Changes – Briefing document previously circulated.
No comments

The following had been received too late for inclusion on this agenda but will be circulated for discussion at the March meeting:

NALC/DEFRA Consultation: The Commons Act 2006 Protection of Common Land in England:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/commonsact2006/index.htm>

Postwatch/DTI Consultation – Post Office Closures: www.dti.gov.uk Responses required by 8 March 2007 from businesses and households. Note to go in “What’s On”.

Communities and Local Government: Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members.
To be circulated to Councillors.

485. **FINANCE**

a) Quarterly report and bank reconciliation to 31 December 2006 received and noted.

b) & c) The following Receipts and Payments were presented, checked and approved.

			£	£	£
Receipts		Nil			
Payments	000808	Cambridgeshire ACRE	25.00		25.00
	000809	CCC Streetlighting maintenance and energy	193.05		193.05
	000810	Mr M Housden (Parish Plan)	30.00		30.00

486. **DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 March 2007 commencing at 7.15 pm for ‘open to the public’ time and monthly check of payments and receipts. Business to commence at 7.30 pm.

Annual Parish Meeting: Tuesday 24 April 2007

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 8 May 2007

All business to be considered must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 6 clear days prior to the meeting.

All

Noted: Local Elections (District and Parish) **Thursday 3 May 2007**

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

Signed Dated