

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 December 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)

Action

428. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr Don Saberton, Mr Chris Watson, Mrs B Daters and Mr A White .

429. **Declaration of Interest:** Mr D A Bamforth (434) Neighbouring property. Personal interest.

430. AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS

The Chairman welcomed Laura Razzell, Rural Housing Enabler Cambridgeshire ACRE and opened the meeting to allow a presentation.

Chairman thanked Laura and she left the meeting. Chairman reconvened the meeting and proposed deferring consideration of affordable housing under 'Exceptional Policy' ie development outside the development envelope providing affordable housing in perpetuity for local people. *All*
Agreed by all. Noted 2 families on waiting list for homes in Witcham, however, it was expected that a housing needs analysis would reveal greater interest. In the meantime some questions in the Parish Plan which was currently being circulated to householders would provide some guidance as to local needs. Also noted that ACRE could offer assistance in developing housing needs analysis as an independent party.

431. COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chairman welcomed PC Humble and opened the meeting to allow presentation of a report on calls to the service since April 2006. It was noted that PCSO Julie Collins would be assisting in future and would attend meetings from time to time.

Chairman thanked PC Humble who left the meeting. Chairman reconvened the meeting and proposed note to go in newsletter regarding PCSO Collins. Agreed by all. *Clerk*

432. **Minutes of the meeting** of 14 November 2006 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed Mr David Saberton, seconded Mr P Chambers and agreed unanimously.

433. Matters Arising

412 Erection of cricket nets Clerk to liaise with Cricket Club regarding insurance *Clerk*

418 Cemetery Chairman meeting at Cemetery for new plan 9 December 2006. *Chairman*

434. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

06/01362/FUL The White Horse PH, 7 Silver Street erection of new dwelling

Mr P Chambers took the Chair and Mr Bamforth who had declared an interest withdrew from participating in the meeting.

Height of building reduced. Concerns: access, parking and potential of pub in future. Proposed Mr P Chambers, seconded Mr David Saberton and agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

Mr D A Bamforth returned and took the Chair.

Strawburning Power Station. Letter from resident enquiring about progress of re-forming of residents' liaison group. Clerk confirmed letter had been sent to the Manager following the visit to the power station in the summer and she had also been in touch by telephone but no arrangements confirmed at present.

Clerk

435. **RECREATION GROUND**

Appointment of Groundsman: Mr David Saberton reported that Mr Rozzy would undertake grasscutting. Clerk to forward employment details. Pay agreed at £8ph subject to submission of timesheets. Mr David Saberton and Mr Paul Chambers to review hedge and shrub trimming at recreation ground and instruct Mr Rozzy.

*PC/
DJS*

Registration of recreation ground as Village Green. Further details awaited from County Council.

Arrangements for cricket nets. Nothing further to report.

Mr David Saberton reported that he had re-anchored the football nets earlier in the evening and that there were no other issues to report.

436. **CHURCH – NEW HEATING SYSTEM**

Letters received from the Treasurer of the Church seeking financial assistance towards new heating system to improve conditions for those using the Church and help maintain the fabric of the building. The Clerk advised she had contacted CALC for clarification on Council's statutory powers in this regard and had asked for further details from the Church regarding other sources of funding planned and their thoughts on how they planned to increase activities at the Church. Clerk to pursue.

Clerk

437. **OUSE WASH DROVES**

Draft amendment to the lease for rental by RSPB had been received. Clerk to check calculation of RPI increases and dates of review with Solicitors and to arrange for completion as soon as possible.

Clerk

438. **HINCHINGBROOKE HOSPITAL**

Decision on letter objecting to closures deferred until further details known.

439. **PARISH PLAN**

Chairman reported that questionnaires had been circulated to residents and were due back in by mid-December. Invoice from ECDC for copying received and approved for payment from grant monies held for project.

440. **QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS**

December newsletter received and reviewed. Clerk to arrange distribution.

Clerk

441. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were noted:

Fenland District Council's Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement circulated HCV Route meeting 31 January 2006, Arkenstall Centre, Haddenham, 7.30pm
CALC Parish & Town Council Elections seminar 7 February 2006
Government White Paper – Strong and Prosperous Communities published Oct 2006

442. **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

There were none

443. **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

Damaged street light column at Westway Place/Silver Street corner

Clerk

444. **FINANCE**

			£	£	£
Receipts	NIL				
Payments	000802	J Wells Reimburse website (1/2 yr)	35.18		35.18
	000803	ECDC Copying Parish Plan	112.77	19.73	132.50
	000804	Mepal Stores Whats On (Nov)	14.00	2.45	16.45
		“ “ “ (Dec)	21.00	3.68	24.68
	000805	S J Bell salary	561.00		561.00
	d/d	Vartec	1.84.	.32	2.16

445. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 9 January 2007 commencing at 7.15 pm for monthly check of payments and receipts and ‘open to the public’ time. Business to commence at 7.30 pm.

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

Signed

Dated