

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9 January 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: D A Bamforth (Chairman), D J Saberton, C Watson

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Mrs B Daters (ECDC)
Mr A White (ECDC)

- Action
446. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr P Chambers, Mr Don Saberton and Mr M Wilkin.
447. **Declaration of Interest:** There were none.
448. **Minutes of the meeting** of 5 December 2006 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr David Saberton and seconded Mr C Watson, and agreed unanimously.
449. **Matters Arising**
- 430 Affordable Housing Options* To be considered after Parish Plan drafted.. *Clerk*
450. **OUSE WASH DROVES**
- Review dates incorrect in draft, revised document awaited for signature as soon as possible. *Clerk*
451. **ELEAN BUSINESS PARK – STRAWBURNING POWER STATION**
- EPR offered dates for Liaison Meeting, preferred date 31 January. Clerk to confirm arrangements. Mr David Saberton and Mr Ashley Bamforth to attend. *Clerk*
452. **CEMETERY**
- Chairman to meet Mr Thompson again regarding plan so that Clerk can contact Diocese to make Arrangements as soon as possible for consecration of areas of unconsecrated ground at Cemetery.
453. **CHURCH – NEW HEATING SYSTEM**
- CALC response received and Church advised. Further information awaited from Church before Council can make a decision. *Clerk*
454. **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – GATING OF BYWAYS 8, 10, 11, 12 AND 13**
- These byways will be gated and locked for six months during each winter to those without legitimate access to the land. A 5' gap will be left for horses, cyclists and walkers. There will be scrub clearance and levelling. Council welcomed the restrictions on access but was concerned that cutting back hedges could be a loss of amenity for wildlife unless minimal. It would also be necessary to negotiate with people living on droves regarding positioning of gates. *Clerk*
455. **PARISH PATHS (P3) SCHEME**
- Council reviewed work planned for 2006/7 and it was agreed to participate in the scheme for 2007/8 *Clerk/*
Clerk and Chairman to liaise to complete application and monitoring reports. *Chairman*
456. **PARISH PLAN**
- Chairman reported that Mr Hill was coordinating questionnaires and analysis work.
457. **RECREATION GROUND**
- Mr David Saberton reported that there were no issues to report on play equipment.

458. **CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET 2007/8**

Information bulletin received. Questionnaires to rank services in order of priority distributed. Public survey of 6000 residents had been conducted as part of consultation process and there will be a telephone survey and public meetings during January.

459. **COMMUNITY POLICE**

There was nothing to report to-date.

460. **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

Mr Saberton reported that he had attended the meeting of Mepal Outdoor Centre and all was going well.

461. **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

Street Lamp column at corner of Silver Street/Westway Place had been repaired. No other faulty lights nor highways/footway problems.

The Chairman had received a request to ask the District Council to place street sign at the Witcham Toll end for The Slade. Proposed Chairman, seconded Mr C Watson and agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

Seepage of water by the footpath at front of new estate on junction of Silver Street/Westway Place to be monitored by Councillors and reviewed, and help sought as appropriate. *All*

462. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were noted.

- a) ECDC Trees in Conservation Area, pollard weeping willow 24 High Street
- b) Cambridgeshire Rural Community Question Time, Panel of representatives from Fire, Police, Countryside Watch, Environmental Agency etc – 8 February 2007 St Ives. No one available to attend.
- c) East Cambs Independent Remuneration Panel – Councillors' Allowances – Councillors to consider for next meeting.
- d) CCC New Policy on Temporary Signs for Community Charity Events – circulate to Village Hall and place in newsletter and noticeboard.
- e) Winter Maintenance – gritting arrangements Winter 2006/7
- f) CCC The Slade – drainage scheme commenced 13 December 2006 and completed.
- g) CCC Trading Standards Newsletter and guidance for Parish Councils to help
- h) CCC Statement of Community Involvement. Adopted 17 October for consultation in respect of Minerals and Waste Development Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents (T&C Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (Regs 35 & 36))
- i) Fenland Local Development Framework - Site Specific Proposals Issues and Options Papers – Housing, Employment, Retail and Leisure, Open Spaces, Historic Environment. Consultation 28 Dec to 9 February.
- j) Go-East Consultation documents, RSS East of England – Secretary of State's proposed Changes and Statement of Reasons with Sustainability Appraisal and report of assessment under EC Habitats Directive to determine the effect of the draft RSS on sites of European importance for nature conservation. No comments.

463. **FINANCE**

a) Chairman proposed renewal of Cambridgeshire ACRE membership at £25 for the year. Agreed Mr C Watson and agreed unanimously.

b) & c) Receipts and Payments as up-dated in meeting

			£	£	£
Receipts		F W Cook Funeral Directors (L Saberton)	110.00		110.00
Payments	000806	Mepal stores Xmas Newsletter	14.00	2.45	16.45
	000807	J Lucas delivery newsletter	6.00		6.00
	000808	Cambridgeshire ACRE membership	25.00		25.00
	d/d	Talk Talk	2.40	.42	2.82

464. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 February 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