

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 February 2009 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,

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)

Public question time opened at 7.30 pm – nil members of the public

Verification of payments and receipts took place by the Chairman

Full Council business commenced at 7.45pm

No members of public present during meeting

Noted additional meeting required in February to consider planning application which had arrived too late for inclusion on this evening's agenda. Clerk to make arrangements.

The Chairman recorded that Daisy Saberton, the first lady to be elected to the Parish Council many years ago, had sadly recently passed away. On behalf of the Council he expressed gratitude for all Daisy's service to the village over a great many years, and offered condolences to her family.

Action

09/242 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr C Watson who would join the meeting later if possible. Also Mr Tony Goodge and Ann Bailey District Councillors who were at District Council meetings.

09/243 **Declaration of Interest:** There were none

09/244 **Minutes of the meeting** of 13 January 2009 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr D Saberton, seconded by Mr J Mackender, and agreed unanimously.

09/245 **Matters Arising**

09/222,08/184/170/204 Noise Nuisance Elean Business Park: Clerk reported that Councillor P Read had raised this issue with the Enforcement Officer, Mr A Smith, at ECDC. Situation to be monitored and Mr Smith contacted should the need arise for further investigation.

All

09/231 Cemetery: Clerk had contacted Diocese representatives several times but further information was still awaited.

09/246 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

There were no reports received.

09/247 **SCALLYWAGS BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

Request for grant towards new play equipment received and considered. Chairman proposed deferring decision until outcome of other grant applications known in a few days. Agreed unanimously. Clerk to include on agenda for additional meeting in February, as above.

Clerk

09/248 **DOG BIN**

Letter received from resident regarding bin placed at bus shelter. After much discussion the Council could not suggest a more suitable location for the bin. It is convenient for all roads leading to the crossroads and siting the bin against the wall reduces the environmental impact of yet another piece of street furniture. Agreed that installation of additional bins at the concrete road leading from The Slade into Park Field and at High Street/junction with Headley's Lane would reduce use of bin by the bus shelter. Chairman and Clerk to progress and liaise with District Council for installation. Councillors to monitor use of bins and continue to work with the District Council and Veolia to develop a quick response for emptying, and dog owners to be asked to use the proper poop scoop bags to reduce blocking the bin. Proposed by Chairman and agreed unanimously. Clerk to respond to resident's letter accordingly.

All

09/249 YOUTH FACILITIES

Chairman gave report of meetings regarding future arrangements for youth services in the village which he had attended with other villages and the County Council on 27 January and one with Sutton Parish Council on 3 February. After discussion Clerk instructed to contact County Council and Sutton Parish Council to seek confirmation on the number of sessions and likely activities planned for Witcham, based on the current Parish Council contribution of £1000 per annum. Clerk also to obtain confirmation of planned sessions over the coming next few weeks. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

*Clerk***09/250 RECREATION GROUND**

Mr Saberton reported that there were no issues to report on the weekly inspections of the play area and equipment. Mr Saberton said he would like to relinquish this duty. Agreed Clerk to write to the Groundsman to request that he carry out the weekly check. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

The Clerk reported that RoSPA planned to carry out the annual inspection during April, approved. *Clerk*

09/251 COMMUNITY FUEL CLUB AND COMMUNITY HORTICULTURAL SEED ORDERING CLUB

Chairman presented information. Clerk to place note in "What's On" and the Council's quarterly newsletter requesting interested people contact the Council. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

*Clerk***09/252 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

Mr Berry advised that the meeting with County Council P3 Officer had been deferred.

Mr Berry reported on the Saturday morning site meeting off Park Lane regarding access to footpath. He understood it could be better to open up the access, including removing old gate and brambles without installing new gates. The P3 scheme could include waymarking, interpretation boards, maintenance of surfaces and cutting back vegetation, walk maps, nest box scheme and training for use of equipment for carrying out maintenance work. He will see the P3 Officer and then complete and despatch forms.

*AB***09/253 COMMUNITY POLICE**

There were no issues.

09/254 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Neighbourhood Panel 26 January 2009. Mr Berry gave a report. Noted Wentworth had asked for consideration of funding for completion of cycleway between Witcham Toll and Wentworth. Mr Berry had supported this and spoken to representatives about pursuing this issue.

AB

Heavy Commercial Vehicles – Mr Mackender had received minutes of last meeting. Noted much concern about effect of lorries in the Earth/St Ives area.

Speedwatch – Mr Mackender had completed training. He outlined the scheme and it was agreed to include a note in "What's On" and next Newsletter to inform parishioners. This is an educational/prevention scheme. The Police will write to speeding drivers issuing warning but no fixed penalties will be issued.

*AB/KM***09/255 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

There was nothing to report.

09/256 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

The following documents had been circulated prior to the meeting:

- a) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – New Sites proposed for Mineral and Waste Development (through the Minerals and Waste (Preferred Options 2) Plan consultation. No comments.

09/256 **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS** (cont)

- b) Communities in Control: Real people, real power. Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity. No comments.
- c) Cambridgeshire Transport Commission. Proposals to spend £500m to tackle congestion, including improvements to public transport, walking, cycling, highways and some form of congestion charging. Comments discussed and Chairman to make submission.
- d) ECDC Extension to Site Allocation and Boundary Change Representations (Reg32) – Re Core Strategy and Proposals Map. No Comments

*Chairman*09/257 **CORRESPONDENCE**

2008 CPALC AGM Minutes (draft) previously circulated. Noted.

09/258 **FINANCE**

Clerk reported preliminary arrangements for 2008/9 annual audit. Accounts to close 31 March 2009 and arrangements for audit would be known shortly.

Noted the internal auditor had increased fees, proposed £194.39 based on assessment of previous years.

Mr Berry gave details of costs for replacement computer and software. Further investigations to be presented at next meeting, to include comparative costs.

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

			£	£	£
Receipts		Nil			
Payments	000950	J Wells Reimburse Domain Witcham.org (LGA72 S.142)	6.88		6.88
	000951	ECDC Speedwatch	50.00		50.00
	000952	CCC Street lighting 08/09 Maintenance & Energy	189.47		189.47
	000953	Clerks salary (Jan)	191.40		191.40
	000954	Clerks Reimbursement expenses	45.93		45.93
	d/d	Talk Talk January	1.97	.29	2.26

09/259 **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Clerk to arrange further meeting for February to consider planning application and Toddler Group grant request.

Clerk

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10 March 2009 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.

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

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed Dated