

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 October 2008 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: D A Bamforth (Chairman), D J Saberton (Vice Chairman), 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

08/157 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr C Watson. A Bailey and T Goodge were at a Full Council Meeting of the District Council.

Action

08/158 **Declaration of Interest:** There were none.

08/159 **Minutes of the meeting** of 9 September 2008 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr D Saberton, seconded by Mr K Mackender, and agreed unanimously.

08/160 **Matters Arising**

08/147 Speedwatch Scheme Mr K Mackender put his name forward for training. There had been no response from the public following the note in the September Parish Council Newsletter.

08/144 Recreation Ground and Village Hall Facilities. 7-aside football goalposts. Chairman reported there had been no response for help to install the fixed holders for the goalposts nor anyone interested in the old goalposts. Chairman reported dog bins had been installed on bus shelter wall and arrangements had been set up for these to be emptied together with litterbins at the bus shelter, infant play area, older children's play equipment and cemetery.

08/146 Best Kept Garden Competition 2008. Mr Mackender thanked the Parish Council for the commended award in the Best Kept Garden Competition and the Chairman confirmed all the shields and salvers had been handed out. Clerk had written to thank the judges, Mr & Mrs Marshall, and Chairman confirmed he would purchase the bottle of wine for them under Chairman's Allowance.

Chairman

08/148 Mepal and Witcham Primary School – Governors. Chairman reported he had not had a response from the public following the note in the Parish Council Newsletter last week.

08/161 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Clerk reported on information received from Councillor A Bailey regarding Cambridgeshire Community Foundation grants available for the Downham villages. Chairman proposed the details be forwarded to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee. Agreed unanimously.

Clerk

08/162 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

08/00963/FUL Park Lane, Construction of 2No. storey dwelling (demolition of existing) Application supported. Proposed Mr K Mackender, seconded Mr D Saberton and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

The following ECDC decision was noted.

08/00698/LBC Glebe Lodge, High Street, replace rotten softwood top right hand window with sash window to match other three windows.

08/163 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Clerk reported ECDC had advised there had been no request from the public for a poll. Arrangements to be made for notice to go on noticeboard inviting applications which will be considered and selected at the November Council meeting.

*Clerk***08/164 RECREATION GROUND AND VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES**

Chairman said there was nothing further to report on the progress with Village Hall and Cricket Club on development of the Village Hall facilities.

Chairman to make enquiries with local tradesman regarding dog bin bag dispenser.

Chairman

Mr Saberton advised there was nothing to report on regarding his weekly inspections of the play equipment on the recreation ground. Cricket Club to be reminded to remove the cricket nets soon for over-winter storage.

*Chairman***08/165 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT**

The Clerk had prepared a review of cemetery fees, previously circulated. After discussion Chairman proposed adoption, seconded Mr K Mackender and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

Approval was given for the erection of a new headstone with inscription received from Ely Funeral Service. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

Chairman reported on the expected interment of cremated remains in existing grave.

Chairman reported that the new cemetery plan was being delivered to him later in the evening. Clerk to make arrangements with Diocese for legal documents as soon as possible.

*Clerk***08/166 YOUTH TEAM**

Clerk presented request from Office of Children and Young People Service for support for a further year to provide youth facilities in Witcham, of £1000. Chairman proposed Clerk request details of how many had attended previous year's sessions and how many from Witcham for next meeting.

*Clerk***08/167 MAGPAS Community First Responders**

Clerk to request further information about the service, eg who the Responders are and where they live to see how local it was to Witcham. Noted it costs £1000 per year to support each group in providing equipment and training etc. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

*Clerk***08/168 FINANCE – 2009/10 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**

Clerk/RFO presented bank reconciliation, bank statements and receipts and payments, together with budget monitoring and budget review/proposals for 2009/10, previously circulated. Income received at 30 September was £11870 (including full year Precept), expenditure £6817. Current balance at bank £31,349. Total expected income for the year was £12740, total expected expenditure for the year was £12255, with an expected balance of £26,781 to carry forward to the next financial year.

After some discussion it was agreed Councillors would take information away to consider, and to review as a working party with a view to providing information so that the Clerk/RFO could prepare a draft budget for consideration and approval at the next meeting and thus set the Precept for 2009/10. Proposed by Chairman and agreed unanimously.

*All
Chairman*

Arrangements to be put in hand for a new bank mandate when new Councillor appointed. In view of the current economic climate consideration was given to moving some funds to another bank and the Clerk had collected some information regarding interest rates at various banks/building societies. After careful consideration it was agreed to leave funds with Lloyds TSB but Clerk to obtain further information on rates of interest for comparison at the next meeting.

Clerk

08/169 RECYCLING FACILITIES

Chairman proposed letter be sent to Donarbon for clarification and information on the fortnightly collection of recyclable materials, including request for a visit to their recycling plant.

*Clerk***08/170 NOISE NUISANCE**

Clerk reported that following her letter in May after the Annual Parish Meeting, East Cambs District would be investigating and monitoring noise in the Elean Business Park area.

08/171 COMMUNITY POLICE

Clerk reported that she was still awaiting details of when PCSO Jonathan Hall would attend a meeting. She presented a letter from the Chief Constable thanking the Council for the letter of appreciation regarding the graffiti incident at the bus shelter earlier in the year.

08/172 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Neighbourhood Panel planned for 27 October 2008

AJB

Heavy Commercial Vehicles meeting to be scheduled for 21 October, 4 November or 18 November

AJB/KM

Speedwatch – Clerk had confirmed contribution of £50. Response from public for training in use of equipment awaited.

P3 Parish Paths Scheme. (Grant £470) Noted that Mr Berry and Karen Whymark would be progressing this work, ie gates and cutting back hedge at Park Lane

*AJB***08/173 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

Winter closure of some byways (droves) commenced 1 October. Following request from Police for keys Clerk had contacted Karen Whymark to establish what arrangements had been made with the emergency services. She had been advised the emergency services had declined accepting keys as it would be impracticable for all their vehicles to carry a set, and they had advised that they would break the locks, which the County Council had agreed to. The Clerk had also received a request from ECDC for access to maintain some ditches for which they were responsible, and this enquiry had been routed to Karen Whymark.

08/174 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

Street light not working outside Yew Tree House.

Clerk

Paths had been re-surfaced through village from Witcham Toll.

Trees overhanging at northern end of Headleys Lane.

*DJS***08/175 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws. Arrangements, under guidelines, for local authorities to create Byelaws and enforce rather than having to go through the Secretary of State and Magistrates. No comment to make.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Preferred Option 2. Brief details previously circulated. No comment from Councillors.

08/176 CORRESPONDENCE

Sanctuary Hereward garage lettings. Clerk reported Hereward currently inspecting garages and it was expected one would be available for the resident in Westway Place who had requested the Council's support in this matter.

Clerk

Hall Ennion and Young had confirmed completion of the new Lease document with EDF in respect of the sub-station in High Street. Rent revised to £50 per annum payable in January each year and index linked.

Clerk

CCC spending priorities/budgets roadshows planned from 13 – 23 October

All

Councillors and Clerks training courses. Details circulated.

All

08/176 CORRESPONDENCE

Sue Ryder request for help in publicising events or booking talks and visits. Clerk to confirm details can be placed on noticeboard and/or parish magazine/What's On. Other information passed to Witcham Wives group. *Clerk*

08/177 PUBLICATIONS

ACRE Community Action and Annual Review *All*
Local Government Review *All*

08/178 DIARY DATES

10 November 2008 at 6.45pm, ECDC offices – Role of Parish, Town and City Councils in Cambridgeshire. *All*

08/179 FINANCE

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

		£	£	£
Receipts	Ely Funeral Service	55.00		55.00
	Precept (2 nd instalment)	5000.00		5000.00
Payments	000932 Mepal Stores Whats On Aug&Sep	27.00		27.00
	000933 Glasdon Dog Bin	175.21	30.66	205.87
	000934 Clerk's Salary and Expenses Apr – Sept	283.57		283.57
	000935 C Walker Wages Sept	84.00		84.00
	000937 Joshua Lucas Delivery newsletter	6.00		6.00
	d/d Talk Talk	2.51	.43	2.94
	To note cancellation of cheque Nos. 000922 and 000923 and issue of			
	000931 C Walker wages & expenses	148.99	1.92	150.91
	000936 R Giles Recreation Ground seat repairs	142.00		142.00
	(originals lost in post)			

Clerk reported that she had been trying to contact Solicitors to check if expenses for garden rear of 2 Martins Lane had been received. It was agreed cheque for payment of work on new car park area could be released between meetings subject to confirmation that Solicitor had received all legal fees. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

08/180 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11 November 2008 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 9.25pm.

Signed Dated