

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2 December 2008 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: D A Bamforth (Chairman), D J Saberton (Vice Chairman), J Bibby, K Mackender, C Watson

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Cllr T Goodge (ECDC)

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

The Chairman welcomed new Councillor, Mrs Julia Bibby, to her first meeting.

08/200 **Apologies for Absence** were received from PCSO J Hall (item 08/205). Action

08/201 **Declaration of Interest:** There were none

08/202 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE AND CODE OF CONDUCT, NOTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL AND OTHER INTERESTS AND REGISTRATION OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

Mrs Julia Bibby completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct as a co-opted member. Notification of Financial and Other Interests and Registration of Gifts and Hospitality to be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer by the Clerk after completion by Mrs Bibby.

Clerk

08/203 **Minutes of the meeting** of 11 November 2008 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr D Saberton, seconded by Mr D A Bamforth, and agreed unanimously.

08/204 **Matters Arising**

08/184/160 Speedwatch Scheme: Mr K Mackender had received details for first meeting, 17 January 2008. No request for payment received at present.

KM

08/184/160 Goalposts: Chairman still awaiting more volunteers to install sockets, now planned for Xmas/ New Year holidays.

KM/
Chairman

08/184/165 Cemetery Management: Clerk reported that arrangements were in hand with the London Funeral Directors for the interment of ashes in existing grave.

Clerk

08/184/166 Youth Team: Clerk had written again for information to review provision of youth facilities for ensuing year.

Clerk

08/184/170 Noise Nuisance Elean Business Park: Clerk still awaiting response from ECDC.

Clerk

08/184/176 Sanctuary Hereward Garage Lettings: No further information on this item at present.

Clerk

08/195 CCC Joint Funded Minor Highway Improvement 2009/10: A142 Cycleway: Letter from Councillor P Read was read to meeting and Councillors were encouraged by possible options to progress the completion of the cycleway between Sutton and Ely by completion of the stretch between Witcham Toll and Wentworth crossroads. Councillor Read also suggested traffic lights as a possible solution to Witcham Toll junction following success at the Goosetree junction near March. Clerk to pursue suggested options by contacting neighbouring parish councils to confirm support for cycleway and placing before Neighbourhood Panel, and contacting ECDC for support under S.106 agreements as a means of funding.

Clerk

08/205 COMMUNITY POLICING

In the absence of PCSO Halls, there were no issues raised.

08/206 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor T Goodge, referred to item 08/209 – complaints regarding infrequent emptying of new dog bin by Veolia. He advised that ECDC were concerned and had raised the issue with Veolia, and will now monitor. Noted Veolia was scheduled to empty the bin on Wednesdays and that last week they claimed it was only half full. Chairman advised he had contacted Veolia on Monday and the bin was emptied that afternoon as it was overfull and they promised to empty again on Wednesday. Chairman to speak to neighbour to monitor emptying so an assessment and further action could be taken.

Councillor T Goodge confirmed that he had passed on the Parish Council's comments regarding the bus routes serving Witcham, ie that future routes should include the City of Ely College and if possible Tesco/Railway Station.

Councillor Goodge left the meeting

08/207 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

08/208 PROVISION OF ELECTRICAL POWER SUPPLY AT RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman had received a request from the Village Hall Committee for installation of a power point which would be available for public events such as the Annual Pea Shoot. Initial enquiries had produced a quote for £630 plus VAT to provide sockets and supply from Village Hall, excluding trench work and mounting post and board. Chairman proposed making further investigations and placing information before the Village Hall Committee for assistance in sharing costs. Mr D Saberton seconded and pointed out the need to check requirements with the Council's insurance company. Agreed unanimously.

Chairman

08/209 COMPLAINT – INFREQUENT EMPTYING OF DOG BIN

There were no further issues to raise following discussion at item 08/206 above.

08/210 RECREATION GROUND

Mr D Saberton reported that the slightly slippery surface in the play area had improved as the weather changed. Brush to be purchased.

DS

08/211 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

P3 Parish Paths Scheme. Deferred to next meeting. Clerk reported the documents of application for 2009/10 had been received and forwarded to Mr A Berry and needed to be completed and approved by February 2009.

AB

Heavy Commercial Vehicles Group. Nothing further to report.

AB/KM

Neighbourhood Panel meeting 27 October. Deferred to next meeting.

AB

08/212 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

Mr D Saberton reported faulty lamps PC5 Headleys Lane and CCC2 High Street.

Clerk

Clerk advised CCC energy charges for 2009/10 were to increase from £101.22 per annum to £148.25. Maintenance charges rising from £17.85 to £18.39 per lamp, (5 lamps). Although the energy charge was significantly increased it was agreed that in view of the current trend of heavy increases in charges for all types of fuel and energy, the Council would accept the County Council's quotation.

Clerk

08/213 **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

Communities in Local Government – Codes of Conduct for Councillors and Employees – Review of Code of Conduct 2007, previously circulated. No comments at present. Consultation ends 24 December 2008, any comments to be placed with Clerk by 17 December. *All*
www.communities.gsi.gov.uk

ECDC Core Strategy and Proposals Map submitted to Secretary of State May 2008. Requests for changes to site allocation and boundary change under Regulation 32 received by ECDC under earlier consultation stage. Report on these requests prepared for consultation/comments, 24 November to 12 January. Also comments sought on proposal to include an additional area within the Green Belt between the A11 and London Road to the north of Six Mile Bottom (Policy EN9) omitted in error from the earlier Proposals Map. Previously circulated. www.eastcambs.gov.uk All comments to be forwarded to Clerk by 5 January 2009. *All*

ECDC Standards Board Agenda and papers 26 November. Previously circulated. *All*

Village Benefits Advice Service (Details to be included in December newsletter) *All*

08/214 **CORRESPONDENCE**

CCC Parish Path Partnership (P3) application for 2009/10. Chairman requested that any ideas for next year’s scheme should be passed to Mr A Berry as soon as possible. *All*
AB

08/215 **PUBLICATIONS**

Ely Master Plan up-date *All*

08/216 **DIARY DATES**

CALC AGM – Saturday 6 December 2008 (apologies for Mr D A Bamforth)
 Ely Soham Dial-a-Ridge AGM 20 January 11.30am Witchford Village Hall

08/217 **FINANCE**

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

		£	£	£
Receipts	Nil			
Payments	000944 Clerk’s Salary (Nov)	191.40		191.40

Clerk confirmed release of cheque 000942 Hall Ennion Young – Search Fees £40.00

08/218 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 January 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 at this meeting must be placed with Clerk for inclusion on agenda by Monday 5 January 2009. *All*

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed Dated