

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 October 2010 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: D J Saberton (Vice Chairman), J Bibby, K Mackender

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)

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

Full Council business commenced at 7.45pm

Representatives of the Sutton, Mepal and Witcham Community Services Team in attendance for 10/177.

Representative from Energy Saving Trust joined meeting for 10/182.

Mr Saberton took the Chair

Action

10/175 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr A Bamforth and Mr A Berry.
District and County Councillors were attending an ECDC meeting.

10/176 **Declaration of Interest:** There were none

10/177 SUTTON MEPAL & WITCHAM COMMUNITY SERVICES TEAM

The Chairman welcomed Mr M Oliver, Community Development Manager, Mr S Bowers-Broadley Youth Leader, and Freya and Charlie, members of the Witcham Youth Club. They reported on activities over the preceding months together with attendance levels, plans for the future including submission for a grant (Fastlight £50,000) to undertake media projects etc., to cover costs to next August.. The Witcham group had begun making an aerobics exercise DVD, and the boys were interested in skateboarding, the nearest facility being at Kings Lynn. A website was being developed. With the impending CCC cuts to youth services, several local youth clubs had expressed an interest in the Sutton, Mepal and Witcham model.

Parish Council must consider whether it could extend the service to include juniors. At present one of the Witcham Youth Leaders is working on a voluntary basis. Freya and Charlie gave personal reports on how much they enjoyed and valued the facilities offered; items of interest and development of life-skills. They felt the programme was improving and increased attendance levels confirmed the success of the team.

The Chairman thanked the group and confirmed that the Council was pleased and satisfied with the very successful efforts of the team to provide good quality and interesting facilities for the young of the village. The Council would review whether it could support extending the services. *Clerk* Mr Oliver to obtain breakdown of numbers of children in the village by age bands. The representatives thanked the Council and left the meeting.

Mr Melhuish had arrived and was welcomed by the Chairman, who proposed, and it was agreed, to take 10/182 next:

10/182 ENERGY SAVING TRUST

The Chairman welcomed Peter Melhuish who outlined the role and responsibilities of the Trust. He had been working with Village Hall representatives on energy saving improvements for the village hall. The organisation is Government funded, an independent, non-profit-making body with a remit to help communities reduce their carbon footprint. They provide advice and carry out a free survey, initially cavity wall and loft installation but going on to boiler replacement and renewable energy projects. They hold a database of accredited contractors to carry out installations if the homeowner wishes to go ahead with cavity or loft installation, and they are also able to offer advice with regard to any grants which may be available for this work.

10/182 ENERGY SAVING TRUST (cont)

The Trust sought support from the Council to do a weekend walkabout in the village to talk to residents. Parish Council to support the exercise subject to statement on notices indicating that whilst Parish Council supports the initiative it takes no responsibility for any installations or work carried out. Proposed by Chairman and agreed unanimously. Mr Melhuish to forward drafts to Clerk and arrangements to be made for notice to go in 1 November edition of What's On, website and parish noticeboards.

Chairman thanked Mr Melhuish and he left the meeting.

10/178 Minutes of the meetings of 14 September and 30 September 2010 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Chairman and agreed unanimously.

10/179 Matters Arising

10/131/115/151 Flooding Issues – Martins Lane. Noted there were still serious problems for resident especially during recent heavy rainfalls.

10/134 Standing Orders Clerk to make arrangements for review by working party comprising Mr Bamforth, Mrs Bibby and herself within the next two weeks. JS/DAB
Clerk

10/155 Recreation Ground Protruding bolts on sign sawn off.

10/157 Licensing Arrangements Mr Bamforth had advised this was progressing and there had been some amendments, namely the doors and windows of the hall should remain closed during regulated entertainment, eg dances, performances.

10/160 Best Kept Garden Competitions Mr Saberton advised that Ruth Everitt had agreed to carry out judging next year, sometime around the end of April. DS

10/170 Review Contract and Salary for Clerk Clerk thanked the Council very much for the review and adjustment in salary.

10/180 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

There were none.

10/181 RECREATION GROUND

Complaints – ball games and village hall car park. Letter from resident received and contents noted.

Safety tile repairs – inspection and quote awaited from Wicksteed.

Monthly inspection reports – stinging nettles to be removed from under picnic benches and seats, and weeds around play area.

10/183 VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT

Planning application documentation for payment still awaited from Village Hall/Architect. Consent for cheque to be signed before the next meeting. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

10/184 REVIEW OF POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION TO COUNCIL FOR GRANT

CPALC model tailored to Witcham, previously circulated, was approved for use. Proposed Mr K Mackender, seconded Mr D Saberton and agreed unanimously.

10/185 CEMETERY MANAGMENT

Samples of plaques for Garden of Remembrance wall considered. Mrs J Bibby proposed plaques 10.5" x 4" or 10.5" x 8" in slate, white writing, be approved for use. Seconded Mr D Saberton and agreed unanimously. Fees £30 and £50 respectively.

10/186 **COMMUNITY POLICE**

Haul Road – no further information received.

Hive Road: CCC Stump Drove gates disappeared between lunch on Saturday 9 October and the morning of Monday 11 October.

Clerk

10/187 **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

Mr Saberton reported on the management meeting of the Mepal Outdoor Centre. Of note power cuts and thefts of equipment.

10/188 **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

CCC16 Martins Lane not working

10/189 **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

Local Validation List – deferred

10/190 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were received and noted:

- CCC Cambs and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Pre-Hearing meeting and examination
- Cambridgeshire Together Board – key policy themes from Government and the effect on Cambridgeshire
- CPALC The ‘Big Society’ survey
- CPALC Changes for Standards Committees
- NALC Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity – policy consultation
- Quote for dressing for Bury Lane – Clerk to discuss further with P3 Officer
- Publications for circulation - ACRE Newsletter

10/191 **FINANCE**

Clerk presented receipts and payments with reconciliations and bank statements. Documents checked and approved and signed off by Chairman. Review of budgets and precept deferred to next meeting when more members of the Council present. Proposed Mr K Mackender and seconded Mr D Saberton. Councillors to bring their recommendations to next meeting on capital projects and review of budgets.

Mr K Mackender proposed a further £12,000 be transferred into a bond in order to secure better interest rates. Seconded Mr D Saberton and agreed unanimously.

The following Receipts and Payments were presented, checked and approved

		£	£
Receipts	Ely Funeral Service 2 plots, 1 interment	294.00	294.00
Payments	001035 Youth Club 1 st half year	500.00	500.00
	001036 Clerks salary Jul/Sept and arrears salary rise to 1.4.10	1104.61	1104.61
	d/d Talk Talk September	2.43	.43 2.86

10/192 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 9 November 2010 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.

Any business and payments, to be considered at Parish Council meeting must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 6 clear days prior to the meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Signed Dated