

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 July 2008 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Cllr P Read (CCC)

The meeting was preceded by a meeting at 7.00 pm with landowners and tenants with land bordering the droves which are currently identified for closure April to October each year to obtain views regarding future management of the droves prior to the Parish Council meeting with the Countryside Access Team of the County Council. This was followed by a short break but there were no members of the public present for public question time and the Council business commenced at 7.40 pm. Councillor Read (CCC) joined the meeting for item 08/120.

Action

08/116 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mrs J Anderson and Mr K Mackender, and District Councillor Mr T Goodge.

08/117 **Declaration of Interest:** There were none.

08/118 **Minutes of the meeting** of 10 June 2008 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr D Saberton, seconded by Mr C Watson, and agreed unanimously.

08/119 **Matters Arising.** There were none.

08/121 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

08/00639/FUL Slade Farm, The Slade. 3-bed house. No objection subject to screening. Necessary for the efficiency of the farm. For determination by the Planning Service. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

The Chairman moved to 08/120 on arrival of County Councillor.

08/120 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor P Read reported on the following:

Improve Ely facilities for container traffic

Proposed new Recycling Centre near Witchford – 14 July 2008, 10.00 – 12 noon drop in session at ECDC Council Chambers

CCC New Mineral and Waste Plan for inspection and comment – 18 September at The Glebe, 25 September at Mepal and 30 September at Earith.

Elean Business Park – Data Unit and Eco-village nothing further to report.

Mereham Development nothing further to report.

Councillor Read left the meeting.

08/121 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS (cont)**

The following ECDC decision was noted

08/00430/FUL 2 Westway Place - single-storey extension to rear bungalow - Approved

08/122 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Following meeting earlier in evening, letter to Countryside Access Team regarding the following issues:

Insufficient number of keys to locked gates been issued to landowners (only one per landowner/tenant at present which is inefficient for farming practices. Check if all keys fit all gates, including those at Coveney/Wardy Hill end of droves.

Drove surfaces require attention, including levelling and some areas overgrown.

Flytipping prevalent

Additional gate required to block off around Byway 10, eg off Wardy Hill Drove

CCC Drove management schemes encroaching on to private land

Mr A Berry to arrange meeting with Countryside Access Team representative to view droves, discuss future management, pass on landowner/tenants issues and progress P3 scheme.

*AB/
Chairman*

Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

08/123 RECREATION GROUND AND VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES

Repairs to damaged seats at recreation ground. Quotations awaited. Chairman, Mr Saberton and Clerk to progress for completion before the next meeting subject to maximum £150 as necessary to get the repairs done urgently. Proposed Mr C Watson, seconded Mr D Saberton and agreed unanimously.

*Clerk/
DJS/
Chairman*

Review of use of goalposts. Mr D Saberton to obtain additional sandbags and replace worn sandbags on Thursday. Clerk to write to Cricket Club to request they re-position the goalposts around the recreation field after each cricket match.

Clerk

Damaged tree by High Street, broken branches had been removed off-site. One of the trees purchased a couple of years ago had died and the Chairman reported that a resident in High Street had offered to purchase a new tree. This was approved and the Council awaits further details for an autumn planting.

Clerk

Monthly report on weekly inspections of play equipment given by Mr D Saberton. Cricket Club had obtained more ties for securing the bottom of the practice net.

08/124 POST OFFICE CLOSURES

The announcement of closures did not include Mepal and Sutton post offices. The Council will not elect a representative to serve on the Cambs and Peterborough Post Office Network Change Group.

08/125 COMMUNITY POLICE

Clerk advised she had met PCSO J Hall on 2 July 2008 and he would be attending a meeting of the Council in the near future. Chairman and Clerk to prepare letter to Chief Constable regarding Council's dissatisfaction at Police response to graffiti incident at the bus shelter. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

*Chairman
Clerk*

Noted speed cameras have now been set up for sessions twice over the past two months.

08/126 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Minutes of Community Liaison Meeting Elean Power Station 8 April 2008 circulated.

08/127 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

Clerk to report overgrown tree obscuring street light by village sign at The Slade.

08/128 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Go East – Publication of Revision to Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for East of England, available on www.goeast.gov.uk.

All

Village Hall Management Committee The Chairman reported that a new cleaner/lettings clerk had been appointed. The Annual Peashoot had been arranged for 12 July 2008 and the consent to use the recreation ground was received and approved. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

ECDC Promoting Play in East Cambridgeshire. CPALC & ECDC meeting 30 July 2008 7.30 pm at Swaffham Prior Village Hall - Play Partnership for District following successful bid to Big Lottery Fund.

08/129 **PUBLICATIONS CIRCULATED**

Community Action
Local Government Review

08/130 **FINANCE**

Clerk presented the quarterly accounts to 30 June 200, which were accepted.

All

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

		£	£	£
Receipts	CCC P3 Grant	50.00		50.00
	Ely Funeral Service (interment ashes)	90.00		90.00
Payments	000915 S Bell Clerks salary (June)	191.40		191.40
	000916 ECDC Internal Audit 2007/8	116.76.	20.43	137.19
	000917 J Lucas delivery newsletters	6.00		6.00
	000918 Cambs ACRE Parish Plan unspent grant	559.07		559.07
	000919 Mepal Stores:			
	PC June Newsletter	13.50		
	PC Annual Report 08	27.00		
	What's On Jul	13.50	54.00	54.00
	000920 C Walker Grounds wages (June)	120.00		120.00
	d/d Talk Talk Telephone June	5.42	.94	6.36

08/131 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Subject to there being no urgent business or planning applications to consider, the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 9 September 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.

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 8.45pm

Signed Dated