

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 June 2010 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

Action

10/106 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr A Berry, and District Councillor A Bailey. Chairman was pleased to welcome the Clerk who had not expected to be present (hospital)

10/107 **Declaration of Interest:** C Watson – Minute 10/111 Planning Application adj 19 Westway Place (Neighbour)
J Bibby – Minute 10/111 Planning Application Hillcrest (Neighbour)

10/108 **Minutes of the meeting** of 11 May 2010 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed by Mr C Watson, seconded by Mrs J Bibby, and agreed unanimously.

10/109 **Matters Arising**

10/092 Adoption of Red Kiosk. Completed

10/110 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor T Goodge gave an outline on the District Council's options regarding decision making process. Cabinet system would empower Councillors, with delegated powers/mandate, to negotiate which would be particularly useful on some of the joint partnership working schemes with other Councils, many of which already operate this system.

10/111 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

10/00324/FUL Land adj 19 Westway Place. 2No 3bed detached houses. Amendment – artists' impression. It was felt the document did not truly represent the dimensions of the site.

Chairman proposed the meeting be suspended (8.05pm) to inspect site and measure up areas. Agreed unanimously.

Chairman re-convened the meeting at 8.25pm.

Mr C Watson had declared an interest and did not participate in discussion.

Chairman proposed Council respond to planning application confirming that the Council's concerns, as expressed in previous versions of the proposal, still stood. Measurements of the parking space for 19 Westway Place confirmed the artist's impression was misleading, as was the spacing for the 4 cars set out across the width of the carpark. Photographs and measurements to be included as evidence. Agreed unanimously. Councillor T Goodge and Chairman to represent the Council at the Planning Committee meeting on 7 July. TG/
DAB

Mr Watson rejoined the meeting.

10/00321/FUL Oneway Headleys Lane. Erection conservatory. No objections. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

10/111 PLANNING APPLICATIONS (cont)

10/00434/FUL Hillcrest, Mepal Road. 2-storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

Mrs J Bibby had declared an interest and did not participate in discussion.

Council had no objections to this application, which had previously been granted consent by the District Council in 2005. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

Mrs J Bibby rejoined the meeting.

10/112 CAR PARKING AND ACCESS ISSUES AT WESTWAY PLACE

Sanctuary Hereward Housing Officer covering Witcham had advised they had no objection to proposed development adj Westway Place since adequate parking spaces had been provided. They had not commented on whether or not they had granted an easement for access. Sanctuary Hereward not obliged to provide further parking for owner/occupiers and in the current economic climate did not have funds, nor able to get financial support from other third parties such as the District and County Councils. They did not wish to take on responsibilities for cost of obtaining planning consent for change of use of the green (owned by District Council), nor legal arrangements and ongoing costs including license agreement and associated policing. Majority of dwellings are privately owned and not responsibility of Sanctuary Hereward. They had also stated that when they had communicated with residents in the past about improvements for car parking, the residents had either not responded or stated they could not help with funding. Clerk confirmed there was correspondence in 1994 and 2001 when the Parish Council, Hereward Housing and the District Council had taken initiatives to improve parking facilities. Sanctuary Hereward would be open to negotiation in the future.

Sanctuary Hereward had advised they were getting quotes to carry out repairs to carparking areas and the footways and kerbs.

10/113 RECREATION GROUND

RoSPA Annual Inspection Report, previously circulated, considered. Clerk to contact Wicksteed for advice on tile maintenance. Mr D Saberton to file off protruding bolts on notices. *Clerk*

Mr D Saberton had no other issues to report from the weekly inspections.

Applications for use of recreation were approved as follows:

12 June 2010 St Martins Church Fete
10 July 2010 Village Hall Pea Shoot

Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

10/114 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Chairman reported on meeting of local Parish Councils and County Council on 22 May. The following actions had been proposed:

Link up parish websites to promote wider walking and riding networks.
More communication and thought to be given to work on droves
Wider set of contacts to be used to inform on local natural history interest
Monitoring of traffic management gates that have been installed
Production of more Management Plans for other droves
More permissive access: leads to follow up on Church Commissioner's land.

County Council proposed a walk of some of the droves, probably September.

Chairman proposed Clerk write to Rights of Way and Access Team Leader to ask if some of the P3 money could be used for developing website and joint leaflet. Agreed unanimously. *Clerk*

Chairman reported on poor condition of ditch and concrete bridge into field off Bury Road. This transpired to be an 'Awarded' ditch and the District Council would therefore be making the necessary arrangements for repair. Clerk to request list of 'Awarded' ditches from the District Council. *Clerk*

10/115 FLOODING ISSUES

The Orchards/The Slade drainage ditches. Noted ECDC carried out some remedial work and to monitor situation. May require deeper ditch cut through Slade Farm. Mr Watson to circulate details to those living/owning land on the route of the ditch.

CW

Martins Lane. CCC had proposed putting in some grips but now found no gully to connect to. They suggest passing to Sanctuary Hereward. Mrs Bibby to speak to resident for up-date.

10/116 CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

Family member had expressed concern about not being able to garden grave surface following publication of new guidelines in January. Council reviewed and agreed to amend wording giving families the opportunity to care for graves themselves. The Council to retain the option to grass over for ease of management by the grounds man where graves not maintained to a tidy standard by families.

*Clerk***10/117 ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES – INTERMITTENT SHORT POWER CUTS**

EDF had investigated power cuts experienced, mainly since last autumn. Switch equipment had been replaced so that outages caused by transient faults, eg birds, trees, cut the power for 2 seconds instead of 20 seconds. Bird divertors (for swans) had been fitted in some problem areas between the Chatteris primary sub-station and Witcham. Some tree trimming had taken place but more was planned when owners of land could be identified for access by contractors. Mr D Saberton and Mrs J Bibby agreed to be contact points for identification of land.

*Clerk/
DS/JB***10/118 CCC JOINTLY FUNDED MINOR HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS**

Proposed plans for the new passing places at Hive Road were received and approved. Clerk to pursue getting other passing places identified for 2010/11 bid completed. May be put forward again under 2011/12 bid. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

CCC carrying out checks to see if some of existing passing places between Witcham and Wardy Hill could be cleared back and extended. Horse friendly grips not in programmes at present but will be borne in mind for the future.

10/119 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

Chairman proposed comments on proposals for change for ECDC Decision Making process be deferred and that Mr D Hill, local employee at ECDC, be invited to next meeting to give further information.

*DAB
Clerk***10/120 COMMUNITY POLICE**

There were no items.

10/121 REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Code of Conduct Training. Mrs J Bibby and Mr D Saberton had attended. Mrs Bibby gave a brief report and it was agreed to circulate the packs to each Councillor and to further examine at the next meeting.

10/122 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

Street light at Westway Place. Constantly on, trees, covering sensors.

10/123 FINANCE

Internal audit completed and report and invoice to be available for next meeting. Annual return despatched, and acknowledged by external auditors.

10/123 **FINANCE** (cont)

Savings/Investment accounts. Building society interest rates only 0.01% for accounts which could be offered to parish councils. Mr K Mackender proposed invest £10,000 in Lloyds 2 year fixed term account. Seconded Mr A Bamforth and agreed unanimously. To be further reviewed at quarterly review of accounts in July. Chairman to seek advice from VillageHall Committee regarding when they will require the funds to be contributed by the Parish Council. Noted Church is moving ahead with heating system, for which Council has pledged £650.

DAB

Noted Village Hall Committee had increased hire fees to £13 per hour.

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

		£	£	£
Receipts	CCC P3 2010/11	100.00		100.00
	Ely Funeral Service Interment Fee	80.00		80.00
Payments	001024 Groundsman (Apr-May) 25 hrs	300.00		
	Reimburse expenses petrol	11.81	2.07	313.88
	001025 J Wells reimburse www.witcham.org 14.5.10 to 14.11.10	35.18		35.18

10/124 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 July 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.

ITEMS for next agenda: ECDC Decision Making Process Review
Quarterly Accounts and budget review

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 9.50pm

Signed Dated