

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 July 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: P Chambers (Vice-Chairman), D J Saberton, D K Saberton and M Wilkin

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Mrs B Daters (ECDC)
Mr A White (ECDC)
Mr Darren Hill – Chairman Parish Plan Working Party

Mr Chambers took the Chair

Action

334. Apologies for Absence were received from Mr D A Bamforth.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hill to the meeting.

335. Declaration of Interest: There were none.

336. Minutes of the meeting of 19 June 2006 had been circulated and were approved and signed. Proposed Mr David Saberton, seconded by Mr M Wilkin and agreed by all.

Minutes of the meeting of 17 July 2006 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed Mr David Saberton, seconded Mr Don Saberton and agreed by all.

337. Matters Arising

Planning Application (314) 06/00223/FUL Woodland Burial Site. Following a report in the local paper suggesting the Parish Council had objected to this application, the Clerk reported on letters sent under the signature of the Chairman to the applicant and the newspaper. The Council had made no decision and had not objected to this application but had posed pertinent questions and was awaiting further information from ECDC who were understood to be negotiating with the applicant.

Recreation Ground (324) Use of Recreation Ground for Annual Pea Shoot. Request form had been received and checked by the Chairman, and consent given as discussed at previous meeting.

338. RECREATION GROUND

Paper from Chairman detailing 3 quotes for cricket nets, and as agreed with the Cricket Club, were considered.

Mr P Chambers proposed purchase of the nets from Stadia at £1045.76, (to include erection). Seconded Mr David Saberton and agreed unanimously. These nets will be owned and insured by the Parish Council, and will be a sport facility for all youngsters, to encourage the playing of cricket and ensure the future of a cricket team for Witcham. LG(MP)A 1976 s.19

Cambridgeshire Youth Group requested postponing use of the recreation ground week commencing 24 July until week commencing 21 August. Mr P Chambers proposed approval, seconded Mr Don Saberton and agreed unanimously.

Mr David Saberton reported that he would obtain new sandbags. Goalposts were being moved to the other side of recreation ground and there was nothing to report on play equipment.

DJS

339. PARISH PLAN

Mr Chambers opened the meeting and invited Mr Hill to speak. Copies of the notes of the Parish Plan Working Group meetings had been circulated.

The Council noted that the group now comprised 11 people. A further £1500 had been applied for and offered under the Fensleader Programme to finance contracting out data input and analysis work. Mr Bamforth had confirmed these funds could be banked with the Parish Council since the working group had no bank facility. Total funding £3225 including £225 contribution from Parish Council. Volunteers had consulted with attendees at the Annual Pea Shoot, and a coffee morning and meetings with youngsters through the Youth Service was planned over the coming months, and then a village questionnaire would be developed and circulated to householders in October. The Fensleader Programme required that the work be completed by the end of November. Mr Hill had written to all the groups in the village again to encourage more to join the Parish Plan Working Group.

Mr Chambers reconvened the meeting and proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Hill. Seconded by Mr David Saberton and agreed. Mr Hill left.

340. ELEAN POWER STATION VISIT

Mr Chambers proposed Clerk contact Elean Power Station to make arrangements for two visits at the end of August. Details to be published in newsletter.

*Clerk***341. OUSE WASH DROVES**

Renewal of the Lease with RSPB was due. Ely and District Wildfowlers Association had indicated an interest in hiring the droves (9.5 acres). Clerk instructed to ascertain rent values for RSPB and wildfowlers. Noted that previous Council policy has been to protect wildlife and support conservation.

*Clerk***342. 2006 BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION.**

Judging had recently been completed but results were awaited. Mr Don Saberton to organise inscriptions and purchase of small shields and any for commended/highly commended.

*DKS***343. COMMUNITY POLICE**

Noted that Police had carried out speed checks on 20 July and surgeries were still taking place in the village.

344. CORRESPONDENCE

ECDC review of Public Participation Schemes – results of questionnaires completed last year and new leaflets received.

English Heritage objections to proposed extension of Broad Street Car Park, Ely. Also noted that this proposal had now been abandoned by the District Council.

East Cambridgeshire Play Strategy 'Expressions of Interest Form' for future funding of play facilities received and noted returns required by 8 September 2006. Mr Don Saberton to enquire about costs for all-weather cricket practice strip for juniors.

DKS

CCC Community Transport Guide 2006/7 received.

Consultation documents on St Andrew's Street/Hobson Street – questionnaires available from Clerk.

345. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

There were none.

346. STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

There were none.

347. FINANCE

Clerk circulated quarterly reconciliations together with receipts and payments and budget monitoring sheets. Balance at 30.6.06 £26,296.77. Prior to commencement of business Mr Chambers and Mr Saberton and checked receipts and payments for the month. Council approved the following:

| | | £ | £ | £ |
|----------|--------|---|--------|------------|
| Receipts | | 0 | | 0 |
| Payments | 000785 | Mepal Office Stores (s1412) What's On (Jul edition) | 14.00 | 14.00 |
| | 000786 | S Bass Grasscutting 18 June 06 and 2 July 06 | 280.00 | 280.00 |
| | 000787 | C Hill reimburse Parish Plan Expenses | 35.22 | 35.22 |
| | 000788 | Clerks salary basic qtr £561 scp 21 April – June, and reimbursement stationery & Brignells £63.90 postage £30.55 travel mtgs & Brignells 132m@40p £52.80 | | 708.25 |
| | d/d | Vartec June | 2.13 | .37 2.50 . |

348. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 15 August 2006 | 12 September 2006 |
| 10 October 2006 | 14 November 2006 |
| 5 December 2006 | 9 January 2007 |
| 13 February 2007 | 13 March 2007 |

Dates for 2007 Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting to be confirmed.

Additional meetings may be convened for special meetings, for example, to consider planning applications for which ECDC require a response before the next scheduled Council meeting, and these will be notified on the parish noticeboard as and when required

Meetings will normally commence at 7.15 pm for monthly check of payments and receipts and 'open to the public' time. Business to commence at 7.30 pm.

All business to be considered must be delivered to the Clerk by Councillors and Parishioners for inclusion on the agenda at least 6 clear days prior to the meeting.

All

Signed Dated