

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12 April 2005 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: D A Bamforth (Chairman), D K Saberton (Vice-Chairman), P Chambers, D J Saberton, M Wilkin and Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Mr A White (ECDC)
1 member of public (item 48 only)

Action

44. Apologies for Absence were received from Mrs B Daters.

45. Declaration of Interest: There were none.

46. Minutes of the meeting of 8 March 2005 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed Chairman, seconded Vice-Chairman and agreed unanimously.

47. Matters Arising

Groundsman: Review of duties by Vice-Chairman with Groundsman outstanding. Vice-Chairman reported that the Groundsman had completed some grasscutting. Noted bins not emptied each week nor bus shelter swept. Clerk to write to Groundsman enclosing work schedule. Vice-Chairman to dispose of old wire litter bins by Village Hall.

DKS

Clerk

DKS

CCC Public Rights of Way – BOATS - outstanding

Chairman

/DJS

48. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

05/00354/OUT Land adjacent 2 Martins Lane. Erection of detached dwelling. Appeared in-keeping with planning policies - no objections.

Clerk

05/00292/FUL 6 The Orchards. Conservatory and 1st floor extension to rear. Appeared in-keeping with planning policies – no objections.

Clerk

Proposed development of pair of semi-detached houses at rear of White Horse Public House. Owners had approached Chairman to seek Parish Council views. He had suggested they should also contact neighbours. Council considered and discussed issues and on balance although wanting to support the viability of the public house felt it would be unable to support the proposals due to concerns regarding perceived 'backland' development, adequate access for new dwellings, loss of off-street parking for public house patrons, loss of space for future development of public house and facilities to make it a viable business and ensure sustainability for the future.

Clerk

The following ECDC decisions were noted:

05/00008/FUL 12 Martins Lane. One detached dwelling. Refused.

05/00088/FUL 1 Market Way. Single storey extension to rear of garage property. Approved

49. SKATEBOARD FACILITIES

The Chairman had received a petition supported by 55 members of the village for the provision of skateboard facilities in the village, together with costs. The Council considered the following issues:

1. Funding – apparent costs £15-20k – equipment and set up plus annual maintenance and insurance fees
2. Locations – lack of space at recreation ground. No other suitably owned land.
3. Alternatives - temporary arrangement as part of an annual event. Advice to be sought from ECDC and youngsters kept informed.

*Chairman
/Clerk*

50. RECREATION GROUNDTree Maintenance Programme

ECDC consent for pruning and removing trees received. Mr P Chambers proposed arrangements be made for work to be executed based on quote from Garden Works, October 2004 (subject to 5% deviance). Seconded by Chairman and agreed unanimously. Clerk to contact contractors for measures to save cherry tree by bus shelter and liaise with Chairman.

*Clerk*Cricket Nets

Chairman had liased with Cricket Club representatives and recommended purchase of mobile unit on wheels, £995. Cricket Club to be asked to organise grant aid from Lords Taverners and funding. Check budgets of play area/recreation ground refurbishment.

*Chairman**DKS**Clerk*Play Area and Equipment

Mr David Saberton reported he had not yet installed new goalpost stakes. This would be done when the goalposts are re-positioned on Thursday.

*DJS/**DKS***51. VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES/EXCHANGE OF LAND**

Letter of 9 March from Moore Stephens received and discussed. Clerk outlined proposals.

Mr P Chambers proposed that in pursuance of the exchange of land, the Council should take the Auditor's advice. The Council had taken into account all the advice received and considered the costs incurred to-date and the potential additional costs expected, eg professional fees for further assistance. Seconded Chairman and agreed unanimously.

Seek further information regarding valuation now that an application for detached dwelling in the garden at number 2 had been submitted without the strip by the village hall drive.

*Clerk/**Chairman*Commons Registration Act 1965 (CRA) S.13 - Registration of Recreation Ground as Village Green

Discussed Notice issued by County Council. Chairman gave information from legal adviser, Open Spaces Society and County Council. Ever since purchase of the land the Parish Council had reserved the right to control and manage the recreation ground. The Parish Council allows use of the recreation ground to the public and the Cricket Club. Specific approval is required from the Parish Council for use such as the Annual Peashoot, Church Fete, school events, village games, use in conjunction with the Village Hall hire etc. Vehicles, dogs, horses etc are prohibited.

Chairman proposed objection to the registration on the grounds that it is not in the best interests of the village to bear such status and in any case does not fully fulfil the criteria. Details for and response discussed and agreed unanimously.

*Chairman**/Clerk***52. BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE**

Clerk reported broken tiles and ivy growing under roof into bus shelter. Chairman proposed contact local builders for quotes to repair roof and arrange for Groundsman to remove ivy and sweep bus shelter.

*Clerk***53. CLERKS TRAINING**

NALC Clerk's Training Bursary Fund had contributed £127.50

54. CCC CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – RIGHTS OF WAY

Contact walkers group for comments on strategic access and recreational issues.

Chairman

**55. COUNTRYSIDE RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 2000 (RoW)
CCC IMPROVING COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS – CAMBRIDGESHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY
IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Rights of Way in and around Witcham recognised as important, providing link between Ely and March networks. The draft Statutory Consultation document was in circulation. Responses to CCC by 9 May. Councillors to complete questionnaires.

All

56. ECDC/CALC PARISH FORUM – 25 MAY 2005

Chairman to attend.

Chairman

57. SPEEDING VEHICLE - 26 APRIL 2005

Confirmed public meeting to take place at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Final notices to be issued.

Clerk

58. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 10 MAY 2005

Clerk had invited local organisations and published date. Year-end accounts to be completed. Chairman to prepare his annual report and contact archive project representative.

Clerk

Chairman

59. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

There were none.

60. STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

CCC invoices for energy and maintenance October 2004 to April 2005 and new street lights expected in next few weeks.

Clerk

Hive Road to be resurfaced June/July 2005.

Street light PC5, Headleys Lane, on all day

Clerk

61. FINANCE

Bank Mandate: Mr Wilkin advised he had not yet registered at bank

Receipts and Payments

		£	£	£
Receipts	NALC Training Bursary	127.50		127.50
Payments	000695 Groundsman	60.00		60.00
	Mepal Office Services What's On April edition	14.00		14.00
	Vartec	2.56	.44	3.00

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting, the Annual General Meeting, will take place on Tuesday 3 May 2005 at 7.30 pm. All items to be considered at this meeting must be placed with Clerk for inclusion on agenda by Monday 25 April, 2005.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday 10 May 2005 at 7.30 pm.

Signed

Dated