

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 September, 2005 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: D A Bamforth (Chairman), P Chambers (Vice-Chairman), D J Saberton, D K Saberton

D J Saberton, D K Saberton

rk)

Mrs B Daters (ECDC)

Mr A White (ECDC)

Action

127. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr C Watson and Mr M Wilkin.

128. **Declaration of Interest:** There were none.

129. **Minutes of the meeting** of 12 July, 2005 had been circulated, and were approved.
Proposed Mr David Saberton, seconded Mr Don Saberton and agreed unanimously.

130. **Matters Arising**

BOATS: Tenant at The Slade would be contacted as previously discussed.

131. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

05/00940/FUL 8 The Orchards Witcham. Two storey side extension. No objections.

Clerk

05/00960/FUL 13 Martins Lane. Erection of double garage. No objections.

Clerk

30 Silver Street. Demolition of bungalow and erection of 7 dwellings – amendments for information noted - omission of bedroom in roof space and roof light, new high level window to east elevation for ensuite bathroom (plots 3 & 4), together with proposals for trees and hedge.

To note the following ECDC decision:

05/00768/FUL Hillcrest, Mepal Road Witcham. Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension – amendments for information noted, together with consent.

132. **COUNCIL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The Clerk circulated a file to each Councillor enclosing the following Policies and Procedures which had been previously approved:

Publication Scheme
Standing Orders and Chairmanship
Financial Regulations
Race Relations Policy
Disability Discrimination Policy
Code of Practice for Handling Complaints
Crime and Disorder Policy

A copy of the Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures as issued as a module by NALC had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Chairman proposed adoption of the Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures as recommended by CALC, including formation of two ‘committees’. Chairman, Mr D K Saberton and Mr C Watson to deal with first stages of disciplinary and grievance procedures, and Mr P Chambers, Mr David Saberton and Mr Mark Wilkin and a District Councillor (in attendance), to serve on the

Staffing Committee to deal with any appeals. Seconded Mr P Chambers and agreed unanimously.

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133. **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL**

Details previously circulated. Resolved to support Sustainable Communities Bill and to write to local MP asking him to support Early Day Motion 641. (Resolution attached). Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

134. **RECREATION GROUND**

Mr David Saberton reported that the sandbags were working well. Use of the mobile goals had reduced over the last couple of weeks. No other issues to report on play equipment.

There had been no contact from Cricket Club regarding nets.

*Chairman
/DKS*

135. **VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES**

Nothing further to report on progress of registration of recreation ground as village green. Noted that the owners of the land adjacent 2 Martins Lane were re-marketing the side garden again as a building plot, this time including the rear garden.

136. **BT PUBLIC PAY PHONES**

Clerk reported that there had been no response following the note in "What's On" about change of public telephone in High Street to a cashless payphone.

Noted that ECDC is making representations for the whole district and was concerned the proposed chargecard system required charges to be charged to a home telephone line which could mean those on low incomes would be denied access. They hoped pre-payment cards could be introduced.

137. **INSURANCE REVIEW**

Chairman proposed Clerk seek advice from Cornhill regarding reduction in premiums for higher excess payment. Enquiries also to be made with Zurich.

Clerk

138. **SPEEDWATCH**

There had been no response from the public following the note in "What's On" seeking help in setting up and leading the working group; Clerk to inform people who had offered help at the public meeting in April

Clerk

139. **TRAFALGAR WEEKEND CELEBRATION**

Insufficient interest to mark the event.

140. **BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION**

Judging completed by Mr and Mrs L Setchell, and the winners were:

Vegetable: Mr S Saberton
Flower: Mr L Constable and Ms D Young
Best Overall: Mr & Mrs R Webster

Highly Commended:

Flowers: Mr & Mrs S Phillips,
Large gardens: Mr & Mrs D Anslow and Mr & Mrs S Gibbs

Mr Setchell had suggested an award in future years for small flower gardens and he thanked Mr Don Saberton for escorting he and his wife during judging.

Chairman proposed he speak to Mr Setchell regarding Produce Show cups. Clerk to thank Mr Setchell for undertaking the judging. Results to be published in next "What's On" and

*Chairman
Clerk/*

141. **EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

Consultation documents on the Issue and Options Papers – Development Control Policies, and Core Strategy and Development Plan Document, together with the Draft Statement of Community Involvement and questionnaires had been circulated to Councillors after the last meeting.

A copy of the slides presented at the exhibitions held across the district during first half of August were received. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk should write to ECDC setting out the main issues for Witcham: Maintain identity and strong community, some housing for older people to effect release of larger homes for families, more retail opportunities in Ely, more facilities for young people, increased traffic levels outside usual peak times of morning and evening. Agreed by all.

Clerk

142. **CORRESPONDENCE**

ECDC Trees/Conservation Area: 18 High Street, pruning of holly, lime, walnut and cherry trees noted.

ECDC Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy – circulated

All

East of England Draft Plan – Examination in Public date deferred to 1.11.05 noted

Cambs & Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan – next consultation phase March/April 2006 noted.

East Cambs Community Safety Partnership – Anti-Social Behaviour leaflet circulated.

CCC Cambridgeshire Environment Report 2005 on County Council website noted.

CALC AGM 15 October 2005. Clerk to attend

Clerk

CALC Parish Forum 7.12.05 noted

CALC Training Courses: Risk Assessment 1.10.05. Clerk offered to attend and approval was given. Fee £30

143. **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

There were none.

144. **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

Low glow on street lamp at junction of Headleys Lane and Back Lane. Also lamp in Headleys Lane at junction with High Street still faulty.

Clerk

Noted new bridge over cut (towards Wardy Hill) completed. Details and costs to be sought via County Councillor. Proposed Chairman, seconded Mr David Saberton and agreed unanimously.

145. **FINANCE**

a) Completion of bank signatories still outstanding

b) Clerk presented quarterly report to 30.6.05. Balance in hand £21877.31

c) & d) The following Receipts and Payments were presented and approved:

			£	£	£
Receipts		EDF Energy	10.00		10.00
		Ely Funeral Service - interment ashes			
		S Fellows	50.00		50.00
Payments	000731	Clerks salary April to September (1/2 yr)	1051.20		
		Overtime (Oct 04– Aug 05)	1153.18		
		Reimbursement post, stationery			
		Computer upgrade & equipment,			
		Mileage training & auditors mtgs	149.15		2353.53
	000732	Mepal Office Services photocopying			
		‘Whats On’ Aug £14 Sep £14			
		(LGA '72 S142)			
		LDF consultation docs	£11.62		39.62

000733	D Saberton Reimbursement Petrol	8.51	1.49	10.00
000734	CALC Training	30.00		30.00
	Vartec July	1.23	.21	1.44

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145. **FINANCE** (cont)

Release of cheque noted:

007729	Groundsman salary for 3 days work in June			60.00
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No worksheets received from Groundsman and he had not attended to work since 28 June. Council deeply concerned that the cemetery, play areas, recreation ground etc not being mown nor bins emptied. Mr Don Saberton said he had undertaken some grasscutting as a matter of necessity in some areas, and it was noted that relatives had taken it upon themselves to cut around gravestones. Mr Don Saberton had also had to keep bins emptied to avoid health issues. Clerk reported that she had written and spoken to Groundsman who had promised to come back to work week commencing 22 August. Chairman proposed meeting be set up with Groundsman to pursue resolution to problems. *Clerk*
Agreed by all.

Arrangements to be made for 1 & 1 – Witcham.org.website to invoice Council direct.

Chairman

Chairman proposed approval of additional hours worked by the Clerk (October 2004 to August 2005) to attend training and undertake additional work involved in producing portfolio, and policy and procedure documents required for access to Quality Parish Council status. Second stage of National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay settlement as agreed last year payable from 1 April 2005 providing an annual salary of £2102.40 based on 20 hours per month was implemented. Agreed by all.

Enquiries to be made with ECDC and others to enquire if funding was available to help with costs in achieving Quality Parish Council Status.

Clerk

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11 October 2005 at 7.30 pm.

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

Signed

Dated