

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 February 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, C Watson and Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Mrs B Daters (ECDC))
Mr A White (ECDC)

6. Apologies for Absence were received from Mr M Wilkin. Action

7. Declaration of Interest: There were none.

8. Minutes of the meetings of 11 and 18 January 2005 had been circulated, and were approved and signed. Proposed seconded and agreed unanimously.

9. Matters Arising

Speeding Vehicles: Police and County Council had indicated willingness to attend public meeting. Clerk to finalise arrangements and to include Speedwatch. Issues with school buses had been pursued. Clerk gave up-date of Little Downham Speedwatch Scheme. Clerk

Play Area Signs: Loose sign had been removed.

CCC East of England Plan: Noted Government not funding infrastructure as originally thought. Councillors to review for discussion at next meeting. All

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

05/00088/FUL 1 Market Way Witcham. Single storey extension to rear of garage of property. No objection. Points of consideration raised by nearby neighbour noted and flagged with ECDC. Clerk

05/00008/FUL Land adjacent 12 Martins Lane, Witcham. No objection in principle. Hedges to be retained and seek advice as to whether any protection for trees on site. Concerns regarding access and off street parking for 12 Martins Lane albeit Clerk had been advised by ECDC this was not relevant planning consideration for this application - issue for CCC Public Rights of Way Officer. Clerk

ECDC Decisions:

04/01490/FUL Amberlea Country Kennels. Erection of new reception and staff facilities building and extension to dog grooming parlour to create canine hydrotherapy facilities with new vehicular access. APPROVED.

11. VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES

Exchange of Land - 2 Martins Lane: Correspondence from NALC and Auditors presented by Chairman, and he reported on his meeting with ECDC Solicitor. Chairman awaiting further details from ODPM, who had advised that they believed the law had changed on Consent. Clerk awaiting further response from Auditors. Solicitors and Executors had been up-dated. Chairman

12. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Mr Don Saberton gave up-date. Proposed: second-hand mower and cheaper mower from Groundcare March as per quotations obtained. Proposed Mr Don Saberton, seconded Mr David Saberton. Vice-Chairman/
Clerk

13. GROUNDSMAN'S DUTIES

Groundsman was dealing with waste bags only at present. Vice-Chairman to review duties when mowing recommences.

Vice-Chairman

14. SPEEDING VEHICLES

As reported under Matters Arising

15. WITCHAM CRICKET CLUB – NETS

Letter received from Cricket Club Chairman requesting replacement nets. Mobile systems examined. Chairman to pursue with Cricket Club and suggest they obtain some funding from Lords Taverners.

Chairman

16. CCC PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP SCHEME 2005

Chairman gave a report on some of the public right of ways in the parish, most of which required attention, and proposed the Council should participate in the scheme. Seconded Mr C Watson. Agreed unanimously

Chairman

17. RECREATION GROUND

Mr David Saberton proposed he should make new replacement stakes for football goals. Seconded Chairman and agreed unanimously.

DJS

18. CEMETERY

Application from Anglia Memorials for erection of headstone for Mrs Flossie Jordan approved subject to installation in accordance with NAMM Guidelines.

Clerk

19. COUNCILLORS RECEIVED AND NOTED THE FOLLOWING:

a) Standards Board for England: New allegation regarding conduct in relation to exchange of land would not be investigated.

b) DEFRA Clean Neighbourhoods Consultation: Summary of responses circulated to Councillors

Clerk

20. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

No meetings attended by Councillors

Clerk gave report on her progress with the Certificate in Local Council Administration which was being undertaken as part of the requirement to acquire 'Quality Parish Council Status' for Witcham. The following revised documents were presented for consideration and will be discussed and approved at next meeting as appropriate:

Clerk

Standing Orders, Finance Regulations, Contract of Employment and Statement of Particulars of Employment and Job Description, Race Relations Policy, Crime and Disorder Policy, Disability Discrimination Policy and Code of Practice for Handling Complaints.

21. WITCHAM WEBSITE

Clerk confirmed various documents were now being published on the new website.

Clerk

22. STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

Lighting at Mepal A142 junction to be discussed at public meeting with police and County Council as safer turning into Mepal at this junction may reduce flows through Witcham.

22. STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS (cont)

Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement Programme 2005/6. Once again Witcham had not been selected nor had the Witcham/Mepal proposals regarding speed reduction on the Witcham to Mepal road.

23. FINANCE

- a) The External Auditor's report and signed accounts for 2003/4 were presented and Clerk confirmed notification had been posted on the noticeboard and website. *Clerk*
- b) Lloyds bank mandate currently with Mr M Wilkin and then to go to Mr C Watson. *MW/CW*
- c) Clerk had previously circulated quarterly finance report. Outcome of bursary scheme application which would include reimbursement for additional hours worked for documentation and course attendance was awaited and Clerk logging additional hours. Groundsman's hours October to January received. *Clerk*

d) & e) Receipts and Payments (as up-dated in meeting)

		£	£	£
Receipts	T L Cobbold: Interment Fees	130.00		130.00
Payments	000681 Mepal Office Stores (Feb) CANCELLED	14.00		14.00
	000682 Reimbursement Chairman			
	* 1&1 Internet Ltd	4.10		4.10
	000683 Moore Stephens – Audit Fees	419.90	73.48	493.38
	000684 **Information Commissioner			
	CANCELLED	35.00		35.00
	000685 CALC - ABA Membership	46.50		46.50
	000686 CALC Local Council Review	13.00		13.00
	000687 Mepal Office Services "What's On"			
	Dec and Jan	28.00		28.00
000688 S Saberton mowers	100.00		100.00	
d/d Vartec Tel	1.04	.18	1.22	

- * Chairman requested that in future this be switched to direct debit to Parish Council instead of reimbursement of his payment on-line. *Clerk*
- ** Cheque cancelled and payment to be made by direct debit, annually. *Clerk*

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 8 March 2005 at 7.30 pm.

All items to be considered at this meeting must be placed with Clerk for inclusion on agenda by Monday 28 February, 2005.

Signed Dated