

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 8 November 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
M Wilkin

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

Action

163. **Apologies for Absence:** There were none.

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

165. **Minutes of the meeting** of 11 October 2005 had been circulated and were approved and signed. Minutes of 1 November were approved and signed subject to amendment for apologies which had been omitted for Mrs Daters. Proposed by Chairman and agreed unanimously.

166. **Matters Arising**

153. Canoe Club – Mepal Outdoor Centre. Clerk had spoken with Mr Savage and details of Fenleader programme were awaited.

156. Witcham website/What's On. Website administrator had asked if material for the website could be submitted in PDF which may be read with Adobe reader and accessible worldwide.

167. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

E/05/01116/OUM Mereham Development – south A1123, West of A10, East Twentypence Road and North Great Ouse between Stretham and Wilburton. Outline application for new settlement, 5000 homes, plus retail, foodstore and employment areas. Council concerned regarding infrastructure for this size development – roads, employment, schools, medical etc, in particular, effect of additional traffic at A142/A1421 Witcham Toll and A10 and access to Cambridge. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

The following ECDC decision was noted:

E/05/00960/FUL 13 Martins Lane, erection of double garage. Approved

168. **CEMETERY – CAR PARKING**

Verge churned, grazings on high kerb. Chairman proposed request County Council be requested to discuss lowering of kerb and improvement to verge with hardstanding. Seconded Mr Don Saberton and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

169. **VILLAGE & CEMETERY GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

Groundsman had not attended meeting planned for 1 November.

Last autumn cut of grass and general tidying up now urgent.

CALC and Allianz Cornhill advice reported and being followed.

Mr Don Saberton to contact local contractor to arrange for this work to be done urgently. Accepted this would be up to a full days work. Proposed Chairman and agreed unanimously.

Arrangements for grasscutting to be kept under review for spring as clearly performance had to be improved.

Clerk confirmed she was trying to make arrangements with ECDC for Cleanaway to empty bins.

Clerk

170. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY FOOTPATH No.1 - THE SLADE

County Council had informed the Chairman that the kissing gates (No.2) at The Slade and between fields would be installed despite local knowledge that people use the path eg. to exercise dogs, via access from the concrete road a little further down The Slade. Strict criteria for applying for a diversion, including application to be made by landowners and access not to be further away from parish than existing. Clerk to inform landowners and County Council will liaise direct.

*Clerk***171. SEWAGE FLOODING AT THE SLADE**

Anglian Water had informed that most 'spillages' had occurred as a result of unforeseen blockages in the drainage system, the system being within the design criteria and of sufficient capacity. No plans to carry out improvements at present but will keep under review. Council dissatisfied with this response. Clerk to write to property owners to set up monitoring and to inform ECDC Environmental Health of action and seek their support for next incident.

*Clerk***172. REGISTRATION OF RECREATION GROUND AS VILLAGE GREEN**

Registration process still ongoing with County Council. Outcome expected within couple of months.

173. RECREATION GROUND – NEW TREES

In consultation with ECDC Tree Officer Mr and Mrs Anslow had planted a 6 year old Prunus Tai Haku (Great White Cherry) to replace the recently removed cherry tree. Clerk to write expressing appreciation.

*Clerk***174. RECREATION GROUND – EQUIPMENT REPORT**

Mr David Saberton reported that there were no issues to report. Arrangements to be made for erection of signs regarding use of facilities and no kite flying as per Annual Report.

*Clerk/
Chairman***175. BUS SERVICE**

Reports received of recent unreliable services. No action proposed at present.

176. ROYAL MAIL – ERRATIC SERVICES

Reports received of irregular and incorrect deliveries. Note to go in "What's On" for information to monitor.

*Clerk***177. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005 (CNEA)**

Consultation paper on guidance for CNEA. Circulated to Councillors for discussion and comment at December meeting.

*Clerk***178. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS**

Cambridge and Ely Victim Support. No grant made.
Ely and Soham Dial a Ride. Noted this service was used by members of the Parish. In accordance with Local Government Rating Act 1997 the Council made a grant of £25. Proposed Chairman, seconded Mr Don Saberton and agreed unanimously

*Clerk***179. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were noted:

- a) CCC Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements Programme 2006/7- application unsuccessful.
- b) Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service – Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2006/7
- c) East Cambridgeshire Domestic Violence Strategy and Directory
- d) Cambs ACRE 2004/5 Annual Review

180. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

There were none.

181. QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL STATUS

Confirmed meeting with CALC adviser 23 November 2005 at 7.30 pm Witcham Village Hall.
Other parishes expected to attend.

*All***182. STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

Headleys Lane/Back Lane lamp still low power.

Clerk

CCC expect to issue invoices for energy and street lighting mid-December.

183. FINANCE

a) Draft Budget and 2006/7 Precept. Paper circulated and discussed.
Actual expenditure to 30.9.05, £10078 including £288 VAT to be reclaimed and £4237
new street lights. Actual income to 30.9.05, £5512.
Expected expenditure Oct to March £2663 and income £4570.
Provision required for increased costs for grounds maintenance and insurance, new
burial ground and youth provision. Previous Precept £8540 held for two years. Estimated Precept
for 2006/7 of £9000. Proposed Chairman, seconded Mr P Chambers and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

b) Bank signatories

CW/MW

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

		£	£	£
Receipts	Ely Funeral Service	150.00		150.00
	VAT Refund	269.45		269.45
Payments	000738 Ely & Soham Dial a Ride LGRA '97	25.00		25.00
	000739 Chairman's Allowance (2005/6)	23.60		23.60
	d/d Vartec Oct	3.30	.57	3.87

184. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 December 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

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed

Dated