

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at The Barn on Monday 20th June 2016 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor C W Webber
Councillor C M Ambrose Smith
Councillor D I Ambrose Smith
Councillor P M Cox
Councillor S Green
Councillor J J B Lee
Councillor D Murfitt
Councillor G Norman
Councillor E Dos Santos
Councillor J Webber

Also present the Clerk and Clerk Emeritus

16/17.009 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all Councillors to the meeting.

16/17.010 APOLOGIES & ABSENCES:

Cllr D Jordan, Cllr F Brown – apologies
Cllr L Malkin, Cllr S Kerridge and A Wright – absent

16/17.011 DECLARATIONS:

Cllr S Green – in relation to item 16/17.020.
Cllr G Norman – in relation to item 16/17.019

16/17.012 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Littleport Foodbank is currently closed but it is hoped that it will restart, located in the Church, during July. Rotary, amongst other organisations, are assisting with the funding and YANA will be organising the day to day running of the scheme.

Cllrs Jordan and Green had attended the ECDC Emergency Planning seminar within the last week where it had been highlighted that the Parish Council should have an Emergency Plan to run in parallel with ECDC's district-wide plan. Cllr Jordan has offered to prepare a draft of this and this will be presented to the Parish Council at their next meeting in July.

ECDC have now produced their report following the Call for Sites as part of the Local Plan process. A total of 14 sites that have been put forward for consideration within the Parish and it was highlighted that the Parish Council need to respond to each of these sites individually for inclusion within the consultation exercise being run by the District Council. It was agreed that draft responses would be circulated to all Councillors for comment and these would be finalised at an extraordinary meeting of the full Council which will be called for a date in July.

16/17.013 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Finance and Parish Council meetings held on 16th May 2016, the Planning Committee Meeting held on 31st May 2016 and the Traffic Committee held on 6th June 2016 were accepted as a true record of the meetings and were duly signed by the Chairman.

16/17.014 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendations of the Finance Committee which took place immediately prior to this meeting of the full Council were accepted. The recommendations were as follows:

- (1) Engage the accountant as required to investigate and rectify the discrepancy which had arisen within the Sage accounting software.
- (2) Accept the annual pay rise.

16/17.015 TRAFFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

(a) Pelican Crossing, Wisbech Road

Following Mrs Bibby's presentation to the Traffic Committee the Parish Council agreed to support the campaign for the installation of a crossing outside the Co-Op on Wisbech Road. The Clerk had investigated the possibility of using CIL funds and its use had been confirmed by ECDC.

Next steps will involve discussions at the Highways Open Day on 25th July 2016 to ascertain the County Council's appetite for entering into a match funded crossing.

(b) Speed Limit, Ten Mile Bank

Following receipt of correspondence from a resident concerning the excessive speed of some motorists along Ten Mile Bank this will also be discussed at the Highways Open Day on 25th July 2016.

(c) Transport Plan – Working Group formation

The Parish Council agreed to the formation of a Working Group to devise and produce a Transport Plan for the Village. It was also agreed that the membership of this Working Group would consist of Parish Councillors and members of the public. Members of the public are to be invited to submit expressions of interest for joining the Working Group via the website.

The Clerk was instructed to arrange for advertising for interested residents to join the Working Group on the website.

(d) Network Rail Consultation – Level Crossing Closures

Several Councillors had attended the Network Rail Consultation concerning the proposed level crossing closures throughout the parish. A synopsis of the consultation process is awaited from Mott MacDonald but the Parish Council believe that the plans are not as draconian as originally feared. Network Rail had confirmed that the crossings they propose to close would have restricted access to authorised users only (via key or keypad).

There had been a lot of confusion over closure at the Station insofar as it is the barrow crossing that is going to be closed as opposed to the main road level crossing.

Consensus appears to be that the underpass will close to traffic and will only be accessible by pedestrians.

Agricultural crossings which are being taken out of public use were considered to be non-contentious providing that the correct signage is put in place.

Barrow Crossing/Underpass – The Parish Council believe that further consultation is required in relation to the closure of the underpass to vehicular access partly due to some residents possibly ceasing to use the village facilities because this is their usual entrance into the village. It was acknowledged that with the expected additional train movements the resultant hold-ups at the level crossing would be excessive.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Network Rail with a request that an officer attend the next Parish Council meeting to further clarify the options available.

Cllr D Ambrose Smith stated that he had met with several officers from Network Rail in May 2015 and had been surprised when the current consultation details had been published that these were in direct opposition to discussions that had taken place in 2015. He had brought this to the attention of officers.

In respect of the 'old style' signal box it was noted that the gates for the Station level crossing were manually operated which contributed to the time that vehicles were held. Network Rail have intimated that whilst it will be upgraded to automatic gates at some time in the future this was not something that was in the current programme of works. Signal Box – still of the old style – gates are manually operated.

(e) Disabled Bay – Limes Close

It was agreed that the Parish Council require the disabled bay to be removed and the road reinstated. The Clerk was instructed to progress this issue with the County Council Highways Department.

16/17.016 CLERKS' FOLLOW UP DIARY:

Clerks are awaiting correspondence from the County Council in relation to the removal of the disabled bay in Limes Close.

16/17.017 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Cllr C Ambrose Smith confirmed that she had submitted a further set of comments on the new Boundary Commission's consultation over the re-warding of the County Council and urged Parish Councillors to comment if they have not already done so.

Cllr J Webber updated the meeting on her liaisons with Sanctuary Housing and the various correspondence that she had received. It had been confirmed that Sanctuary were not going to be taking access to the scheme manager at Anchor Court away immediately and that they were looking to work with a retirement care specialist. This would possibly result in a different type of provision. She will update the Parish Council on any further developments. Now that the Call for Sites report had been published this was an opportunity for all Parish Councils to comment upon those sites that had come forward. Cllr J Webber and Cllr Lee will be attending the Highways Open Day at 4.30pm on Monday 25th July to discuss those items minuted earlier.

Cllr Cox updated the meeting on the upgrades that are currently underway within the ICT systems at the District Council. The District Council are envisaging that works will be complete by the end of the year.

16/17.018 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

None received.

16/17.019 LITTLEPORT VILLAGE HALL – PULSE DEFIB PLACEMENT

A request had been received from Littleport Village Hall Committee requesting permission to place a Pulse Defibrillator on the external front wall of the building.

The Parish Council AGREED to the placing of the defibrillator and the Clerk was instructed to contact the Village Hall Committee appropriately.

16/17.020 LITTLEPORT TIMEBANK – PHONE BOX

Further to a previous request by full Council, Littleport TimeBank have endeavoured to obtain quotes for the refurbishment of the box at the top of Grange Lane.

Various views were expressed including:

- (a) Could the box be moved and mothballed until such time as sufficient funds had been raised by Littleport Timebank to complete the refurbishment works.
- (b) Could a Heritage Lottery Fund, Awards for All, or similar be applied for?
- (c) Concern that it would be vandalised if left open.
- (d) Considerable amount of money in a time when cuts are being made.

In conclusion the Parish Council felt unable to assist with funding but would assist Littleport Timebank in applying for a suitable grant for the work to be done.

16/17.021 BLACK HORSE DROVE COMMUNITY – RURAL SETTLEMENT GRANT
Black Horse Drove Community have been asked to supply the Parish Council with suggestions as to what they would like to spend the £2,904.76 that has been awarded to them by East Cambridgeshire District Council. The grant is not time limited and will be held by the Parish Council until such time as a suitable project for the benefit of the community can be identified. To date nothing has been received from the community.

The Clerks were instructed to liaise with the Community to ascertain their plans for the grant and report back to the next available meeting of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.36pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Dated: