

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Barn on Monday 17th October 2016 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor C M Ambrose Smith
Councillor F Brown
Councillor P Cox
Councillor S Green
Councillor D Jordan
Councillor D Murfitt
Councillor G Norman
Councillor E Dos Santos
Councillor A Wright

Also present the Clerk and Clerk Emeritus

16717.051 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:

In the absence of Cllr C W Webber, Cllr D Jordan took the Chair and welcomed all to the meeting.

16/17.052 APOLOGIES & ABSENCES:

Cllrs C W Webber, J Webber, J J B Lee, L Malkin, D I Ambrose Smith – Apologies
Cllr S Kerridge – absent

16/17.053 DECLARATIONS:

None

16/17.054 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A reminder about Remembrance Day services taking place on Sunday 13th November. Muster at Pons Hill at 10.15am. Volunteers required by Royal British Legion to act as traffic marshals. Members were asked to contact the RBL secretary, Mrs Maggie McGowen on 01353 861332, if they are able to assist on the day.

Clerks were requested to contact ECDC to check that they are going to cut the grass around the memorial prior to the event.

16/17.055 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Finance, Planning and Parish Council Meetings held on 19th September 2016 were accepted as a true record of the meetings and were duly signed by the Chairman.

16/17.056 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendations of the Finance Committee which took place immediately prior to this meeting of the full council were accepted.

16/17.057 CLERK'S FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk updated the meeting that Cllr S Kerridge had been given an official leave of absence at this time.

In relation to the two rubbish bins that had been vandalised, the Clerk confirmed that ECDC will replace the one at Parson's Lane Play Area and that an order for a replacement for the one situated at the Skate Park had been placed.

16/17.058 CCC – FLOOD AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS QUESTIONNAIRE:

A questionnaire had been received from the County Council concerning a piece of work they are doing in conjunction with the Environment Agency to develop an understanding of the flood risk awareness in communities across the County.

The Clerk distributed copies of the correspondence and questionnaire and requested members to complete the questionnaire and return to the office in order that responses can be collated before submission to the County Council.

This information will also be contained within the Emergency Plan that is being prepared by Cllr Jordan.

AW raised the issue that no mention of the internal drainage boards within the correspondence and wished it to be noted that the village had always been excellently served/informed by the IDBs.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council has no interest in setting up a group as suggested by CCC due to the excellent service already received as mentioned above but the questionnaire would be completed and submitted as requested.

16/17.059 UPDATE ON LITTLEPORT STATION:

Cllr F Brown raised his concerns over the improvements required to enable the proposed 8 carriage/half hourly service which Network Rail/Great Anglia are proposing could be compromised if substantial investment is not forthcoming.

It was acknowledged that numerous suggestions had been put forward in the past but, so far, no confirmation had been received from the relevant companies to give comfort to the Parish Council that the improved service will go ahead as planned.

The Clerks were requested to write formally to Network Rail to ascertain, in writing, their programme of works intended to bring about the improvements required.

A further report has still to be received following the recent consultation event concerning the proposed closure of various crossings within the Parish and the Clerks were requested to ask for this to be sent as soon as practicable.

16/17.060 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRAFFIC COMMITTEE:

In the absence of Cllrs Lee and Webber this item is deferred to the full Council meeting to be held on 21st November 2016.

16/17.061 REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF YELLOW LINES – LYNN ROAD:

This item had been discussed at the Traffic Committee held on 10th October and whilst a full update on that Committee will be presented to the Council meeting to be held in November the Clerk updated those present with the enquiries that had been undertaken.

The County Council, in an email dated 12th October, confirmed that no funds would be forthcoming from them to put additional lines in place. The Parish Council could apply

under the Local Highway Initiative to request that this is done and the likely indicative cost would be £2,500 for the lining, £1,000 for the Traffic Order (legal requirement) and a full consultation would require to be undertaken with all affected residents and the Police.

A further request had been received for extension of yellow lines along Station Road and new lines in City Road. Combining the three applications on one Traffic Order would still remain the same fee (£1,000) but the total cost of lines would be in the region of £7,500.

FB believed that the Parish Council were entitled to hire their own contractors to undertake this type of work and the Clerks were instructed to contact CCC to ascertain the situation.

AW stated that he believed the Parish Council should, in the first instance, be looking at providing additional car parking for those persons using the station. SG voiced concern that to install yellow lines would deter people from using Littleport Station which could, in turn, have a detrimental effect on sustainability/improvement of the service. All those present concurred with this view. GN suggested that the possibility of purchasing a field close to the station could be looked at for bringing into use as a car park.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council's first priority is to secure additional parking for people using Littleport Station and that the second priority would be installation of yellow lines.

This item will be further discussed at the meeting to take place on 21st November.

16/17.062 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

PC – Work is continuing on the new draft Local Plan and this is due out for further consultation in November.

A full upgrade of the internal IT systems is due to commence at The Grange which it is hoped will result in a better service for officers and customers alike.

CAS – The draft Devolution Deal is still progressing and a further update will be brought to the Parish Council in due course.

16/17.063 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

No report received. If one is received this will be circulated via email.

FB stated that it would be beneficial for all concerned if the County Councillor elected to serve this Ward were visible, contactable and perhaps attended a meeting.

Items for inclusion on the agenda for 21st November were noted by the Clerks.

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

Dated:

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