

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Barn on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor C M Ambrose Smith  
Councillor F Brown  
Councillor P Cox  
Councillor S Green  
Councillor J J B Lee  
Councillor D Murfitt  
Councillor E Dos Santos  
Councillor C W Webber  
Councillor J Webber  
Councillor A Wright

Members of the Public: 0

Also present the Clerk and Clerk Emeritus

16/17.064 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:  
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

16/17.065 APOLOGIES & ABSENCES:  
Cllrs Malkin, Jordan, Kerridge, D Ambrose Smith and Norman – Apologies

16/17.066 DECLARATIONS:  
None

16/17.067 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:  
Agenda Items : Due to the absence of Cllr G Norman the following items are deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council due to take place on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 : 16/17.069, 16/17.070 and 16/17.076.  
Project Update : The Chairman has met with Sgt Phil Priestley, who is leading on the project, when a short tour of the village took place identifying possible locations for the urban art project to be installed. There is a further meeting planned of the full team which it is hoped will take place before Christmas.

16/17.068 MINUTES:  
The Minutes of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> October and the Planning Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 were accepted as a true record of the meetings and were duly signed by the Chairman.

16/17.069 VERBAL REPORT OF CEMETERY COMMITTEE – 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2016  
In the absence of Cllr Norman this item was deferred to the meeting to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

16/17.070 PURCHASE OF VEHICLE  
In the absence of Cllr Norman this item was deferred to the meeting to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

16/17.071 VERBAL REPORT OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE – 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016

Cllr J Lee updated the meeting concerning the discussions that had taken place concerning possible LHI bid items including a pedestrian crossing near the large Co-Op on Wisbech Road and speed activated warning signs for use by the Speedwatch Team.

The County Council had supplied information concerning their new scheme of neighbourhood volunteers for looking after such things as cleaning of road signs, clearing of leaves from pavements etc. The Traffic Committee had suggested that this is something that could be organised by residents and would be moved forward accordingly.

FB requested an enquiry be made of CCC concerning the street lighting in Parsons Lane which, since the installation of the new lamps, appears to be permanently dimmed and is causing concern for residents walking to and from the Doctors Surgery. The Clerks agreed to investigate this issue with CCC.

FB also requested that the Parish Council's concerns over the new gritting routes be conveyed to Highways. In particular the removal of Grange Lane from the primary route map which due to the location of the school etc could possibly cause issues.

16/17.072 LOCAL HIGHWAY INITIATIVE BID 2017-18

The Clerk updated the meeting concerning the bid that would be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council for the purchase of two vehicle activated speed signs (mobile) for use by the Community Speedwatch Team.

The Clerk had received a quotation from Swarco Traffic Solutions in the sum of £6,973.67 (nett) which also included a silver level warranty for 5 years.

It was AGREED that a bid be submitted stating that the Parish Council will fund 50% if successful which would be drawn from the CIL Meaningful Proportion monies received.

It was further AGREED that the annual budget of £1,000 be retained to cover any installation/re-siting of the signs during the course of the year.

The Clerk was instructed to complete the application form for submission to CCC prior to the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

16/17.073 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

The Clerks were requested to ensure that a note of ring fenced sums held in the Parish Council's accounts be presented to all Councillors within the standard paperwork distributed to them on a monthly basis.

16/17.074 CLERK'S FOLLOW UP DIARY:

Nothing arising from the previous meeting.

16/17.075 OFFICE ACCOMMODATION – REVIEW/DISCUSSION

CW updated the meeting concerning discussions that had taken place with Littleport Society about their requirements for space and the Parish Council's future space requirements.

Littleport Society had expressed a desire for somewhere to display their artefacts and whilst nothing would happen in the near future options were being investigated by the Society as to possible solutions.

Despite hearsay, CW has assured the Society that there is no intention to give them notice and that the Parish Council will work hand in hand with the Society to ensure that the best solution is found to enable the Society to continue the valuable work that they do.

CW has been invited to the next meeting of the Society on 29<sup>th</sup> November to learn about the Society's progress in this issue.

16/17.076 MAINTENANCE ISSUES – BRANDON CREEK PICNIC AREA

In the absence of Cllr Norman this item was deferred to the meeting to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

16/17.077 VERBAL REPORT ON THE VALUATION OFFICE RE-EVALUATION OF PROPERTIES

The Clerks have received notification that the re-valuation of properties owned by the Parish Council has now been concluded by the Valuation Office.

The Clerk informed Members of the changes in rateable value as the following:

Property/Premises	Previous	New	Change
Ground Floor, The Barn	£4,750	£5,900	Up £1,150
Store at Old Toilets	£950	£870	Down £80
Black Horse Drove			No Change
Cemetery	£810	£4,750	Up £3,940

The Clerk has spoken, at length, to the Valuation Office and the Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) in relation to the revaluation of the Cemetery in light of the exceptionally large increase and has been informed that at the previous revaluation (2010) the Valuation Office omitted to include the Cemetery Building and, in addition, the value of open space land (as determined by the Valuation Office) has increased from £15,000 per hectare to £100,000 per hectare. The Valuation Office agreed that they had also mis-calculated the size of the cemetery during their previous valuation (0.64 hectares in 2010 and 2.335 hectares in 2016).

The ARP has confirmed that as the Parish Council is a precepting body no relief is available and on current estimates the NNDR bill for the year 2017-18 will be in the region of £2,219 per annum.

The ARP have recommended that the Parish Council appeal this re-valuation and it was AGREED that the Clerks commence the process to appeal the valuation. It was acknowledged that a "worst case scenario" must be factored into the Parish Council's deliberations concerning budgets and the Precept request which will take place at the meeting scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> December.

16/17.078 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

CAS – Additional land has now been secured to increase the capacity of the Station car park by approximately 88 spaces (to a total of around 120). The planning application in relation to this will be submitted to the District Council shortly. It is hoped that the additional spaces will be in use by late summer 2017.

It is now anticipated that work will commence on the Ely Southern Bypass by Easter 2017. The Leisure Centre is on track and due to open in 2018.

The Cinema is still scheduled to open in spring 2017 and the underpass (for access to the new Leisure Centre) is scheduled to open in summer 2017.  
The next draft of the Local Plan has been accepted by full council and is due to be released for a further round of consultation in January 2017.  
PC – The major upgrade of the District Council’s IT system is still in progress but the VOIP telephone system is not yet fully functioning.  
JW – The District Council website has been upgraded and customers are being encouraged to make full use of the self service options now available for reporting issues etc.

16/17.079 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:  
No report received.

Items for inclusion on the agenda for 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 were noted by the Clerks.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

Dated:

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