

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Barn on Monday 20th February 2017 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor C Ambrose Smith
Councillor D Ambrose Smith
Councillor P Cox
Councillor S Green
Councillor D Jordan
Councillor L Malkin
Councillor D Murfitt
Councillor G Norman
Councillor E Dos Santos
Councillor C W Webber
Councillor J Webber

Members of the Public: 0
Also present the Clerk

16/17.106 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

16/17.107 APOLOGIES & ABSENCES:
Cllrs Brown, Kerridge, Lee and Wright – Apologies

16/17.108 DECLARATIONS:
None

16/17.109 MINUTES:
The following Minutes were signed by the Chairman as true and accurate: Finance Committee – 16th January 2017, Full Council – 16th January 2017 and Planning Committee – 30th January 2017.

16/17.110 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:
There will be a meeting on Monday 13th March here at The Barn, to which all Parish Councillors are invited to attend, to meet with Rob Moy and Andy Watson of Morgan Sindall, Jason Wing (Executive Head Teacher) and Scott Askins (Head of School) to hear about the build, the education vision and their plans for working with the community. The meeting will commence at 6pm.

Following this at 7pm, Sgt Phil Priestley will be presenting his report on the Urban Art Project which the Police are leading on. This project forms part of the Littleport Community Partnership Project which is being led by Nick Ball from ECDC and Inspector Marcia Pringle from the Police and which covers, amongst other things, the Urban Art Project, the community garden, works to be carried out by the Community PayBack Team, the way forward for the youth groups within the village etc. There have been two meetings so far with representatives from ECDC, the Police, the Fire Brigade, the County Council drugs and domestic violence teams, the County Council Youth Service, Littleport Life magazine and a couple of parish councillors to name just a few. The entire project is very much in its infancy and when more concrete plans etc have been formulated these will, of course, be reported on to full Council.

Jo Coe of ThePORT has provided me with some financial information which will form part of a formal request from ThePORT for financial assistance to enable the group to continue, and

grow, during the transition from the current Leisure Centre to the new Leisure Centre (or any other location as may be identified in the future). This request will formally come before you at our meeting in March.

On Saturday 25th March we will be holding a Village Surgery at the Village Hall from 9.30am till 12noon which will be advertised throughout the village and on social media. Attendees who have confirmed attendance are Environmental Services from the District Council, the Police, Sanctuary Housing and the Town Team. The idea is to hold an open event which residents can just pop into and ask questions, request advice/help etc. Everyone is welcome and if any of you are able to assist on the day that would be really helpful.

On 3rd April there will be a “meet and greet” session taking place in the North Bar at the Leisure Centre from 4pm to 6pm to which I will be inviting local businesses to come along to start the creation of links which will be of benefit to the students and the community as a whole. If any Parish Councillor would like to provide me with contact names for local businesses please so that I can put them onto the invitation list. All Parish Councillors are also cordially invited.

16/17.111 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

16/17.112 CLERK'S FOLLOW UP DIARY:

Several companies have been to the Village Hall to provide more comprehensive quotations for the works required. At this time we are still awaiting receipt of all the quotations so analysis will not take place until all are received. The Clerks will report back to the next meeting on 20th March.

A survey and quotation is awaited from CambLine in relation to the repainting of the various areas of white and yellow lines. This will be chased up.

The remedial works in Main Street have been put onto the list for the Community PayBack team and this is now with Nick Ball at ECDC. It is anticipated that the PayBack team will be block booked to Littleport on an annual basis.

Confirmation has been received from the County Council that an order for the clean up works at Brandon Creek Picnic Area has now been placed and this work should commence in the next 4-6 weeks.

Policing Update

Three local heavy drug users are now in rehabilitation. It would appear that some of the “dealers” have moved to Ely as it is becoming too uncomfortable for them in Littleport with the increased Police presence.

At this point in the agenda the meeting went into closed session to receive a confidential update.

After the update the meeting resumed in open session.

16/17.113 ECDC LOCAL PLAN – CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Parish Councillors had been requested by the Clerk to re-examine the latest draft of ECDC's Local Plan and the inclusion of the previous comments of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed that the comments included were correct and no additional comments were required. The Clerk was requested to convey this information to ECDC.

16/17.114 LANDLORD RESPONSIBILITIES – VILLAGE HALL

Due to additional information having been received, the further investigations currently being undertaken and not all quotations received the Chairman deferred this item to the next meeting of full Council which will take place on Monday 20th March 2017.

16/17.115 STAFF – FIXED TERM APPOINTMENT

Following a meeting between the Grounds Maintenance Operative, the Chairman of the Open Spaces and Cemetery Committee and the Clerk full Council were asked to confirm that a fixed term Grounds Maintenance operative be engaged for 6 months from 1st April 2017.

Discussion ensued concerning membership of the interview panel and it was agreed that Cllrs Norman and C Webber along with the Clerk would conduct the interviews during week commencing 20th March 2017. The Clerk would also liaise with the Parish Council's HR adviser to ascertain whether they may also be able to attend.

It was AGREED that the advertisement for this post be placed as soon as practicable.

16/17.116 SOUTHERY CEMETERY – REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

The Clerk provided those present with a synopsis of the request that had been received from Southery Parish Council in relation to an assistance request for the maintenance of their cemetery (grass cutting and strimming only).

It was AGREED that the Clerk be instructed to communicate with the Clerk of Southery concerning the amount that this Parish Council would need to charge for maintenance in order for the provision of the service to not have a detrimental effect upon this Parish Council's finances.

16/17.117 CCTV – UPGRADE AND MAINTENANCE

This item to be deferred to the meeting in March due to quotations not having been received at the time of this meeting.

16/17.118 MOBILE PHONE SIGNAL ISSUES

This item had been requested to be added to the agenda to highlight to residents of the village that the Parish Council are aware of the problems that have been encountered over recent weeks during upgrades/repairs that are being carried out on the mobile phone masts around the village and the lack of signal.

All those experiencing issues are requested to speak directly and personally to their mobile provider to ensure that issues are logged.

16/17.119 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE – CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Clerk provided those present with draft Terms of Reference for a more streamlined committee structure which it is proposed will be adopted by the Parish Council at the Annual General Meeting which takes place on 15th May 2017.

Councillors were asked to peruse these documents and bring any comments/suggestions to the next meeting (20th March) for consideration.

16/17.120 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Cllr C Ambrose Smith updated the meeting over the movement in the status/situation of the Princess of Wales Hospital (the issue having been raised in the Houses of Parliament by Lucy Frazer MP). Discussions were also taking place at East Cambs in relation to local

infrastructure. There had been complaints received concerning what would appear to be non-emptying of the various dog bins within the village. This had been raised with the Waste Team at ECDC and was being followed up.

Cllr J Webber updated the meeting in respect of the LHI Panel she had attended to promote the Parish Council's bid for funding to purchase speed activated signs for use by the Community Speedwatch Team. The outcome would be known later in the year. She also provided a brief synopsis of the Community Project Team which had been instigated by an officer from ECDC and the Police. All Parish Councillors would be invited to attend the next meeting.

16/17.121 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

No report received.

Items for inclusion on the agenda for 20th March 2017 were noted by the Clerk, these being:

Update on the Leisure Centre

Village Hall – Quotations etc

CCTV – Upgrade and Maintenance

Committee Structure – Consultation Process

ThePORT – Request for financial assistance

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

Dated:

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