

## LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Barn on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Members of the Public: 0

Also present the Clerk and Clerk Emeritus

16/17.138 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:  
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

16/17.139 APOLOGIES & ABSENCES:  
Cllrs Murfitt and Wright – Apologies. Cllr Brown – Absent.

16/17.140 DECLARATIONS:  
Cllrs G Norman and C Ambrose Smith – Village Hall Committee

16/17.141 MINUTES:  
The following Minutes were signed by the Chairman as true and accurate: Planning Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April; Finance Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Full Council – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017.  
Cllr E Dos Santos requested that it be minuted that she had provided apologies for the Full Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March and should not be marked as 'absent'.

16/17.142 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:  
The Community PayBack Team are due to commence doing the "wish list" this coming weekend (23<sup>rd</sup> April) and will be in attendance for a minimum of two days a week until the list is completed. They will also be in attendance for a couple of days per week every March/April from 2018 going forward.  
Further reports have been received about acts of vandalism of play equipment – the latest being today when a report received of the seesaw at Croft Park Road having had its top cover removed again. This was only replaced 2 months ago following an earlier act of vandalism (at a cost of £300).  
Quotations are currently awaited for CambLine to restore white and yellow lines at various locations around the village and detailed costings will be provided to the May meeting of the Parish Council.  
A site survey has now been carried out by Clear View and the order for the upgrading of the CCTV system will be placed within the next two weeks.  
A meeting has been arranged with ECDC to progress issues in respect of The Paddocks, Main Street improvements, public toilets etc. An update following this meeting will be provided to the next Parish Council meeting.  
A meet and greet for the new School has been organised for next Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> April. All local businesses have been invited to attend in order for them to meet with the new

Principals and talk about how local businesses can support the students (ie work experience, apprenticeships etc).

A reminder – next month (15<sup>th</sup> May 2017) is the Annual Parish Meeting when the Parish Council will be adopting the new Committee Structure and Councillors will be asked which Committee they wish to serve on. There will also take place the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for full Council and Chairmen for the new Committees. New protocols in respect of CCTV and IT, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations will also be adopted. The meeting will commence at 6pm in the Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by an ordinary Parish Council meeting.

**16/17.143 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

**16/17.144 CLERK'S FOLLOW UP DIARY:**

The Internal Auditor has attended and reconciled all the Parish Council bank accounts in readiness for the completion of the External Audit paperwork.

**16/17.145 VILLAGE HALL – LANDLORD/TENANT RELATIONSHIP**

Revised tender quotations had been requested in respect of the works required to the village hall ceiling which are still awaited. One contractor has informed the Parish Council that they are unable to quote for the work.

The Chairman updated the meeting concerning his slight concern over comments made in respect of the works required and had written to the Village Hall Committee chairman accordingly. The Chairman outlined his views on the way forward insofar as it was possible that the Parish Council Office could take on formal full responsibility of bookings etc where it was currently done on an informal basis. It was felt that the governance issues should also be formalised in order to provide the Village Hall Committee, and the Parish Council, with a strong, sound footing for the future.

Members of the Parish Council raised various issues but ultimately agreed that the Parish Council must support the Village Hall Committee and it was AGREED that an approach be made to the Village Hall Committee to set up a working group to explore how the two organisations could work together, for the benefit of the users of the hall and the village as a whole.

Three members of the Parish Council volunteered to be part of this working group, these being Councillor G Norman, Councillor Lisa Malkin and Councillor Clive Webber.

**16/17.146 YOUTH BUILDING**

The Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting with representatives from ECDC to discuss the viability/possibility of a dedicated 'youth building' could be progressed in terms of funding streams etc.

Currently it was envisaged that funds in the region of £350,000 would be required and a couple of ideas had been discussed including the creation of a Community Land Trust ("CLT") which could be used to raise funds and would own the building for the benefit of the community in perpetuity.

Discussion took place concerning the merits of a CLT and whether this would be the correct vehicle to provide such a facility. It was agreed that any building should be within the central location of the village as opposed to on the outskirts and it was accepted that the formation of a CLT would just be part of the funding solution. It was further acknowledged that this would not be a 'quick fix' and that the process of securing land and funding would take some considerable time.

It was AGREED that further investigations be undertaken by the Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman, and their findings reported back to the next full Council meeting for information.

16/17.147 NETWORK RAIL – CROSSING CLOSURES

Members were reminded that additional comments in respect of the proposed crossing closures was required to be submitted no later than 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

Following discussion it was AGREED that the Parish Council would not be submitting any further comments in respect of the planned crossing closures by Network Rail.

16/17.148 LEASEHOLD LAND ENQUIRY

An enquiry had been received from Bolt Asset Management in respect of the land at St George's Medical Centre asking if the Parish Council would consider exploring the possibility of them purchasing the freehold interest or extending the term of the long leasehold. The enquiry had been forwarded to all members of the Parish Council upon its receipt for comment and the Clerk had been requested to ascertain Bolt Asset Management's rationale for the request.

Confirmation had been received back stating:

- (a) They are reviewing all long leasehold arrangements so as to tidy up the investments they hold.
- (b) To save all parties legal costs etc when dealing with issues that arise under the current arrangement.
- (c) To provide them with more security.

There are currently 112 years left on the lease.

Members were of the view that they did not wish to explore this suggestion and it was AGREED that the Clerk write to Bolt Asset Management declining their suggestion to enter into negotiations.

16/17.149 SECTION 137 – GRANT APPLICATION

An application had been received from Littleport Rangers Football Club for grant funding for offering level one football coaching training to 2 volunteer coaches; first aid qualifications to 6 volunteers and coaches over the course of 12 months; DBS checks for 10 volunteers over the year; level 2 football coaching for one coach; additional storage capabilities.

Following discussion it was AGREED that representatives from Littleport Rangers Football Club be invited to the next available meeting (Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – Planning Committee) in order for members to ask specific questions before a decision on any grant was taken.

The Clerk was instructed to invite representatives accordingly.

16/17.150 ECDC DRAFT LOCAL PLAN – ADDITIONAL SITE SUGGESTIONS

Two additional employment sites and one small housing site had come forward to East Cambs District Council following their further call for land in respect of their emerging draft Local Plan.

The Parish Council have no objections to these sites being included in the draft Local Plan, in addition to those already included.

The Clerk was instructed to submit the appropriate comments to ECDC.

16/17.151 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Cllr C Ambrose Smith updated the meeting on the new committee structure which had been adopted by ECDC Full Council in preparation for the reduction in the number of district councillors in two years time, following the Boundary Commission review.

Cllr J Webber informed the meeting that she had, in conjunction with Speedwatch, carried out a snapshot survey of various locations where it was hoped the new MVAS signs could be mounted. This information had been passed through to the County Council and confirmation was awaited from them as to their suitability.

Cllr C Ambrose Smith asked whether it would be possible to have erected signs along Black Horse Drove requesting drivers to observe a voluntary speed limit of 30mph. A formal reduction of the speed limit had been requested of the County Council Highways department but the road did not meet their criteria so the request had been rejected in the

past. It was agreed that enquiries be made as to whether “unofficial” signs could be erected on the verge.

16/17.152 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:  
No report received.

Items for inclusion on the agenda for 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were noted by the Clerks, these being:  
Section 137 Grant decision

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm

Signed:

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Chairman

Dated:

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DRAFT