

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Village Assembly (Open Meeting)** held in The Village Hall on Monday 21st May 2018 at 6.30pm

PRESENT:

- Councillor C W Webber
- Councillor C M Ambrose Smith
- Councillor D I Ambrose Smith
- Councillor F Brown – **Absent**
- Councillor P M Cox
- Councillor S Green
- Councillor D Jordan
- Councillor S Kerridge – **Absent**
- Councillor J J B Lee
- Councillor L Malkin
- Councillor D Murfitt – **Absent**
- Councillor G Norman
- Councillor E Dos Santos
- Councillor J Webber
- Councillor A Wright – **Apologies**

Also present the Clerk and Clerk Emeritus
Also present 2 Members of the Public

OP.01 INTRODUCTIONS:

Those Councillors present introduced themselves to the members of the public in attendance.

OP.02 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Open Meeting which took place on 15th May 2017 were signed as a correct record.

OP.03 ACCOUNTS:

The audited accounts of Littleport Town Lands Charity and Littleport Parish Council to 31st March 2017 and the audited accounts of Littleport Parish Council to 31st March 2017 are available for inspection at the Parish Council Offices during office hours.

OP.04 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2018:

The Chairman presented the Citizen of the Year Award for 2018 to Mrs Maureen Scott in recognition of her services to the village in respect of The Littleport Society. Mrs Scott thanked the Parish Council for the award and proceeded to recite a local poem about the maritime history of Littleport.

OP.05 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman updated the meeting with the achievements of the Parish Council over the preceding 12 months and this is appended to these Minutes.

OP.06 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

06.1 Could the Parish Council update those present on what the plans are for the Paddocks?

The Chairman outlined the plans for the proposed full public consultation to take place later in the year. The consultation document will provide some alternative uses and residents will be asked their opinion before any final decision is made. This consultation will take place via both electronic means (internet survey) and paper copy.

06.2 Who is responsible for Old Croft River? It is currently very congested with weeds and rubbish, it needs clearing and tidying up.

Cllr Norman stated that he believes that it is the responsibility of the Environment Agency but the Parish Council will make enquiries to confirm the position and request that remedial works are undertaken.

06.3 The old ROC along Ely Road is currently being accessed by some of the village youngsters and using it for illicit activities. Does the Parish Council know who is the owner of the ROC and is there anyway it can be policed?

It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries via the Land Registry to ascertain the owner.

There being no further questions from those members of the public present the meeting closed at 6.59 pm.

Signed:

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Chairman

Dated:

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DRAFT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 21st MAY 2018

The Community Hub – East Cambridgeshire District Council, working in partnership with the Parish Council, are now running a monthly community drop-in event on the first Thursday of every month between 10am and 1pm in the Village Hall. If you need to talk to someone/need advice on debt, alcohol misuse, drug dependency, housing/homelessness, benefits, mental health, domestic violence etc, representatives are there for you to talk to. No need to make an appointment, just drop in. Hot drinks and food are also freely available.

Paddocks – At long last, after many years, the transfer documents have now been signed by the Parish Council and ECDC so work can start on bringing them into use as a Green Open Space for all residents of the village. We will be producing a short consultation document with ideas for what could be created there and we would really welcome as many responses as possible so that plans can be drawn up.

Cemetery – At the current cemetery, our head groundsman and members of the Amenities Sub-Committee have identified areas that can be used to extend the current provision to allow time for the new cemetery to be created and opened.

We have started work on the new cemetery site, levelling the site, setting the grass and green hedging to allow this to mature for a few years. The hard landscaping, access and building are unlikely to start for a couple of years but the Parish Council have already started planning this stage.

Local Plan – The Local Plan is now in its final stages and we await the Planning Inspectorate's comments on whether the plan is "sound". We are pleased that ECDC have agreed with our proposals and included them within the final draft which is currently with the Inspectors.

Local Policing and CCTV Cameras – As you may know, Cambridgeshire Police have changed from community policing to reactive policing across the county. We are still working closely with our local policing team and have extended our CCTV coverage giving the Police access to our system.

We are currently also looking to extend the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme throughout the village and would like to hear from anyone that may be interested in setting up a group in their road.

Tourism – Tourism services for Littleport is moving directly to the Parish Council (from ECDC) and we will be looking to actively promote the village and the business opportunities in the village.

Village Centre – Last year the Community Payback team painted the street furniture and will be back this year to continue working their way through the list of projects proposed by the Parish Council.

At a recent meeting, the Highways Agency confirmed that they will be refreshing the white and yellow lines helping to lift the appearance of the village centre.

Community Urban Art Project – Residents will have noticed that the old toilet block on Ely Road has seen somewhat of a transformation with the installation of an urban art display which some of the young people of the village participated in creating. The trees have had their crowns raised so that the area is now light and pleasant. A bug hotel has also been installed and it is hoped that new railings can be erected later in the year. The project was led by the local Police team with assistance from the Parish Council.

Working Groups

Transport and Access – These groups are meeting regularly and have produced some really detailed work which will be put into the Littleport Transport Plan setting out a clear vision for the village.

Parish Council Office – Lynda has now decided that the time is right for her to step back from the Parish Council and will be retiring from her role as Clerk Emeritus as soon as a new Deputy Clerk has been appointed. Lynda has provided an invaluable service to the village over many many years and her wealth of knowledge will be sorely missed.

Summing Up

With two big projects starting and others in the pipeline we will have a very busy period ahead of us but I believe that we are starting to reap the benefits of being a proactive Council.

Having non-councillors on working groups is working really well and I look forward to other groups being set up for our new projects.

The Parish Council is constantly trying to improve and we are always happy to hear your views on our performance. Please take the opportunity to make contact direct or via our contact page on the Parish Council website should you wish to comment, require our help or want to work with the Parish Council.