

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 21ST October 2002
at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor D T Murfitt
Councillor B E Boddington
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor P M Cox
Councillor J H Crane
Councillor B W Hayes
Councillor J M Howard
Councillor S D Kerridge
Councillor G Norman
Councillor J M Peachey
Councillor M Pyrah
Councillor A N Wright

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a] Resignation of Councillor C R Barber was received with sadness. In view of the many years service to the community given by Councillor Barber it was unanimously agreed that this be recognised and a scroll is presented to him, also a letter of appreciation is sent from the Council.
- b] Remembrance Day Parade 10th November 2002
- c] Future Meetings: Parish Forum 28th October 2002 – Ely Sector Local Community Consultation meeting 13th November 2002 and CALC Councillors Training day 1st February 2003
- d] The following publications are available from the Clerk:
Fens Tourism News – hlec News – site meeting minutes re: Health Centre
- e] Further tree works to be carried out at St Georges Churchyard
- f] Letter from Littleport Business Group arrived too late for Grants agenda – seeking to erect a welcome sign on Wisbech Road.
- g] Church Clock self winding mechanism installed. Understood PCC and British Legion will make donations towards the costs. ECDC has no funding available at this time.
- h] Health for life brochure available.

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Green, LE J Murfitt and the Police

3. MINUTES:

Before the reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 16th September 2002, the Planning Committee & Play Equipment, Allotments, Open Spaces and Footpaths Working Party meetings held on 23rd September 2002, the Street Lighting and Cemetery Working Party meetings held on 7th October 2002 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 14th October 2002 were confirmed.

Councillor Mrs Howard asked to leave on record under Agenda Item 14 the flood data questionnaire required a response after a flood. Agreed.

Councillor Wright said that the minutes should reflect the views of the Council and under Minute No 1 wished to see inserted “ members were disturbed with what they heard and were not satisfied with Mr Mack’s proposals” Agreed. The reports were then confirmed.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Boddington reported on the following recommendations:

i. £500.00 donation to the Celebration Lights Committee

ii. Section 137 Grants:

Littleport Scout Group – letter of support and suggestion they contact ACRE and Lottery for funding.

Littleport Neighbourhood Watch – Offer use of Parish Council copier with free copying and paper for the production of the monthly newsletter

East Anglian Air Ambulance - £100.00

After School Club – following lengthy discussion and the limited budget available it was agreed to invite Mrs Coggins to attend a Parish Council Meeting with a business plan and to answer councillors’ questions.

Agreed.

5. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported;

Block Dispensation response received and it is not required for councillors to debate and vote on matters affecting organisations to which they have been appointed by the Parish Council.

Response received on Traffic issues. Councillor Hayes reported on proposals under the jointly funded minor improvement scheme to provide traffic signs and road markings at Wisbech/ Woodfen Road junction from last years budget and similar approach for Station Road from the current budget. Councillors were frustrated that a previously approved scheme for Wisbech/ Woodfen Road had been overturned. It was unanimously agreed a letter be sent to County Council Highways asking why the schemes had not been done and to get assurances they will be in place by Christmas.

A meeting to report on the progress of the Age Concern Warden scheme had taken place. Councillor Mrs Howard will report in more detail at the next council meeting but intimated they would require additional funding to continue the scheme.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Wright asked the Clerk to obtain a copy of the Off Street Parking Orders by law in order to show the Police that gatherings etc in the Car Park are an offence.

It had been noted that due to a shortage of Police Officers a number of the duty days worked by the Community Beat Officers had been changed to cover shift duties in Ely. Agreed a letter be sent to the Police asking if these facts are correct and what are the intentions for Police cover in Littleport between now and Christmas.

Councillor Hayes reported on the difficulties for first time buyers to afford housing in the area. More affordable houses are needed. Councillor Wright suggested that the point should be made at Planning Meetings for the need of genuine affordable housing with shared equity when relevant applications are received.

A District Council housing survey disclosed there were a number of substandard properties in Littleport.

Community Café having been bankrolled by Branching Out is now understood to be breaking even.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report. Agreed to write a letter noting his presence has been missed.

8. CEMETERY WORKING PARTY:

The Chairman invited amendments to the proposed cemetery rules. It was agreed to add to rule Number 1 "with the exception of guide dogs" and to add Number 9. "Graves to be dug under the direction of the Council." Approved.

There was a need to purchase a tractor with grass cutting attachments to meet the additional demands.

The new cemetery gates are ready to be hung. A load of concrete will be required for the posts and for the extension of the hard standing outside the workshop.

The surplus soil will be used to level out some uneven areas of the cemetery and the excess will be removed by the Chairman who holds a valid waste license when a digger is available.

Agreed to accept the precept projection for the next financial year.

9. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000:

It was unanimously agreed to adopt the model scheme.

10. PARTNERSHIP MEETING:

Councillor Hayes asked to receive any amendments to the Health check document.

Concern was raised by Councillor Wright on how the partnership was proceeding following its inception following the rural challenge bids of the early nineties.

News that Friars Nine was an archaeological site needed clarification

11. JOINTLY FUNDED MINOR IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES:

Councillor Hayes explained that each Parish may submit two schemes although only the one scoring more points will be considered.

Last years losing scheme was for 20mph speed reduction.

It was agreed to re-submit this scheme as first choice and a footpath from the Leisure Centre on Camel Road leading to the bypass as the second choice.

In view of the two schemes approved in the two previous rounds it was agreed to write asking for consideration being given for the inclusion of similar flashing 30mph signs on Ely Road in conjunction with the new road works planned to coincide with the development of Highfield.

12. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MEETING:

Copies of the minutes were circulated. Councillor Hayes reported his disappointment at the lack of answers to agenda items.

Littleport Health Centre had not yet taken up the offer of the free “message in the fridge” containers. However they were freely available from Audley Garage and The Barn.

It was agreed to seek the views of other parishes with regard to community policing.

13. STREET LIGHTING:

Councillor Brown reported on the working party meeting and the proposals to precept for two columns per year to bring Black Horse Drove up to county standard also Plains Lane. A precept of £6000 for the year 2003/2004 was approved.

14. PLAY EQUIPMENT:

Councillor Norman reported on a meeting with Miracle Play Equipment who were appointed by Lindum Construction to report on the new equipment for the Parsons Lane site. Two areas of equipment were agreed including a fence around the toddlers’ equipment. Agreed the fencing to be painted green. The choice of the other equipment to be left to the Assistant Clerk to select.

Annual Inspection of other play areas carried out by Wicksteed Leisure indicated a number of repairs were required. Agreed to instruct Wicksteed Leisure to carry out the works with the exception of the See-saw at Croft Park Road. Lappsett have now replaced plank. Agreed to seek quotation to relay the safety mats saved from Parsons Lane under equipment at Black Horse Drove.

15. CONTRACTED BUS SERVICES:

Councillor Miss Peachey agreed to respond the County Council.

16. INFORMATION PACK:

Councillor Crane reported on a meeting held with members from the District Council, FLAG and the Littleport Business Group. Funding for the project included £3000 from the Parish Council, £1000 each from ECDC and EEDA and local sponsorship.

Two options were discussed, firstly production of a booklet and secondly using a graphic designer to produce a cover with an initial run of 10,000 and to produce 5000 booklets. Additional information could be inserted in the cover.

The next meeting of the group will be held on 4th November. Councillor Wright resolved that the council would prefer the pack to be in booklet form with a better quality cover, reprints every two years and a local group to proof read the copy. Seconded by Councillor Boddington. Carried 10 votes to 2 against.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE