

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 16th December 2002 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

- Councillor D T Murfitt
- Councillor B E Boddington
- Councillor F J Brown
- Councillor L Cooper
- Councillor P M Cox
- Councillor J H Crane
- Councillor S Green
- Councillor B W Hayes
- Councillor J M Howard
- Councillor L E J Murfitt
- Councillor G Norman
- Councillor J M Peachey
- Councillor M Pyrah
- Councillor A N Wright

Also present Mr C R Barber and District Councillor N Morrison

1. PRESENTATION TO Mr C R BARBER:

The Chairman presented a framed illuminated scroll to ex Councillor C R Barber (Ron) in recognition of his 35 years as a Parish Councillor and he was thanked for all the work he has undertaken over the years for the good of Littleport.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a] The Chairman reminded members of rule 30 in Standing Orders.
- b] Chairman's Annual Christmas party RSVP to Clerk
- c] Letters of thanks re: grant to After School Club received.
- d] Special Meeting at East Cambs District Council January 6th 2003 on budget
- e] Map and advanced signing of flooding at Welney Washes – comments to Clerk
- f] CALC Workshops 1st February and 27th February 2003
- g] The following publications are available from the Clerk
 - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority Annual Report 2001/2002 –
 - Local Agenda 21 Newsletter – Hereward Herald – The Clerk – Preparing for floods information pack – GET meeting minutes – Littleport Healthcheck – The Rubbish Consultation and the Strategy for dealing with municipal solid waste 2002 – 2022 and Twinning News
- h] ECDC Best Value Performance Plan available on their Website

3. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies for absence

4. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:

Councillor Mrs L Cooper duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the meeting.

5. MINUTES:

Before the reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 18th November 2002, the Planning Committee Meeting held on 25th November 2002, the Skate Park and Portacabin Meetings held on December 2nd 2002 and the After School club Meeting held on 4th December 2002 were confirmed Councillor Wright pointed out his comments in Paragraph 3 of Agenda Item 7 in the Parish Council Minutes were a sarcastic comment on a waste of further public money spent on Jubilee Gardens in Ely.

6. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Boddington reported on the recommendation to purchase a McCormick tractor from Gordon Harrison for £8000.00 subject to a satisfactory demonstration of the vehicle at the Cemetery. Funding would be spread over 2/3 years.

Agreed.

The work on the Aerial Runway at Parsons Lane had not been completed and the final payment had been withheld.

7. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- a] Jointly funded Minor Improvement schemes for Wisbech Road and Station Road were now progressing to the legal procedure stage.
- b] The "Gazebo" has now been installed on the Playing Field at Parsons Lane
- c] No response from Business Group on Welcome Sign or Countryside Agency questionnaire
- d] There is no Police Ombudsman – complaints should be directed to John Reynolds
- e] Station Underpass is still flooded. Raw sewage and rats have been detected. Agreed Environmental Health be contacted and Rail track.
- f] Lindum Construction will have some additional expenses to add to the Play Equipment quote by Miracle Play on the Parsons Lane site enclosed with the site meeting minutes previously circulated
- g] Councillor Crane had attended another Information Pack Meeting – a copy of the proposed front cover was circulated. Hoping to produce the first edition in March 2003 with a £2000 contribution by the Parish.
- h] The street light in the walkway from Main Street to the car park was now operational. Following an attempted mugging in Globe Lane agreed Street Lighting Committee should look into provision of better lighting in that area.

8. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Hayes was still pursuing the School Bus problems at Brandon Creek

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report

10. EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH 11

Councillors had already passed comments on the extinguishment of Public Footpath 11 and stand by their earlier comments.

11. MODEL SCHEME- FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000:

The Model Publication Scheme for Local Councils re Freedom of Information Act 2000 was received and no comments were received on optional core classes to be included in the scheme.

12. NUISANCE AT GRANBY STREET HEALTH CENTRE:

A copy of a letter sent by Doctor S Maher and partners to the Chief Constable was received.

Agreed the Parish Council should also write to the Chief Constable expressing concern and asking what action he has taken in the light of Doctor Maher's letter.

13. MILLFIELD SCHOOL GOVERNOR:

Councillor Mrs L Cooper agreed to fill the vacant position on the Board of Governors at Millfield Primary School.

14. INAUGURAL ANNUAL AWARD:

Councillor Crane's intention for this award was to honour a parishioner who had provided a service to the community in the current year.

Councillor Wright asked that in future years the proposer of any nominees makes a short presentation on why they have chosen their candidate.

A ballot of the four nominees took place. Councillor Crane received the most votes and will be presented with his award at the next meeting of the Council for his continued work as a Parish Councillor and tireless member of numerous committees.

15. PORTACABIN:

Councillor Boddington reported that he and several councillors had looked at 26 potential sites for the Portacabin and this had been reduced to 4/5 sites as suitable. Favourites were the site of the old Medway hut on Parsons Lane and the site of the old garages at Upton Place.

Discussion took place on the various expenses that would be incurred on the setting up and running of the Portacabin. Concern was raised about the future running costs and this could be to heavier a burden on the parish precept.

Before proceeding further with discussion a vote was taken on whether to carry on with the project. 12 in favour of carry on and two abstentions.

The Safer Villages Initiative would organise the project and report back recommendations to parish.

Councillor Wright drew attention to the facility that was available on the college site and had been closed by Community Education. Agreed a letter be sent to the County Council asking what are the statutory duties for youth provision in the village.

Hereward Housing had responded to a letter about possible sites for the Portacabin and would write again. Councillor Hayes to follow this up. A special bank account inviting donations from the general public had been opened and a donation of £50 had already been received.

A proper business plan will need to be drawn up. The next meeting of the Safer Villages Initiative will take place on January 13th 2003.

16. SKATE PARK:

Councillor Hayes reported informally of the Leisure Centre Trustees agreement to part of the Leisure Centre site at Camel Road being used for a skate park subject to license conditions yet to be discussed.

The next stage is to draw up plans and hold an open meeting before submitting the plans to the local planning authority.

Funding will come from the parish and district councils and it is understood there are other sources. Mr Chris Fennell from the District Council will help coordinate the funding issues. The Skaters are themselves raising funds.

17. SCHOOL BUS – BRANDON CREEK:

The response from the County Council's Education Department was not acceptable to the Council and it was agreed to write again with a copy to County Councillor Bailey.

Agreed to send a copy of the initial response to the parents of the children affected.

18. BROADBAND:

Councillor Cox spoke eloquently on the subject of Broadband. The parish does not want to be left behind. BT is a major provider and they would need to modernise the telephone exchange for the village to benefit from this hi tech advance in Internet communication.

It was agreed to write to Ray Harding at the District Council enlisting his help.

In confirmation of the foregoing report.....

CHAIRMAN

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DATE