

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 17th February 2003
at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor D T Murfitt
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor L Cooper
Councillor J H Crane
Councillor S Green
Councillor J M Howard
Councillor S D Kerridge
Councillor L E J Murfitt
Councillor G Norman
Councillor J M Peachey
Councillor A N Wright

1. PRESENTATION TO DOCTOR DOBER:

The Chairman presented Doctor Michael Dober with an engraved spade used to dig the first sod for the new Health Centre on the Parsons Lane Playing Field.

In response Doctor Dober regretted due to his early retirement due to personal reasons he would not be working in the new premises. He wished to recognise the continued work carried out by Mrs Yvonne Bartram and Doctor Richard Heighton to bring about this much needed facility to the growing parish.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a] Littleport After School Club has closed still leaving some outstanding debts
- b] Parish Paths Partnership Application received.
- c] Healthy Living AGM 27th March 2003
- d] Ely Sector Local Consultation Meeting 4th March 2003
- e] ECDC Standards Committee Meeting 10th March 2003
- f] Historical Resource and Cultural Centre fact sheet and brochure
- g] Community Safety Partnership Meeting 18th March 2003 cancelled

3. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boddington, Cox, Hayes and Pyrah and County Councillor P Bailey

5. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on January 2003, the Planning Committee Meeting held on 27th January 2003 and the Safer Villages Subcommittee Meeting held on 5th February 2003 were confirmed.

5 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

There were no recommendations from the Finance Committee

6. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

Then Broad Band application has been submitted. Councillors Cox and Hayes were attending a presentation at East Cambridgeshire District Council on the subject.

The Brandon Creek School Bus would be the subject of an independent road safety assessment.

County Council had responded to our letter on Youth Provision. Agreed this be placed on the next agenda.

The grassed area at Ponds Hill will now need re-turfing in addition to have bollards placed to stop vehicles parking . John Selby to be reminded again.

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Wright reported that the District Council will be pressing on with their 5% increase. A £200,000 overspend is also envisaged.

Councillor Wright on behalf of the Independent Councillors had submitted an alternative budget with no increase at District level. The current budget proposals proposed by the Liberal Democrats together with County Council, Police Authority and Parish Council levies will mean a 10% increase for Band D payers in the next year. Included in the budget is £600,000 titled future improvement.

The Home Energy Conservation Officer is hoping to have a session in the Village promoting the use of low energy light bulbs and giving away samples to the elderly and those in receipt of benefits.

Councillor Kerridge reported on the need for land to meet the need for more low cost Housing

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report

9. SAFER VILLAGES SUB- COMMITTEE:

It is understood Inspector Causer will be leaving within the month. Councillors who attended the meeting felt it was a most positive meeting.

The Clerk was informed that letters addressed to the Chief Constable are never seen by him and are filtered back through the system to the local officers.. it was agreed a letter should be sent to our MP drawing this matter to his attention.

10. CEMETERY:

It was agreed not to join the Association of Burial Authorities. CALC has been able to help with our queries in the past most satisfactorily.

The Chairman reported that the ground at the Wisbech Road end had been levelled and would be seeded at the appropriate time.

Whilst there was a digger available to dig out the post holes for the new cemetery gates, it seemed sensible to hire a chain saw to cut down the damaged cypress tree. All roots and branches were removed from the site. A load of ready-mix concrete was delivered for the post holes. Excess concrete from the minimum load was used to concrete an area in front of the cemetery shed and tidy up some foot paths.

Future footpaths for the new section can now be done in house with the aid of a hired dumper truck.

The new tractor was damaged and required a new metal blade. The keys were also dropped inside the cowling.

The supplier of the hedging for the new section has not grown and the supplier will be making a site inspection this week. Currently there are nineteen various trees within the cemetery and the Tree Officer had been due to inspect them prior to the meeting. In view of the comments made by our Insurers it was agreed to invite two tree surgeons to inspect the trees and submit reports and quotes for any works required.

Agreed to write to Mr and Mrs Mitchell asking them to pursue their insurance claim through their own insurers and reimburse the Parish Council.

The Chairman was thanked for all the work he has done in the Cemetery.

11. SPEED LIMITS – STATION ROAD AND LYNN ROAD:

Unanimously agreed to accept the proposals to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on Lynn Road and Station Road.

12. PHARMACIES:

A complaint had been received that Lloyds Chemist was without a pharmacist for four days recently resulting in people having to travel to Ely to get their prescriptions filled.

An application has been submitted to the PCT by Doctor Maher and Partners for outline consent to dispense from the new surgery. It is understood only those patients living more than one mile from the surgery will be entitled to use the facility. All other patients will continue to use the local dispensing chemists.

Councillors had no objections to the outline application.

13. YOUTH FORUM:

Councillor Mrs Green had attended a recent meeting arranged by Kathy Mackenzie targeting years 10 and 11. Attendees all were pupils of the City of Ely College. Children attending Witchford and Soham Village Colleges had also been invited. When asked about the Portacabin some interest was shown and the young people would like to see it equipped with a pool table. Mrs Green was thanked for her report.

The Grass Track Club was still having difficulties finding suitable premises to store and work on their vehicle. The grant was in place

14. ANNUAL AWARD:

Councillor Crane put forward two names for the Annual Award for people who had done a service for the village in the last year. Two unsung heroes were mentioned but they did not meet the criteria of the award.

Following a show of hands Mr David Murfitt was voted the recipient of this award by 8 – 2 against Mr Malcolm Pyrah.

Mr Murfitt to be invited to the next meeting to receive his award.

15 LITTLEPORT STATION CYCLE RACKS:

A request for the Parish Council to put in an application for funding to purchase cycle racks for the Station had been received. It was agreed in principle to support this scheme but we cannot allocate any money until the next precept and would need to know the intended spend.

16. AGE CONCERN WARDEN SCHEME:

Councillor Mr Howard reported on the continued success of the Community Warden Scheme. Most of the funding for the current year was in place. The quota of patients is 20 and currently there are 19 on the books. A relief warden is available for holiday and sick cover.

In confirmation of the foregoing report
CHAIRMAN
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DATE