

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor D T Murfitt
Councillor B E Boddington
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor J H Crane
Councillor S Green
Councillor B W Hayes
Councillor J M Howard
Councillor S D Kerridge
Councillor L E J Murfitt
Councillor G Norman
Councillor J M Peachey
Councillor M Pyrah

Also present four members of the public

1. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS:

The Chairman welcomed Community Police Beat Manager Mark Carey to the meeting and invited him to give a presentation on the new Police Community Support Officers.

PC Carey reported on the new Home Office scheme to employ support officers to complement the current Police force. Cambridgeshire is applying for 120 officers with 8/9 of these based in the East Cambridgeshire area. The Home Office will assist with some of the funding until 2006 and the balance to be raised locally. The hours of duty will be 8.00am – 11.00pm seven days a week. A pilot scheme at Orton Goldhay involving six officers is being monitored.

PC Carey answered Councillors questions and concern was noted on the lack of defence i.e. The new officers will not be issued with batons, handcuffs etc and the short training period of four weeks. A fact sheet will be issued to all Councillors detailing the support officers' roles etc.

PC Carey was thanked for attending.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a] Elections take place on 1st May. Littleport is now warded seven councillors for the East Ward and eight Councillors for the West Ward. Nominations to be in by 1st April 2003. Nominations papers available from the Clerk
- b] David Murfitt was presented with his Annual Citizen Award on 8th March.
- c] 30mph speed limit on Lynn Road and Station Road came into force 14th March

- d] Copy of the Extinguishment Order for Footpath 11 (part) available from the Clerk
- e] Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2003-2011 Consultation Road Show May 28th in Littleport
- f] Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum requires local people to join forum.
- g] The following publications are available from the Clerk - Local Council Review, Clerks & Councils Direct and Hereward Herald.

3. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cooper, Cox and County Councillor Bailey

4. MINUTES:

The reports of the Planning, Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 17th February 2003, and the Planning Meeting held on 10th March 2003 were confirmed

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Boddington reported on the recommendations of the Finance Committee:

- i. To sell the 2.5% Consolidated Stock
- ii. Accept K H Services grass cutting quote
- iii. Award Section 137 Grants to:
 - Ely and District CAB £100
 - Air Ambulance £100
 - Busy Bees Play Group £100

Agreed

6. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- i. Ponds Hill bollards are due to be erected in the next few months by the Highways Department
- ii. Mr and Mrs B Mitchell's insurers have met the Cemetery claim in full and a cheque will be issued shortly.
- iii. One tree survey of the cemetery has been carried out and second report is due shortly. The Chairman and Vice Chairman were delegated powers to make a decision on the works required.
- iv. Successful Stay Warn Surgery held in the Village last week.

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Mrs Kerridge reported that the Rates demands had been issued

Councillor Hayes produced copies of the proposed work of art to commemorate Harley Davidson. A larger than life sized model of a motor cycle was the preferred choice.

Highfield Developers were seeing the planners to agree revised lay outs.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report

9. SECURITY PATROLS – RENEWAL OF CONTRACT:

A letter from Burton International Security Patrols had been received indicating problems with offering a cost effective service. Following discussions on the various options offered and in view of the new Community Support Officers due on line in September. It was agreed unanimously to renew the contract for a 6 month period covering 40 man hours a week.

The clerk was asked to contact Cecilia Tredget at the District Council to find out more about the cost implications etc for the Parish if they were to consider sharing some of the funding for the new community support officers.

10. PARKING BAY – MAIN STREET:

No objections were raised to the conversion from Parking Bay to Loading Bay outside Nos 2 – 4 Main Street.

11. YOUTH FACILITIES IN LITTLEPORT:

Concern was raised at the lack of youth facilities within the village. Section 106 monies are collected to make provisions. Agreed Councillor Mrs Kerridge assist the Clerk in drafting a suitable letter.

No response has been received from the County Council with regard to the siting of the Portacabin in Parsons Lane on the old Medway site.

12. LICENSING BILL:

Correspondence was received from DEFRA regarding the Licensing Bill currently before Parliament.

13. FLAG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Councillor Mrs Cooper was appointed as Parish Council representative to the FLAG Management Committee for the Community House project.

14. ELY SECTOR POLICE CONSULTATION MEETING:

Councillor Boddington reported on a well attended meeting held in Littleport recently. The new Inspector Dickie Douce was in attendance and also two local magistrates.

15. EAST OF ENGLAND MARKET TOWNS AWARDS SCHEME:

It was unanimously agreed to take up Councillor Hayes offer to put forward a brief on behalf of Littleport with Sally Bonnett from East Cambridgeshire District Council.

16. MURFITT INDUSTRIES:

Councillor Brown had received a number of complaints regarding unacceptable noise levels emanating from Murfitt Industries on the Wisbech Road. An Environmental Health Officer agreed the noise levels were too high and that Murfitt Industries were co-operating fully to have the levels reduced to an acceptable level.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE