

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 16th June 2003 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor D T Murfitt
Councillor N A Binks
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor F J W Brown
Councillor L Cooper
Councillor P M Cox
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 M Pyrah

Also present District Councillor N Morrison

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Health Centre is due for completion by the end of July 2003. Play equipment will be installed within the next few weeks. Ground works have commenced.
- ii. Outline consent to dispense from the new Health Centre has been granted subject to a 30 day appeal.
- iii. An e-mail from Councillor Bailey about the future of the High Street toilets had been received. Agreed to make it an agenda item for discussion next month.
- iv. Cambridgeshire Police Authority Consultation Event 28th June
- v. The following are available from the Clerk:-
Hereward Herald- Highways Review – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local Plan proposed modifications – The Clerk – Fens Tourism News – Code of Practice Video – The IDeA Guide for new members.
- vi. Free Seminar for Councils run by ACRE on 1st July
- vii. Notification of planned road closure for widening given by Law Brothers – The Hythe from 30th June to 25th July
- viii. Postponement of meeting to discuss Police Community Beat Officers (insufficient funding from Home Office)
- ix. WREN has approved a £15,000 grant for the Skate park and FLAG made a £150 donation. Letter of thanks to be sent. Suggestion to look into Lottery funding
- x. Littleport received an Award for their Community Transport Award. The certificate will be given to Branching Out to display.
- xi. The Chairman had attended the recent Partnership meeting and felt it was a vehicle for officers and running it as a parallel Parish Council. He was dismayed to hear a comment passed by a member that people had no faith or trust in the Parish Council.

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A N Wright, County Councillor P Bailey and District Councillor L Rodriguez

3. MINUTES:

The report of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 12th May 2003, Planning Committee Meeting held on 19th May 2003, the Cemetery Working Group Meeting held in 2nd June 2003 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 9th June 2003 were confirmed.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

There were no recommendations from the Finance Committee

5. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- i. E-mail from Councillor Bailey re: Education in Littleport will be circulated with these minutes.
- ii. Footpath No 11 Extinguishment Order made in June 2003
- iii. Parish Paths Partnership has awarded a £350 grant
- iv. Submit press reports and hope they are published
- v. Bollards still waited at Ponds Hill
- vi. Flashing traffic signs are still not working properly and one is obscured by a hedge

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor F J W Brown reported:

- i. Cross' Fish shop were in receipt of a grant to modify their premises but a shortfall in their own funds had delayed matters, this was now resolved.
- ii. The freeze on spending announced recently in the press does not affect any projects in Littleport programmed for the next twelve months.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report

8. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND STATEMENT ASSURANCE:

The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2003 having been previously circulated were approved and the Statement of Assurance approved.

Littleport Parish Council has been randomly selected to provide additional information for the external audit.

Martin Smith the Internal Auditor will supply the council with a written report in due course.

9. CEMETERY:

The following recommendations of the Cemetery Working Party were approved

- i. Extension of footpaths in to the new section with concrete ready-mix possibly coloured.
- ii. Refurbish the fence abutting the houses on Wisbech Road and to look at tree works following complaints
- iii. Erect a barred fence behind the hedging on the Parsons Lane frontage as an additional barrier.
- iv. Purchase three new signs to be erected adjacent to the new gates on Parsons Lane and one at the Wisbech Road entrance.

The proposed fees increase for the year commencing April 2004 was also approved. (a copy follows these minutes)

10. PORTACABIN SITE:

Standing Orders were suspended.

Councillor Green declared an interest as an employee of the County Council.

Lengthy discussion on whether to take up the offer of the Caretakers bungalow in addition to the land at Parsons Lane to provide a base for the youth of the village for a minimum of one year took place.

A proposition to lease the land only on the plain site, have nothing to do with the bungalow, seek clarification on the provision of long term youth facilities was carried by 9 votes for and 4 abstentions (Councillors Norman, Hayes, Howard and Cox)

It was further agreed to put out feelers for a youth council.

Standing Orders were resumed.

11. GRAFFITI PROJECT:

Councillor Green decaled her interest.

The correspondence for the East Cambs Community Safety partnership re: Graffiti Project was received.

Identified sites include the wall on the playing field adjacent to the new Health Centre and the Gentlemen's Public Toilets.

12. AFFORDABLE HOUSING SITES:

Councillors agreed this was a good way forward and they should do all they can to help the rented sector and encourage shared equity schemes.

Members favoured the Eastfields site by 12 votes to 1 abstention.

Councillor Hayes drew attention to the clause 3. 51 concerning residential homes and the high proportion of such premises in Littleport.

13. STRUCTURAL DAMAGE:

Following a letter from Mr R Bamber concerning the structural damage being caused by large delivery vehicles to his shop premises in Main Street. Members agreed this matter should be referred to County Council Highways with a view to imposing a weight restriction on vehicles and to the Traffic Warden.

14. CAMEL ROAD GRASS:

Councillor Mrs Kerridge raised the issue of the unkempt area of Ponds Hill which is the responsibility of the County Council.

Agreed to ask the Parish Council staff to clear the area.

15. FRUIT MACHINE LICENSE:

Councillors agreed to support Councillor F J W Brown's motion to oppose the renewal of the Fruit Machine License for Ali's Kebabs when it comes up for renewal. A letter to this effect will be sent the District Council.

16. TREES IN THE PADDOCK:

Following a report on an unsafe tree located in the Paddocks, the Clerk was informed that this land has not yet been handed over to the District Council and was therefore the responsibility of the developers Canon Kirk. Agreed a letter be sent to them.

17. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP:

Councillors D T Murfitt, Howard and F J Brown will attend a meeting on July 30th to discuss ways of tackling crime and anti social behaviour.

In confirmation of the foregoing report
CHAIRMAN
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DATE