

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 18th August 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 J H Crane
Councillor S Green
Councillor B W Hayes
Councillor S D Kerridge
Councillor G Norman
Councillor A N Wright

Also present District Councillor N Morrison and one member of the public

1. RURAL HOUSING ENABLER:

The Chairman welcomed Miss Susan Candlish the Rural Housing Enabler for Cambridgeshire to the meeting.

Miss Candlish spoke about her role in the National scheme to provide affordable housing for rent or shared ownership in parishes under 3000 population. East Cambridgeshire had carried out a district survey and found the need for 529 each year to be built to meet the target.

Littleport is a rural growth settlement and Miss Candlish was there as a contact and to help.

Councillors were concerned at the figures perceived to be affordable for rent were on average £70/week. Shared equity was seen as the way forward to help local young people get on the property ladder.

Councillor Wright mentioned the 78 properties allocated on the Highfield development for social housing could be split into social housing and shared equity.

Black Horse Drove if it were considered would get a maximum of six properties which may well not be viable to housing associations to manage.

The Chairman thanked Miss Candlish for attending.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a] Littleport should be getting a Community Support Officer starting on 1st September. PC Bishop is away on a mentoring course. No replacement has been found for PC Carey.

Agreed a letter be sent to Inspector Douce asking when we can expect a replacement.

- b] Internal Auditor Martin Smith submitted a written report
- c] Response from Ray Harding received
- d] Letter of thanks from Littleport Leisure re: grant
- e] Harley Davidson Memorial siting has been resolved on original site, thanks to Councillor Wright's help.
- f] Section 106 agreement subject to planning approval on Burberry site received.

Agreed to ask for a breakdown on educational contributions. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of Planning to consider.

- g] Letter from R G Lee regarding right of way onto Parsons Lane Playing Field.

Agreed to ask Mr Lee to prove his assertions

- h] Reminder to committees to hold meetings to prepare precept estimates
- i] Nominations required for CALC President and Vice President
- j] The following publications are available from the Clerk: HRCC project update, Fens Leap Leader Newsletter – Standards Committee Determinations, Standards Board Bulletin
- k] East Cambs have been successful in their bid for Broadband funding
- l] ACRE has grants available to fund projects for young people.

3. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cox, Howard, L E J Murfitt, Pyrah and County Councillor Bailey and District Councillor Rodrigues

Agreed letters be sent to Councillor L E J Murfitt offering best wishes following his recent illness and belatedly to Councillor Mrs Howard.

4. MINUTES:

The reports of the reports of the Planning, Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 21st July 2003, the Open Meeting held on 15th July 2003, the Special Meeting held on 4th August 2003 and the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th August 2003 were confirmed

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

There were no recommendations from the Finance Committee

6. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- a] Littleport Business Group could offer no solution to the heavy traffic delivering to the Co-op. No response received from the Co-op Manager

- b] Awaiting response from Ian Gartshore to attend a future meeting to discuss youth provision. Response from Community Education Officer circulated.
 - c] CCTV Cameras – an extension to the end of August has been agreed to allow the Parish Council to put forward a bid for the redundant cameras. A meeting with Ray Harding has been arranged for 28th August at 3.30 to formulate a bid.
 - d] Mr Cross owner of the field in Back Lane had responded and said the weeds had blown over from adjacent land.
- Agreed the Chairman and Clerk to respond

- e] Parish Transport Fund Grant - £2150 or 67.2% whichever is the lower has been awarded to Littleport Parish Council for six bike racks and an information board at Littleport Station
- f] Payments to Councillors: Councillors cannot be paid undertaking work for the council but can be compensated for materials.
However they can tender under the business name on headed business notepaper for an annual hourly rate to carry out works and it is properly minuted.
- g] Ponds Hill: - Bollards are still note in place – understood contractors have been appointed. Clerk to chase up
Village Sign in need of re-varnish.
Damaged tree has not been replaced

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Morrison reported on a decision reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which would affect recycling and the green waste collections.

Councillor Wright pointed out targets had been set for overall spending and no resolution had been made to continue green waste collections.

Councillor Brown said the correct decision had been made and the minutes of the meeting had not yet been approved by council.

Councillor Morrison reported that the staffing pay line problems had been inherited from previous administrations.

Councillor Wright said they were still looking at the finances of the council and a maintenance programme of council's assets was in hand and would be costly.

BT have announced that they will connect Littleport to Broadband on October 29th 2003

Councillor Wright had been consulting with the Chief Planning Officer David Archer about the affordable housing allocated on the Highfield Development and the various options available. It was unanimously agreed to back Councillor Wright's actions and ask him to pursue all options.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report

9. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

The Chairman and Councillor F J Brown attended a meeting on Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. The meeting was not what was expected and was dominated by Officers. In their opinion this was another quango. All crimes and incidents should be reported to the Police.

10. PLAY EQUIPMENT AND SKATE BOARD PARK:

Councillor Norman reported on problems with the new play equipment on Parsons Lane. Following the annual inspection of all play areas by Wicksteed, they reported that the Miracle equipment on Parsons Lane does not conform the EU safety guidelines but to American. Miracle and Lindum (the developers of the Health Centre) were sent copies of the Wicksteed report and their response has now been received. All faults will be rectified and some of the risks identified by Wicksteed were negligible. It was agreed to ask for a ROSPA certificate on the Play Equipment through Lindum to satisfy our insurers.

The old equipment taken from Parsons Lane should be kept for spare parts. The matting and MATTA surface were suitable for re-use.

The Doctors and staff at the Medical Centre had intimated their wish to see the skate board park located on the Parsons Lane site. This site was closer to housing and would require another public consultation. The matter has dragged on for too long and a decision has to be made. WREN the major funder intimated they would have to reconsider the grant if the site was changed.

Councillor F J Brown seconded by Councillor Crane proposed the skate board park remain on the Leisure Centre site. Carried unanimously.

Councillor Norman raised the issue of the redundant piece of land adjacent to 2 Parsons Lane. This matter would be considered at the next full council meeting.

11. LITTLEPORT PARTNERSHIP - TERMS OF REFERENCE:

The terms of reference for the Littleport Partnership were received. Councillor Hayes reported he was the only nomination for Chairman and had agreed to stand for a further year.

The membership has been opened up to a cross section of representatives. Councillors pointed out they were the elected body and the partnership were volunteers. It was acknowledged that large sums of money and projects for the benefit of Littleport had been drawn in by the partnership.

No chain of responsibility had been set up. The Partnership should put resolutions to Parish Council of recommendations.

The list of funds available for projects in Littleport totalling £99,000 will be discussed at the next full council meeting.

12. EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE FORUM:

Councillors were notified of the Parish Forum to be held on 16th October at 6.45pm. Proposed agenda items were prioritised giving precedence to the Police Community Support Officers and the role of Parish Councils in development control.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

CHAIRMAN

.....
DATE