

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 15th September 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 G Norman
Councillor M Pyrah

Also present 1 member of the public

1. YOUTH PROVISION:

The Chairman welcomed Mr Ian Gartshore Principal of the City of Ely College and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr Gartshore advised councillors that 45% of the children attending the City of Ely College come from Littleport. Following the retirement of Mr David Mack he had taken over community education since there were no funds to replace Mr Mack. Mrs Mackenzie is the youth work manager.

Mr Gartshore was pleased to report rising standards and exam results were up across the board. Uniform and discipline have been tightened up in his two years in Ely. The College had secured funding as part of the specialist schools movement and is the first school in Cambridgeshire to achieve this. Councillors were issued an invitation to visit the school.

Mr Gartshore was keen to establish a working relationship and an agreed programme. He outlined some of the costs involved for the current youth club which cost £100 per session. The Ouse bus was not cheap to run. Various facilities were open to the children after school in Ely with a free mini bus to Littleport. The take up was not good. The school was involved with a Government initiative to cover sexual health concerns by opening a "drop in centre" at the school. The school was involved in 1 – 2- 1 youth work.

The loss of youth facilities in Littleport stems from the closure of the Secondary school. It is important facilities are provided in the village. He would support the Portacabin initiative but understood the land was only available for a limited period.

Councillor Mrs Kerridge reminded councillors of the £50,000 for youth provision in the Highfield Section 106 agreement and this should be used to provide a purpose built youth centre. Additional funding could come from the educational contributions.

Mr Gartshore concluded by saying he would contact the various county council officers by letter drawing attention to the needs of Littleport and a copy would be sent to the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gartshore for attending.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a] Councillor L E J Murfitt is progressing well following his recent stay in hospital
- b] Littleport has been assigned two Community Support Officer and an additional policeman PC Leonard
- c] CALC AGM 18th October – Action for Market Towns Meeting 24th October
- d] The following publications are available from the Clerk:
Help the Aged_ the Clerk – The Edge – Local Council Review – Clerk and Councils Direct – National Health Foundation Trust Consultative Document – hlec News –Countryside Agency Rights of Ways Act 2000 leaflets and comment form – Standards Board bulletin
- e] Correspondence from District Councillor N Morrison circulated
- f] CIAC Poster circulated
- g] Littleport Leisure had written about Councillors non attendance at meetings. Councillor Binks' correspondence was being sent to the wrong address and Councillor Mrs Howard was not on the committee
- h] Reminder to hold precept meetings
- i] Cemetery gates and fence now installed
- j] Signage was required for the new Medical centre

3. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L E J Murfitt and Wright, County Councillor Bailey and District Councillors Morrison and Rodrigues

4. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings 18th August 2003 and the Planning Committee meeting held on 1st September 2003 were confirmed

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

There were no recommendations from the Finance Committee

6. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- a] The bid for the CCTV cameras had been submitted
- b] Attended a site meeting to agree the siting of a new bus stop on Parsons Lane near to the new Medical Centre
- c] Mr R G Lee had produced his property deeds showing the easement. Agreed to ask the view of the District Council Solicitor
- d] Skate Park – WREN are awaiting revised costings and the license from the Leisure Centre to the Parish Council will be presented to the Leisure Centre Committee for approval tomorrow
- e] Health Centre documents and leases have been passed to Hall Ennion and Young for safe keeping. Playing Field is being registered with Land Registry
- f] CAB has not resumed after the summer break. Agreed a letter be sent expressing concern and to the District Council to ask what funding they receive.

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor F J W Brown asked if the Parish Council was in agreement with the streetscape proposals.

Community Support Police Officers were working in the village and will work the hours considered important. Anyone knowing of a problem area to report it to the Clerk for onward transmission to the Police. Leisure Centre on a Friday night was identified.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Bailey in his absence submitted an E mail report which was circulated to all Councillors. He is championing the Speed Watch Scheme – (reducing speed in certain hot spots).

Councillor Bailey has also asked for an explanation into the cancellation of the Bus service.

9. SECURITY PATROLS CONTRACT AND POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS:

Following discussion on various crime prevention measures currently being discussed Councillor F J W Brown proposed cancelling the Burton contract and putting money into a Security Fund for the CCTV Cameras and Police Community Support Officers. Seconded by Councillor Pyrah. Carried 10 for and 2 abstentions.

Agreed letters be written to Inspector Douce and the District Council advising them of this decision. A letter of thanks also is sent to Burton International.

The Finance Committee should meet to discuss precept allocations for Security prior to the Annual Precept Meeting.

A meeting in Cottenham to discuss funding of Community Support Officers will take place next month. The Chairman, Councillor Pyrah and the Clerk will attend.

10 REVISED BUS TIMETABLE:

Following an E mail from Mr S Upshaw regarding the changes in the bus service from Littleport to Ely and Cambridge. Councillors were distressed to discover there was no service between the 7.05 service and the 9.05. This does not serve the working community and is most unsatisfactory. A letter of concern is sent to the County Council.

11. AERIAL RUNWAY – PARSONS LANE:

A letter from Mr M T Knowles and signed by residents of Friars Way had been received. They were complaining about the late night use of the aerial runway and the noise it makes. Councillors had sympathy for the residents and as owners of the equipment they would look into ways of silencing the pulley system and possibly putting a closing time on the area.

12. REDUNDANT LAND – PARSONS LANE:

Following the closure of the access to the old Playing Field the strip of land behind Tithe Court now served no useful purpose.

Councillor F J W Brown proposed the council applies for Outline Planning Permission on the site. Seconded by Councillor Binks.

Councillor Mrs Kerridge proposed an amendment that Hereward Housing be approached to join forces with the council making an application.

Voting on the amendment: For 2 – Against 7 – Abstentions 3

Voting on the proposition For 6 - Against 2 - Abstentions 4

The proposition was carried and the Clerk will apply for Outline Planning Permission on the site.

13. JOINTLY FUNDED MINOR IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES:

Councillors agreed not to enter a bid in the 2004/5 Jointly Funded Minor Improvement scheme but to ask that the previous successful bids are completed.

14. STREETSCAPE PROPOSALS:

Agreed to approve items A – E and to ask if the funds allocated for F be transferred to A to improve the CCTV and lighting programme.

A copy of the proposals follows this report.

15. LITTLEPORT ACTION PLAN:

It was agreed the Safer Community Objective should be the responsibility of the Parish Council. It is acknowledged that the Partnership has the ability to raise finance

for projects but it was agreed these should be brought back to full council for consideration. Agreed Youth provision should be added to the list of objectives.

16. LITTLEPORT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES:

The minutes of the last partnership meeting were received. Agreed there is a need to make the moorings on the river which is an asset of the village.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

.....

CHAIRMAN

.....

DATE