

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 20th October 2003
at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor D T Murfitt
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor L Cooper
Councillor P M Cox
Councillor J H Crane
Councillor J M Howard
Councillor S D Kerridge
Councillor G Norman
Councillor M Pyrah
Councillor A N Wright

Also present County Councillor P Bailey and District Councillor N Morrison

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i] Remembrance Sunday 9th November meet at Ponds Hill 10.00am
- ii] BT proposes to remove telephone box from Longfield Road. Parish Council to write opposing the proposal
- iii] Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Balanced Housing Markets questionnaire from East Cambs circulated
- iv] FLOWS project for a work of art depicting the areas links with water. Agreed to pass to Littleport Society
- v] Hereward Housing Open House at Fishers Bank on 28th October
- vi] Notification of the Station Road and Lynn Road Prohibition of Waiting Order received
- vii] Notification of approved tree works New Orchard Park received
- viii] The following publications are available from the Clerk:
Hereward Housing annual report and herald, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Health Forum report, summary of Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, LA21newsletter, Fens Tourism News, Cambridgeshire's Environment Counts , NHS Choice responsiveness and equity in the NHS and Social Care National Consultation Autumn 2003, Police Target figures for July, Community Transport Guide 2003/4
- ix] Notification of abandonment of the order to extinguish part of Footpath 11
- x] Community Drugs Policy project meeting 13th November
- xi] Further response from Ian Gartshore – agreed to invite to next meeting
- xii] More changes to local bus services in November – Littleport not affected
Agreed to write again expressing dissatisfaction with the service in Littleport
- xiii] Police Local Sector Meeting 12th November at Sutton

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Green, Hayes, LE J Murfitt and District Councillor Rodrigues

3. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 15th September 2003, the Planning Committee Meeting held on 22nd September 2003, the Play Equipment, Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Meeting, the Street Lighting Meeting and the Cemetery Working Party Meeting held on 29th September 2003 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 13th October 2003 were confirmed

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Norman reported on the following recommendations:

- i] Section 137 Grants
 - Littleport Celebration Lights Committee £500.00
 - Littleport Scout and Guide HQ Management Cttee £200.00
 - NSPCC £ 0.00
- ii] Acceptance of quote for two street lights at Woodfen Road in the sum of £1613.22

Agreed

5. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- i] The conveyance relating to the sale of Camping Close to the Parish Council dated 29th May 1951 by Messrs Martin did not include any easements. The deeds produced by Mr R G Lee were dated after 1951.
- ii] CAB is to resume a fortnightly service commencing 21st October for a limited period. Still awaiting response from East Cambs on funding
- iii] Still awaiting response from Planners on guidelines regarding the size of building plots (Camping Close)
- iv] WREN the Skate Park scheme has been registered and the contract requires signing within 21 days or the funding is lost. Agreed the Clerk sign and return. The draft proposals for the licence on the land had just been received from the Leisure Centre. To be considered at next month's meeting
- v] Response to letter on changes to bus timetables circulated
- vi] Traffic calming in Wisbech Road and Station Road still being sorted. 24/7 yet to supply energy in Wisbech Road.
- vii] John Selby is looking to plant a tree at Pontois hill to stop illegal parking. Also looking to repaint existing street signs and provide additional signage.
- viii] Aerial runway – see report under agenda item 8

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Chairman spoke of his concerns that this item had become a political forum; this council was an independent body and was only interested in relevant issues pertaining to the parish.

Councillor Wright reported on the financial issues affecting the District Council and the target to keep the council tax down to no increase or 2 ½% inflation. There was a

need to prioritise on spending. Community Support Officers would cost £80/100000 and Green waste which is measured by weight would cost £225000. There is no resolution of council existing for the funding of green waste. £141000 is in the budget for recycling. The County Council made a £50000 grant for year one of the green waste project after that it would be a District responsibility to fund.

Councillor Wright asked for an indication on which was more important to this council. Policing or green waste. Members favoured policing.

Councillor Wright also reported that the covenant problems on the new Station Car Park had been resolved and work would commence shortly on the additional car parking.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Councillor Bailey reported on the financial difficulties at Shire Hall which was causing budget problems. Youth provision was a concern and there were no plans to provide facilities in Littleport once the Parsons Lane school had been replaced. A meeting with the leader of the Education Cabinet should be sought and an invitation extended to him to attend a Parish Council Meeting to discuss youth related issues.

Councillor Bailey was asked by councillors to find out how and where the Section 106 monies from Littleport had been used. Also what plans for the money from future developments?

8. PLAY EQUIPMENT, ALLOTMENTS, FOOTPATHS AND OPEN SPACES:

Councillor Norman reported on the ROSPA report received today on the Miracle Play Equipment, various installation faults had been found. Agreed copies of the report be sent to Miracle Play and Lindum Construction and also seek recompense for the cost of the report.

Aerial Runway still looking for a solution.

The working party had drawn up a list of proposals as set out in the minutes of the meeting held on 29th September and these were all approved. The purchase of a machine to sweep up broken glass from the grass was approved subject to a satisfactory demonstration.

9. STREET LIGHTING:

Councillor F J Brown reported on the approval to erect two lighting columns in Woodfen Road. These columns would be adopted by the County Council once installed.

Quotations were still awaited for the additional light in Black Horse Drove and the replacement of the first lighting column on the footpath leading to the Leisure Centre (adjacent to the proposed Skate Park site)

10. CEMETERY:

The Chairman reported on a complaint received regarding the unevenness of the footpath leading from the Cemetery Gate. It was agreed to look into the various options to resurface the area including information on the new pavement surfacing used in Ely.

Councillor Wright asked if more seats could be placed around the cemetery.

11. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS:

The Chairman and Clerk had attended a recent presentation on the roll of the Police Community Support Officers (PCSO).

Any Parish funding an officer will have a say in their duties and only in an extreme emergency will they be taken away from their beat. Any time lost to the parish will be made up by the officer.

The time scale for parishes wanting to fund an officer was very short and it was agreed a letter of intent be sent and to await the outcome of the level of district funding.

It was moved in principle to support the scheme and in due course corroborate.

12. CCTV CAMERAS AND INSTALLATION:

More accurate costings were required for the installation of the cables and connections. Before these could be obtained the camera locations needed to be identified. It was also agreed that the monitoring equipment should be located in the Barn. Councillor Cox would look at alternative installations and report back to the next finance meeting.

£25,000 has been allocated under the Streetscape improvement scheme for CCTV provision including cameras for the Harley memorial. Once final costings have been received it may be possible to get additional funding

13. CITTASLOW PROJECT:

Councillors unanimously agreed not to proceed further with the Cittaslow project.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE