

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor D T Murfitt
Councillor N A Binks
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor L Cooper
Councillor P M Cox
Councillor S Green
Councillor J M Howard
Councillor L E J Murfitt
Councillor G Norman
Councillor M Pyrah
Councillor A N Wright

Also present District Councillors N Morrison and L Rodrigues and three members of the public

1. YOUTH ISSUES:

The Chairman welcomed Mr Steve White head of Youth Service at Cambridgeshire County Council.

Mr White passed on Mr Gartshore's apologies due to a prior commitment.

Youth work is divided into patches and the responsibility falls to School Governors. Littleport is part of the Ely patch.

Youth facilities fall into three age groups the under 5's, 5 – 14 and 14 – 16. Although youth facilities are shown on the plans for the proposed new primary school it is envisaged this will be for the under 5's age group.

No new youth clubs have been built since the 1960's and there is a serious lack of funding for the youth service.

Councillors were most concerned the present youth club building has allegedly been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair and apparently no provision made to replace the premises in the future. Agreed a letter be sent to the Headmistress to ask about the state of the Youth Club and suggest the alleged electrical faults are repaired and the be made available for the youth

Mr White would respond to his superiors on the parish's desire to see the youth centre open and some revenue funding could be made available by the parish.

Mr White was thanked for attending the meeting.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Reminder to councillors to choose a candidate for Citizen of the Year Award
- ii. Cambridgeshire County Council are ending their tree and hedge pack scheme at the end of July 2004
- iii. The following publications are available from the clerk
Housing Strategy 2003 - 2006 and Executive summary
National Association of Local Councils report 2002/3
Local Council Review
Cambridgeshire County Council Prospects Draft Corporate Plan 2004-2008
First Annual Report East Cambs & Fenland Primary Care Trust
Harvest Magazine and Cambridgeshire ACRE Annual Review 2002/3
- iv. Notice of Transfer of Licence One Stop Shop
- v. Littleport Community Swimming Pool is holding a meeting to wind up the Association
- vi. Eastern Daily Press are looking to produce a monthly magazine for Littleport funded by advertisers
- vii. Copies of Littleport Welcome Pack distributed

3. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Crane, Hayes, Kerridge and County Councillor Bailey

4. MINUTES:

In pursuance of Minute No 6 Paragraph iii of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th October 2003 Councillor Wright had asked councillor to indicate importance not either or to the Policing and green waste issues. Little or no support was shown for green waste.

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 20th October 2003, the Play Equipment, Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Working Party held on 27th October 2003, the Planning Committee Meeting and Special Finance Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2003 were then confirmed.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Cox reported on the following recommendations:

- i. Acceptance of the Street Lighting Maintenance and Energy charges 2004/5
- ii. Seek additional quotes for the required elements of the CCTV installations and to ask the Business Group if they are prepared to make a financial contribution.

Agreed.

6. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The District Solicitors office had approved the wording of the warning signs for the play areas but felt the current bye-laws passed in 1969 were outdated and should be

revoked. The latest version of the Model Bye-laws will be presented to council for consideration at a later date.

A site meeting with Miracle Play to sign off the installation of the Parsons Lane Play equipment will take place on Wednesday.

BT has noted our objections to the removal of the telephone box at Longfield Road.

A request to purchase the roof tiles on the redundant High Street Toilets has been made. Councillor Bailey is checking with the County Council on the current situation. It has been pointed out the Parish Council purchased the roof tiles some 12 years ago.

Councillor Bailey is still awaiting a response to his request for information on Section 106 payments.

The Aerial runway is to be greased in the hopes this will reduce the noise.

Cars are still parking on the grass opposite the Fish Shop at Ponds Hill. More bollards are required.

An up lighter by the Village Sign has an intermittent fault.

7 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Morrison reported on recommendations of the Environment and Transport Committee to allocate £200,000 to green waste minus £38,000 grant subsidies and an increase of £10,000 to £60,000 for minor Highways improvements which will be match funded by the County. These recommendations will be taken to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

Councillor Wright reported the Policy and Resources Committee will meet next month. The committee is awaiting confirmation of the revenue grant support from central government. The Financial Officer feels he is not far off the target of 0% - 2 ½%

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report

9. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS:

The District Council were inviting Parish Council to bid for funding grants towards the costs of Police Community Support Officers.

Councillor Wright expressed his concerns about the methods of funding these officers and we should keep lobbying to get the methods changed.

Councillor Wright then moved we indicate our intention to apply for a grant. Seconded by Councillor Norman. Unanimous.

10 PRECEPT 2004-5

The Precept estimates recommended by the Finance Committee at their meeting held on 3rd November 2003 having been previously circulated were approved

A copy of the precept follows these minutes

11. PLAY EQUIPMENT MEETING:

Councillor Wright declared his interest and took no part in discussions or the vote.

The license between Littleport Leisure Centre and the Parish Council to occupy land at Camel Road for the erection of a Skate board park was approved subject to checking the site map's correctness.

It has not been possible to have a demonstration of the glass sweeper prior to purchase. Councillor Norman and Councillor Pyrah were given authority to purchase a sweeper.

12. CEMETERY:

The Chairman informed councillors that the cemetery was running out of space. Now was the time to identify sites on the edge of the village. Littleport was well placed to provide a crematorium, the nearest being Cambridge and King's Lynn.

It was agreed not to restrict the sale of pre-purchased plots at this present time but to review it again at a later date.

With new legislation being produced on the safety of tombstones and memorials in parish council graveyards and cemeteries it was agreed to supply a log book to the Cemetery staff and they should carry out regular inspections and report.

The Clerk would check the insurance cover provided by Cornhill that it meets the requirements as set out in the guidelines.

13. CONTAMINATED LAND:

Councillor Binks had been approached by a resident for help regarding some contamination in the land at her local authority property.

Councillor Wright pointed out that the Environmental Health Department at the District Council were the correct people to contact and they were currently working with a professional company doing soil analysis. It was unwise to speculate and the correct route should be followed rigidly.

14. TOWN LANDS CHARITY:

Miss J M Peachey was re-appointed as a representative Trustee for a further four year term with effect from January 2004.

15. LITTLEPORT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES:

The minutes of the Littleport Partnership Meeting held on 8th October 2003 were received.

Councillors were concerned that various recommendations were not being brought back to the parish council for support.

Councillor L E J Murfitt questioned Item 10.6 Travellers – asking what had this to do with the partnership.

16. LOCAL CHANNEL WEB PAGE:

Unanimously agreed not to proceed with the Local Channel Web page officer.

17. STATION ROAD/LYNN ROAD WAITING ORDER:

Following an objection the proposed no waiting order for Station Road and Lynn Road a relaxation of the order had been proposed limiting the order to Monday to Friday. Agreed to support this relaxation and to ask for Bank Holidays to be included in the order.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE