

## LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 15th December 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 J H Crane  
Councillor B W Hayes  
Councillor S D Kerridge  
Councillor L E J Murfitt  
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

- a] Urinal in Cemetery Toilet vandalised over the weekend. Police and Insurance Company informed.
- b] Local Policing – one of our community beat managers has been seconded to Cambridge for at least 4 months. New working rotas have been introduced 4 days on followed by 4 days off. Agreed a letter be sent to the Police with a copy to our County Councillor
- c] Invitation to tour the Medical Centre on 17<sup>th</sup> December
- d] The following publications are available from the Clerk:  
Shanks First Fund News – Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee Decision List – P3 Bulletin and Parish Paths Partnership Annual Report 2002/3
- e] Local Distinctiveness Conference 30th January 2004

### 2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F J W Brown, Green and Howard

### 3. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2003 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2003 were confirmed

### 4. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Cox reported on the following recommendation:

To file tax returns on line and to pay Income Tax and National Insurance electronically with effect from April 5<sup>th</sup> 2004. Agreed.

## 5. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- a] Mr R G Lee was still not satisfied with the access from one of his properties on to the Playing Field. The Clerk had sought legal advice. The easement still exists and the access is still there albeit less negotiable than before and can be used.
- b] The Glass Vacuum Cleaner is not suitable for broken glass.
- c] Finally signed off the Play Equipment snagging list at Parsons Lane
- d] County Council Highways are reviewing the odd pieces of land they own around the District. Information on a Stopping Up Order will be sent shortly whereby the Parish Council could take over the High Street Toilet site in return for meeting all legal fees.
- e] Mrs Willson Head teacher at the Community Primary School reported that the Youth Club had been renamed the Community Room and was let out to various groups. One night a week a youth club for 7 – 11 year olds took place in the building.

Councillors were most concerned at the loss of the youth club and agreed to bring this matter back to the next meeting.

- f] Longfield Road public telephone has had a reprieve.
- g] Village Sign Up-lighter still not working
- h] Speed signs still not activated in Wisbech Road.

## 6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor Morrison reported on the Environment and Transport Committee proposal to impose fixed penalties for litter. The Police and PCSO's would issue the tickets and the revenue would go into the District Council's coffers. Street cleaning costs around £325,000 annually. A presentation on Waste Strategy ended the meeting.

Councillor Wright reported that the Policy and Resources Committee would be recommending to full council the budget for the coming year. It may be possible to set a nil percent increase rate. The council had received £220,000 less than expected from Central Government. Both green waste and PCSO funding had been included and any increase was not likely to go beyond inflation.

## 7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Bailey reported on his disappointment on the progress being made for youth provision in Littleport. An Ofsted report showed funding was 50% less than it should be. Councillor Bailey had written to Victor Lucas the portfolio holder at the County Council and was awaiting a response. Littleport needs proper youth funding and to identify what the needs of the youth are.

Councillors agreed there was a need to have a report on the facts and a brief history of the youth club in order to progress matters further. Councillors felt that some of the

land at the Parsons Lane school site currently part of a planning application for new housing should be retained for youth purposes.

Councillor Wright wondered how much the County would be reducing the County rate when the Fire Service becomes a separate precepting authority in 2005.

It was noted that Soham Youth Club were using an old shop in the town rent free.

8. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR:

Three nominations were put forward and ballot papers issued.

Jimmy Johnston	1 vote
Bruce Frost	4 votes
Linda Benstead	6 votes

Agreed to make a presentation including flowers to Mrs Benstead in the New Year. Mrs Benstead was chosen for her many years service as the cleaner of the public toilets.

9. PLAYING FIELD BYLAWS:

It was agreed to ask the Open Spaces Committee to look at the model bylaws and to bring back recommendations to the full council in due course for approval.

10. SWIMMING POOL:

It was with regret the Council accepted the abandonment of the Community Swimming Pool Association. Agreed the surplus funds be diverted into the youth account.

A letter of thanks is sent to Martyn Newton in recognition of his efforts to keep the association going for so long.

11. CAMBRIDGE & PETERBOROUGH FIRE AUTHORITY:

The Cambridge and Peterborough Fire Authority's Risk Assessment Management Plan was received.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

.....  
DATE

