

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 19th January 2004
at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor D T Murfitt
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor F J W Brown
Councillor L Cooper
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
Councillor A N Wright

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a] The Chairman reported on a complaint received regarding the decorating of two graves with Christmas Trees etc. and a complaint about a gravestone, this has been inspected and for its age deterioration is to be expected.
- b] County Councillor Bailey had been asked to help secure funding for a fence to be erected for the Harley 2004 event.
- c] Dean's Fun Fair would like to resume their annual events on the Playing Field at Parsons Lane. Agreed subject to the grounds being reinstated should damage occur.
- d] Jane Frost was willing for a fee to make a presentation on a seminar she would attend on how to understand and design public spaces and environments that will discourage anti social behaviour. Parish Council policy is not to fund speakers but would be welcome on a voluntary basis.
- e] Meetings 3rd February Stuart Rogers Talk on the work of Magistrates
ECDC Parish Forum 16th February
Chief Constable ECDC 4th March at ECDC
Local Access Forum 20th January
- f] Forbuoys have withdrawn their license transfer application
- g] The following publications are available from the Clerk: Fens Leap Leader+ -
Flood Action – hlec News - Clerks and Councils Direct – Local Council
Review – Go East Renewable Energy and the Planning System – Harvest
Magazine –Standards Board Bulletin 15

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Binks, Cox, L E J Murfitt, County Councillor P Bailey, District Councillor L Rodrigues and District Councillor N Morrison.

3. MINUTES:

The reports of the Planning, Finance and Parish Council meetings held on 15th December 2003, the Planning Committee Meeting and the Play Equipment, Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Meeting held on 5th January 2004 were confirmed.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Chairman recommended acceptance of a quote from Gordon Harrison to provide a lockable post on the entrance to the Parsons Lane Playing field. Agreed.

5. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- a] Parish Councils are part of the consultation process for Stopping up Orders. The County Council have asked for and received site plans of the High Street Toilet area and have also confirmed Parish Council are liable only for half fees.
- b] PC Dave Bishop resumed duties in Littleport on 20th December 2003
- c] ECDC Planning Department have verbally confirmed that the redundant land adjacent to the new medical centre could be a building plot subject to the plans meeting with their approval.
- d] No response received regarding the bench in Main Street or the siting of a free one from ECDC
- e] Lynn Road - No waiting will operate from Monday – Friday only
- f] Interactive signs are still problematical. EDF Energy has outstanding works.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Wright reported:

The District had managed to set a nil increase which had still to go before full council. The final rates figures cannot be set until the County Council agree their budget. It is likely that the final rates figures will not be known until mid March due to the pressures from Central Government on County Council spending. The Police Authority rate may also be capped.

Independent tests were still being carried out on the old Gas Works site. The results of these tests need interpretation to establish the boundaries and levels of contamination. Only a handful of houses on Old School Close are sited on the old gas works. Anglian Water tests have come back clear. The Environmental Health Department at ECDC are handling the matter and will offer advice.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report

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

Councillor Norman reported that new byelaws are being drawn up; skateboard sign will be in line with others in the District and we have signed up again for the Parish Paths Partnership grant.

9. STREET LIGHTING:

Councillor Wright declared his interest and left the meeting. Councillor Hayes declared his interest.

The Leisure Centre footpath and car park lights have been vandalised on numerous occasions and more recently all the lights were smashed. The Leisure Centre cannot afford the repairs and have approached the Parish Council for funding towards the installation of street lighting columns. A tentative figure of £1000 per column has been mentioned for replacement.

Following much discussion a proposition from Councillor Pyrah seconded by Councillor Mrs Kerridge that this council offer to pay up to 50% or a maximum of £3000 excluding the cost of the one column already agreed.

Before a vote was taken Councillor Wright returned to the meeting and pointed out the funds in the Friends of Littleport Leisure were bound by a trust deed and could not be used for the lights but could be loaned. This was a matter for the Leisure Centre and the Trustees to consider.

A vote on the proposition was taken 8 in favour and three abstentions

Approval for the upgrading of the Granby Street lights with funding coming from the County Council and Enhancement scheme was given. Councillor F J W Brown asked the Clerk to remind the Conservation Officer that the lighting column outside Laburnum Lodge has not yet been changed.

Unanimously agreed to take on the responsibility for the new lighting column to be erected adjacent to the Harley Memorial on the Church Green.

10 POLICE:

Correspondence from Inspector Douce was noted.

Councillor Crane left the meeting.

11. SPEED LIMIT CHANGES – GRANGE LANE AND ELY ROAD:

Proposals to change the speed limits on Grange Lane and Ely Road as part of the off site work for the Highfield Development was received.

Concern was expressed at the road narrowing on Ely Road and required clarification. Confirmation on the deletion of the Zebra Crossing from the plans.

12. OPEN SPACES – COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT:

Agreed the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee and the Clerk fill in the questionnaire.

13. AUDIT COMMISSION COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE
ASSESSMENT OF EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL:

Agreed the Chairman of Finance and the Clerk complete the questionnaire.

14. BUS SERVICES:

Notification on the proposed changes to local bus services was received.

Councillor F J W Brown asked if they could consider changing the timetable to allow Cambridge – Ely bus to connect with the Littleport service.

15. LITTLEPORT PARTNERSHIP:

Councillor Hayes volunteered to answer any questions on the Littleport Partnership minutes.

The abandonment of the Smart Card scheme led to questions on where the funding for this project had been redirected. The Clerk to write to the Economic Development Control Department to seek this information.

16. STREET NAMING:

The developers of the six flats to the rear of 101 Wisbech Road have asked the parish Council to suggest a street name for the development.

It was unanimously agreed a suitable name would be Viller's View. Canon Allan Viller has recently retired as the Parish Priest and this was a fitting tribute to Canon and Mrs Viller who had both served the community very well.

17. HIGHFIELD PLAY AREAS:

The District Council have asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to take over the maintenance of the 5 proposed play areas on the Highfield development. Commuted sums of £20,000 per area for ongoing maintenance would be available.

Agreed in principle to take part in discussions The Chairman of the Play Equipment Working party to be part of the discussion group.

18. TREE FELLING:

The Trees Officer is recommending the felling of one horse chestnut tree in Limes Close. The tree has a preservation order but has been found to be diseased. Agreed to the felling of the tree and a suitable replacement be planted.

19. YOUTH ISSUES:

Information on current facilities was only received on the morning of the meeting.

Youth Work is undergoing changes and it was agreed to write to Steve White at the County Council seeking a commitment of funds from the Section 106 agreements.

Also agreed the Clerk ask the District Solicitor for an update on the Section 106 agreements on the Highfield development now that there have been changes to the scheme and to see if as part of the Section 106 agreement for the land on the Parsons Lane school site money can be set aside for a purpose built youth club.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

.....

CHAIRMAN

.....

DATE