

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 15th March 2004 at 7.30pm

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

Also present District Councillor N Morrison and five members of the public

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a] New Station Car Park officially opened on 12th March 2004 attendees included Councillors D T Murfitt and Hayes. The new parking restrictions on Station Road and Lynn Road came into force on 10th March 2004.
- b] Flail mower attachment was purchased at a discounted price of £1000.00.
- c] Letter from Jean Gatewood on villages proposed expansion and lack of services to meet the needs forwarded to East Cambs
- d] Comprehensive Performance Assessment Workshop East Cambs 30th March
- f] Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service are prepared to give a talk on Integrated Risk Management. Agreed they be invited to address the Open Parish meeting in May.
- g] City of Ely College have extended an invitation to councillors to address the youth group on the work of the Parish Council
- h] Healthy Living AGM 24th March
- i] The following publications are available from the Clerk:
Clerk and Councils Direct – Hereward Herald – Standards Board Consultation documents on allegations of misconduct. Bulletins 15 & 16 – Local Council Review – Cambridge Police Authority Budget decision and consultation document on Future Structure for Policing in England and Wales – East Cambridgeshire Urban Capacity Study 2003.
- j] Periodic Electoral Review Cambridgeshire County Council draft recommendations available from local library, ECDC and website

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Binks and Green and County Councillor P Bailey and District Councillor L Rodrigues

3. MINUTES:

The reports of the Planning Committee Meeting, the Finance Committee Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th February 2004 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 8th March 2004 were confirmed.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Norman reported on the recommendations of the Finance Committee:

- i] To accept the quote from Acacia Trees for tree works at the Cemetery £536.00
 - ii] To award grants under Section 137 to the following groups
- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Macmillan Cancer Relief | 200.00 |
| Ely SOFA | 0.00 |
| East Anglian Air Ambulance | 200.00 |
| Victim Support | 50.00 |
| Littleport Players | 200.00 |
| St George's Church Toddler Group | 200.00 |
| Littleport Lancettes | 200.00 |
| Littleport Leisure | 200.00 |
| Littleport Judo Club | 100.00 |

Agreed

5. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- i] Ms Willson Head teacher at Littleport Community Primary School would be attending next month's meeting
- ii] Nick Abbey from Hereward Housing could not attend this month's meeting. Agreed to invite him to a Planning Meeting.
- iii] A meeting with Chris Sproston from Street Lighting will take place on 17th March. All unresolved issues will be taken up.
- iv] Grant application for funding towards the costs of a PCSO has been successful. £8700 in year one and £4350 for the second year. Approved the signing of a Service Agreement up to 31st March 2006.
- v] Audit has signed off the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2003

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor Morrison rebuked Councillor Wright's version of events regarding the proposals to relocate the District Council's offices. He was adamant that full council would not be making the final decision in July. A motion was passed at the February Council meeting to take into account the environmental and social aspects as well as the financial aspects of the proposed scheme.

Councillor Wright re-iterated that once all the facts were known the final decision would be made on the 20th July 2004 council meeting. A seminar was being held with the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer in attendance on 16th March 2004.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be looking at all questions raised and suggestions received.

An amendment by the Liberal Democrats on the District Council Tax budget saw a nil% rate rise to 5%

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report

8. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

The draft proposals for new financial regulations were adopted with one amendment. Petty Cash cheques would increase from £50.00 to £100.00

9. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS:

Following the correspondence received from the District Solicitor on the Section 106 Agreements it was deemed prudent to arrange Special Meeting to discuss various aspects in greater detail and to seek clarification on the grant scheme for the Beech Court development.

10. PROPOSED NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Councillors were not happy with the responses received about the sale of school playing fields for housing in view of the obesity problems facing the youth through lack of exercise plus there is no provision for a youth club. The letters failed to say when the new schools are being built.

No notice is being taken that teenagers need to walk to a youth club from their homes.

Agreed a strongly critical letter be sent to Graham Tweed.

11. CCTV:

The Clerk reported on the poor lack of response inviting quotations for the CCTV installations. An independent company had given an off the cuff sum of £80/metre to lay the ducting for the cables to the Barn. The Council cannot justify this expenditure which would only cover Main Street. A meeting of the Street Lighting Working Group will discuss the various options including having individual boxes to monitor each camera site and report back to full council.

12. MAIN STREET BENCH:

A number of letters of complaint had been received following the re-instatement of the Bench outside 29 Main Street. The bench has again been targeted with tallow resulting in a complaint to the Chairman from a parishioner unable to use it.

Councillors discussed the problems are were in agreement that anti-social behaviour was a police issue and removing the bench only moves the problem elsewhere.

Councillor Crane proposed asking the Police what they are going to do about the problem and bring the matter back to Council in six months time. Seconded by Councillor Wright and carried unanimously. Copies of the letter to the Police to be circulated to East Cambs and the residents.

13. LITTLEPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING:

Councillor Hayes reported the launch of the Littleport per on 6th May 2004. The Parish Council will submit regular items.

Members congratulated Councillor Hayes on the improvements to Littleport Station.

Councillor Wright declared his interest in the FLAG group and left the meeting. The setting up of the FLAG house had run into difficulties caused by loss of staff and other issues. The Deputy Chief Executive at the District Council has stepped in to help sort out the confusion etc.

Councillor Wright returned to the meeting.

Questions were asked about the Healthy Living Project and it understood a report is due out shortly and will be distributed with the minutes.

14. AGE CONCERN WARDEN SCHEME:

Councillor Mrs Kerridge reported on the continued success of the Warden scheme and funding was in place for another year. The support of the Parish Council was most appreciated.

15. ST GEORGE'S MEDICAL CENTRE – BALANCING POND:

The balancing pond is not operating properly and concerns have been raised from a health and safety perspective. The fencing around the pond is inadequate and the stagnant water could attract vermin etc. Agreed to write a letter in support of the Doctors pointing out the design defect and disappointment and concern that it has spoilt a good development.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE